

Ocala Business Leaders speaker was Paul Joranlien, an Independent Marketing Executive for Melaeuca. Paul gave out some samples that are getting a lot of feedback by the members. The soap product, called "the Gold Bar", is wonderful and it has a citrus fragrance. Another of Paul's handouts was called Renew Intensive Skin Therapy. If you want to know more visit the OBL meeting on any Wednesday morning at 7am at the Elks Club and ask for Paul Joranlien - everyone there knows him. See you at the meeting! TomL

Who Fired The First Shot?

The Ocala Star Banner recently published an article where they implied that Sheriff Chris Blair "took a shot" at former Sheriff Ed Dean and his administration with regard to an alleged culture of violence at the Sheriff's Office. Those at the Banner certainly realize that was not the intent of the comment and for them to bring Sheriff Dean into the conversation in a negative way was both juvenile and unnecessary. As for comments from other Sheriff's candidates, we should all remember that 2016 is an election year. The current state of politics has created a culture where it has become commonplace, almost acceptable, to hurl inflammatory comments and situational criti-

cism. Other candidates are not being held accountable to provide any detail as to how they would have handled a similar situation. I see this lack of detail as an indication of their character. The fact that the Banner solicited comment from other candidates was yet another example of their effort to stir the pot!

It is true that both Blair and Dean have their individual beliefs on how the agency should operate. One comes from a 38 year career in law enforcement, the other from a career in the private sector, and as a result they do have some philosophical differences. However, having served in a similar capacity under both gentlemen I can ensure

Dennis Baxley Welcomes Visitors



Parade of Senior Services: Pictured State Representative Dennis Baxley welcoming visitors to his table at the Parade of Senior Services. This is held every year by Ocala Parks and Recreation Coordinator Diane Leaf to help show seniors the services available to them. More pictures on page 6.



the public that both Sheriff Blair and former Sheriff Dean actually share a common mindset with regard to integrity and professionalism in the delivery of law enforcement

services to our community. Both men have had to deal with problem employees which led to resignations and terminations. No

(Continued on Page 4)

23 Arrested

MARION COUNTY, FL (April 18, 2016) Marion County Sheriff's Office detectives, along with the Ocala Police Department, arrested 23 people during a two-day retail theft sting on Thursday and Friday (4/14/16 and 4/15/16). MCSO and OPD partnered with Walmart, Bealls, Lowe's and Publix during this operation. All the stores provided

additional loss prevention personnel who all worked with the same goal in mind to reduce retail theft in Marion County.

During the operation, loss prevention officers patrolled the stores and made apprehensions with the assistance of detectives. Detectives then conducted thorough inves

(Continued on Page 2)

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DENNIS K. BAXLEY



How to prepare for elections:

We, as Americans, need to own our government. We need not only need to register to vote, we need to register Republican, as most of our local and state legislative races will be decided in Republican only primaries in our region. Don't be left without a voice as parties choose nominees. The general election will still allow the option to vote for any candidate in the race.

It is incredibly important to pick a qual-

ity candidate. Look at their entire vote history and make an informed decision. Don't allow one controversial vote to dismiss a qualified candidate. Take the Ronald Reagan approach- someone you agree with 80% of the time is your ally. Don't let perfection be the enemy of possibility. There are no perfect people and no perfect candidates.

It's also important to dig deeper into negative stories. A commercial or mail piece never delivers the entire story. Don't allow the barrage of negative spin flyers make your decisions for you. And don't let the negativity keep you away from the polls.

The registration deadline to vote in the August 30th primary is August 1st. The deadline to register to vote for the Novem-

ber 8th general election is October 11th. Absentee ballots can be requested at votemarion.com.

There have been a lot of changes to district maps since the last election cycle. Both congressional and state senate districts have changed significantly, so make sure you find out what districts you reside in so you can make the best candidate choice for your area. Nothing is as disappointing as deciding on the best candidate only to discover they are not running for your district.

23 Arrested

(Continued from Page 1)

tigations and interviews with the suspects to determine if they were involved in any additional crimes in Marion County.

"This operation shows the good work our deputies and police officers are doing in combating crime and protecting our busi-

Lastly, get out there and vote. Candidates need your vote for the opportunity to serve and protect our family, family, freedom and opportunities. Also, remember to thank a veteran. So many have paid dearly for us to have the freedom to select our own leaders. Apathy is our greatest obstacle. You need to be active and at the table. Don't let someone else have your vote by default!

It's still a Great Country!

Onward and upward!

nesses and consumers here in Ocala and Marion County," said Sheriff Chris Blair. "These types of collaborative efforts will go a long way in sending a message to criminals who thrive on stealing from others: you never know when we will be watching."



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- Crime Reduction 10.6% in the first three years to the lowest level in agency history
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- Replaced antiquated patrol vehicles and equipment without budgeted funding through responsible fiscal management
- Implemented Alert System for Businesses, B-SAFE (Business Sheriff Alert For Emergencies)
- Implemented award-winning crime prevention programs using latest technologies
- Improved recruitment standards and implemented mandatory physical requirements
- Implemented merit-based promotions
- Unprecedented agency transparency through active interaction with community, FaceBook, Citizens Academies, Town Hall meetings and open door policy for citizens and employees
- Rallied funding in excess of \$200,000 for local charitable organizations through community partnerships

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■ ONE PERSON'S OPINION ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

For eons humans have drifted into eras of hedonism and great civilizations have been destroyed. Humans need a code of morals to guide them to conciliation. Morality need not be religious. It can be social conduct, or cultural conduct, but it cannot be hedonistic conduct.

Humans have had enough time to learn, what matters

When will humans learn what is good for them, and what makes life worthwhile.

Today it is money, sex, drugs, stuff, and mindlessness. This is an Era of the Educated Dolt.

Morals Matter. Manners Matter. Kindness Matters. Civility Matters.

Fairness Matters. I am looking high and low for any of these, but I am coming up empty.

How can this message be spread throughout the land?

D I L

BUY LOCAL

Marion County Genealogical Society Meeting

The Marion County Genealogical Society will meet on Thur May 19th at 2 PM at the Marion County Public Library located at 2720 E Silver Springs Blvd in Ocala. A brief business meeting will be followed by a presentation by Kathryn I. Knight on "Writing your family history while listening to your

inner voice."

For further information, contact Judy Wright at (352) 897-0840, MarionGenealogy@gmail.com, or <http://MarionGenealogy.tripod.com>.

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■=Tom Loury

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



Am I a Publisher? YES! Am I a Journalist? NO, and I don't want to be! I am just a guy in search of the truth and I believe that everyone has the right to see their opinion in print,

whether I agree with their opinion or not. I was recently criticized by a "Retired Journalist." The reason I know he was a journalist is because he listed his past jobs as his credentials and one was the Ocala Star Banner WOOHOO. Now that one will put you at the top of the list.

The reason I own my own newspapers was I rarely agree with the editor's opinion. Most look at life through a different set of eyes than I do. While disagreeing with an editor one day he said if you don't like my opinion start your own newspaper, Wala! He is still an editor and I'm a publisher and I still look at things through different eyes than most. It's a lot harder to sell ads, take pictures and write. Most editors never have to worry about new revenue.

Anyway, this very competent journalist said he could give me a few pointers. I got all excited, then reality set in. I'm not interested in being a journalist. I told the gentle-

man that I thought he was well qualified to coach me but I don't want to lose track of my main goal, "Search for the Truth." Many local journalist just want to stir the pot. My job is to put our readers' opinions in print and print facts. While in route of this goal maybe I can help some business people along the way. It's happening again, the local daily takes every opportunity to stir up trouble for the Sheriff. It's almost like they have an agenda??? Well it is an election year, I like Chris Blair and in case you missed it I ENDORSED him. I also endorsed Dennis Baxley. He has a great past record, he is a proven representative of the people.

I also like Earl Arnette. He's a long time friend and he gave his word "No New Taxes!" He kept his word but I think we needed to come up with some new money for the Sheriff's Department instead of cutting the budget. In talking to him before the last vote he said he was going vote yes for the budget and two days later voted no. I'm not sure what that was all about but I'm sure he had his reasons. I need to talk to him some more to see where he stands now!

The new one cent tax voted for by the people of Marion County will help some but keep your eyes on who gets what. Just because voters think a portion is going to the Sheriff's Department does not make it so. All of that is controlled by the County Com-

missioners and you know how they have been voting in the past.

All of the above, of course, is about politics so why stop now. I understand that delegates' rules are determined by the states and the parties. I think we should let the people vote in the candidates. Look at the mess we are in right now, the way it's being run and

both parties are about to self destruct. If the person the people have chosen is not allowed to run, I'm afraid of what comes next. The people do not want the Big Banks, Big Business and Wall Street running the country. They want smaller government, less government control, more freedom!

Who Fired The First Shot?

(Continued from Page 1)

Sheriff can be with their deputies 24/7. They establish policy and procedure and provide training and equipment. The profession by its very nature requires independent thought and action. The five deputies involved in the Derrick Price incident stepped outside of their training and professional charge. That became a personal choice and not one that would have been encouraged or condoned by either administration.

Some would lead you to believe that Sheriff Blair is lacking in his ability to lead the agency, that he does not possess the knowledge and experience to manage an agency of this size. Having served under four Sheriff's I would strongly argue to the contrary. Sheriff Blair actually possesses many of the attributes aspired to in this era of procedural justice. Sheriff Blair is a transformational leader who has excelled at connecting with the community. He is a true believer in participatory involvement among his staff and aspires to provide quality law enforcement services through a community oriented approach. Blair is a down to earth and humble individual who maintains an open door policy with both the public and his employees. Some take advantage of that,

many do not!

Sheriff Blair has been criticized for transferring patrol deputies to the jail. The citizens of Marion County should understand that employees are not transferred to the jail as punishment but in an effort to allow them to learn a new skill set giving them an opportunity to continue their career in law enforcement. This practice has been utilized by several prior administrations yielding many current success stories. Sheriff Blair remains committed to his employees and the community and believes that when a patrol position is not realized as the correct fit for a specific deputy, a role in corrections might be a better option. Sheriff Blair continues to deal with many challenging situations, as one should expect from any administrator, yet some are critical of him holding employees accountable. One of his opponents says he has no control over the agency. Another says he micromanages. It can't be both. The fact that he demands a day's work for a day's pay is something that he feels the public not only expects, but should demand!

Fred LaTorre

Chief Deputy, Marion County Sheriff's Office

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for June

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

12am, May 18th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, May 25th

Ocala DownTown

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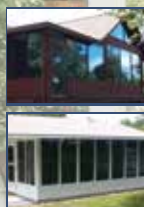
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SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MOVIES FOR MAY, 2016

8th AVENUE - TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, MAY 10TH AND 11TH, 2016 AT 1:30 PM

BARBARA G. WASHINGTON – THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, MAY 12TH AND 13TH, 2016 AT 1:00 PM

“MY ALL AMERICAN” STARRING: AARON ECKHART, FINN WITTROCK,

ROBIN TUNNEY, SARAH , BOLGER AND RETT TERRELL What Freddie Steinmark wants most in the world is to play football. Deemed too small by the usual athletic standards, his father trains him hard, and Freddie brings a fight to the game that ultimately gets him noticed – by none other than legendary University of Texas coach Darrell Royal. Awarded a scholarship and

a chance to play for the Longhorns, Freddie sets off to Austin with his loving high school sweetheart Linda, determined to make the team. Alongside his old teammate Bobby Mitchell and new pal James Street, Freddie is put through the paces of a grueling practice schedule, but the boys' camaraderie off the field translates into solid playing on it, and they rise up the depth charts, giving the Longhorns a real chance to turn the team around. But just when they're reveling in the success of the season, Freddie suffers an injury that leads to a shocking diagnosis and the biggest challenge he will ever face. RATED PG

8TH AVENUE – TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, MAY 24TH AND 25TH, 2016, AT 1:30 PM

BARBARA G. WASHINGTON - THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, MAY 26TH AND 27TH, 2016 AT 1:00 PM

“EVEREST” STARRING: JASON CLARKE, JOSH BROLIN, JOHN HAWKES, ROBIN WRIGHT AND MICHAEL KELLY

Two different expeditions are challenged beyond their limits by one of the fiercest snowstorms ever encountered by mankind in an attempt to reach the summit of the world's highest mountain. Their mettle tested by the harshest elements found on the-

planet, the climbers face nearly impossible obstacles as a lifelong obsession becomes a breathtaking struggle for survival. Based on a true story. RATED PG-13

Reservations must be made at the Center of your choice. Seating is limited to 8 persons per video.

Please call the 8th Avenue Center at 629-8545 or Barbara G. Washington Center at 629-8357 to reserve your seat.

COMING EVENTS FOR MAY, 2016
SENIOR TRIP: HOLY LAND EXPERIENCE

When: Thursday, May 12th, 2016

Where: Orlando, Florida

Time: Leave 8th Avenue at 8:30 AM, Return 6:00 PM

Cost: \$60.00 per person

What: The Holy Land Experience showcases architectural recreation of Jerusalem, beautiful and serene landscaping, historical exhibits and live religious shows including the popular Passion drama which reenacts the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

It's a theme park like no other. Lunch is on your own. Pre-registration is required. For more information please call Grace at 629-8357.

(Continued on Page 8)

For more information, please call
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Parade of Senior Services Expo





PHOTO: Residents of Salt Springs Village display handmade baby quilts they donated to the Florida Department of Health in Marion County Healthy Start program. They presented the quilts to the department during a luncheon ceremony at Bass Champions Restaurant in Fort McCoy.

Ocala, Fla.—Salt Springs Village residents partnered with the Florida Department of Health in Marion County March 24 to donate 100 handmade quilts to help Healthy Start families.

Each quilt is signed by one of the residents to give it a personal touch. The community's quilting project donates about 100 quilts to Healthy Start each year.

"I just can't tell you how much these quilts mean to our clients in need," said Lynne Hough, Healthy Start program administrator. "They are greatly appreciated, often kept for generations as the baby's first keepsake. These quilts are lovely, soft reminders that they are not alone, there is a community that cares."

Healthy Start helps pregnant women,

women who are between pregnancies, infants, and children up to age 3. Healthy Start provides education, resource information, case management and care coordination services in order to improve birth outcomes and decrease infant mortality.

Healthy Start is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. To make an appointment, call 352-629-0137, ext. 2275.

About the Florida Department of Health
The department works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and

community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/HealthyFla> and on <https://www.facebook.com/FLDepartmentofHealth>. For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit <http://marion.floridahealth.gov>.

Public Information Office: Florida Department of Health in Marion County, 1801 SE 32nd Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471, Phone: 352-629-0137 mailto: MarionCHDInfo@FLHealth.gov

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To be the catalyst for a prosperous community.

The Ocala/Marion County Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Corporation are **Moving Forward!** and have unified to create the Ocala/Marion County Chamber & Economic Partnership (CEP).

The CEP will serve as the central resource for all businesses in Marion County: new, relocating, existing, large, small and budding entrepreneurs!

The forward momentum of this vibrant organization will focus on economic growth while maintaining the beauty and quality of life in Ocala and Marion County.

We invite you to get acquainted at a complimentary, no-obligation
"GET GOING! New Partner Orientation"

This 60-minute overview is a casual format for you to learn more about the CEP and how partnership in this progressive organization will provide you with additional resources, connections, and advocacy to help in YOUR business development and growth initiatives.

For more information and the date of the next session, please contact:
Felecia Prather at 352-629-8051 or felecia@ocalacc.com

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Read Classifieds..... 84%	Sold what they advertised.. 38%
Placed Classified Ads..... 15%	Sold or had many calls..... 73%
Bought Print Ad Last 30 Days:	Craigslist:
Real Estate..... 2.5%	Visited Last 30 Days 38%
New/Used Vehicle..... 11%	Placed Ad on Craigslist 17%
Home Contractor..... 3%	Responded to Craigslist Ad.. 21%
Job change ads..... 12%	

* Survey Conducted June 30, 2013

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4-H Youth In Action Award Recognizes Teen Who Inspires Others To Engage In STEM

(NAPSI)—As adults search for ways to inspire American youth to explore STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), they might want to borrow a page from the book of 18-year-old Illinois 4-H member Thaddeus (Thad) Hughes, who has introduced thousands of young people to science through hands-on programs he contributed to or created to spark their interest.

The National 4-H Council has awarded Thad its 2016 Youth In Action (YIA) STEM Pillar Award (sponsored by HughesNet) for engaging more than 6,000 youth in STEM subjects through demonstrations, workshops, talks and interviews, and as a mentor for the FIRST Lego League and the Illinois State Robotics Competition. Thad's efforts have earned scholarships for him and his

4-H club, helping him to continue his passion for connecting students to STEM while he studies engineering at the Rose Hulman Institute of Technology.

The YIA Awards honor 4-H'ers in four categories—STEM, Citizenship, Agriculture/Animal Science, and Healthy Living—for gaining critical life skills through their 4-H experiences and using those skills to overcome challenges. The STEM Pillar Award is sponsored by HughesNet, which is a partner with 4-H to introduce American youth to hands-on, community-based STEM learning.

YIA honorees epitomize 4-H youth empowerment and leadership. Thad has created learning resources to help younger peers see that they can learn and excel in STEM sub-

jects. He developed an after-school program through the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension called Spinning Robots, in which he taught 50 middle schoolers basic circuitry and how to build simple robots.

Thad also created a curriculum to teach middle schoolers principles of electricity, from basic circuits to transistors.

"I found that there was one major discouragement among students: 'I don't think I can do that. I don't know the stuff,'" Thad said. "Simply replying 'sure you can' isn't very convincing. I set out to fix this misconception."

4-H and HughesNet share a passion for educating youth to develop into tomorrow's future leaders—a passion that Thad embodies. Their partnership is aimed at inspiring



Thad Hughes Wins Outstanding STEM Pillar Award Sponsored By HughesNet

the next generation of scientists, building future leaders and powering our country's competitiveness in the global economy.

"Thad's dedication to sharing his gifts with younger learners is exactly what the U.S. needs to inspire the next generation of peer mentors in STEM," said Peter Gulla, senior vice president marketing, Hughes Network Systems. "It's vital to convince youth that learning science and technology is important. Thad's example delivers that message by empowering youth with encouragement and real opportunities to develop skills."

SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(Continued from Page 5)

COMING EVENTS FOR JUNE 2016 AQUASIZE: WATER AEROBICS FOR ADULTS

When: Thursdays, June 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th, 2016

Where: Hampton Aquatic Fun Center, 255 NW Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Ocala
Time: 6:30 to 7:30 PM

Cost: \$15.00 per participant for 4 sessions

What: Class activities include: stretching, cardio, toning, strength training and abdominal workouts. Buoyancy equipment is used.

Modifications will be demonstrated for all fitness levels.

For more information, please call Diane at 401-3916.

AQUABILITY

When: Wednesdays, June 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th, 2016 Where: Hampton Aquatic Fun Center, 255 NW Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Ocala

Time: 5:30 TO 6:30 PM or 6:30 to 7:30 PM

Cost: \$25.00 per person for 4 week session

What: An Adaptive Aquatic Program for individuals with Disabilities of all Ages. For more information and registration, please call Diane at 401-3916.



Memorial Day

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Governor Rick Scott

FROM THE GOVERNOR'S DESK

Governor Scott Signs 14 Bills into Law
TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Governor Rick Scott signed the following 14 bills into law.
SB 666

Voter Identification – This bill expands the list of acceptable forms of identification for voter registration applicants to include certain information.

SB 812

Reciprocal Insurers – This bill creates an alternative process for a domestic reciprocal insurer to distribute unassigned funds to policyholders.

SB 826

Mobile Homes – This bill revises provisions relating to mobile home park tenants and owners.

SB 828

Insurance Guaranty Association Assessments – This bill revises the assessment process for the Florida Workers' Compensation Insurance Guaranty Association.

SB 846

Divers-Down Warning Devices – This bill expands the types of signal devices used by divers.

SB 854

Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Ser-

vices – This bill revises provisions within the funeral, cemetery, and consumer services code.

SB 912

Fraudulent Activities Associated with Payment Systems – This bill provides additional consumer protections against fraudulent activity at gas stations.

SB 922

Solid Waste Management – This bill revises solid waste management programs within the Department of Environmental Protection.

SB 936

Persons with Disabilities – This bill protects individuals with autism or an autism spectrum disorder during encounters with law enforcement.

SB 938

The Retail Sale of Dextromethorphan – This bill prohibits the sale of products con-

taining dextromethorphan to minors.

SB 964

The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program – This bill exempts nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and rehabilitative hospitals from reporting certain information to the prescription drug monitoring program.

SB 1004

Security System Plans – This bill revises public records exemptions related to government agencies' security systems.

SB 1044

Contraband Forfeiture – This bill revises the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act.

SB 1104

Service of Process on Financial Institutions – This bill authorizes financial institutions to establish a sole location or agent for receipt of service of process.

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WOCA



TAMPA, Fla. – Governor Rick Scott joined Attorney General Pam Bondi, Senator Kelli Stargel, Representative Janet Adkins, Representative Colleen Burton, and advocates from across the state to ceremonially sign legislation which reduces the turn-

around time for the processing and testing of rape kits. SB 636 requires kits to be submitted within 30 days to a crime lab and tested within 120 days. Governor Scott also highlighted the more than \$10 million included in this year's

Florida First budget to ensure Florida's law enforcement personnel have the tools they need to reduce the backlog of these kits across the state.

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