

WHAT CAN I SAY?

By Tom Loury

The classified information just received in Congress needs to be declassified! I think we will see top people in the previous administration are neck deep in this scandal; it is much bigger than Watergate. Right now it appears that some of the top FBI agents were covering for the Clintons. They were also spying - Fox news is calling it snooping - I don't know if it was spying. They will have to go. The Trump investigation will have to be disbanded and quit spending the taxpayer's money at an alarming rate. Proof has been found that the subpoena was received through false information, so even if they found something they could not use it.

For years I have stuck up for the FBI and other behind the scenes undercover cops. The uninformed were always saying negative things about "The Man!" Well it seems a few of the leaders have let

us down and I would like to get it back to where I can have confidence in all of our agencies.

- We had the Veterans Administration Hospital Leaders falsifying records to get federal funding and bonuses.
- The Internal Revenue Leaders Targeting the Tea Party
- The FBI Leaders covering for Clinton's.
- ETC,ETC,ETC!

These are all huge crimes! Where are we headed? Maybe they will be calling us a s—hole country.

If you notice something that is in common it's just a few leaders at the top. The other common denominator is it was the previous Left Administration. I have to hand it to the Dem's. They are defending their own, fighting to obstruct, but they are on dangerous ground right now. They could lose support of a lot of

people / Voters. The strategy is to move the visitors in our country to certain areas so when the bean counter goes out and get the population census, they can get the delegates in the states where they need them to get the delegate vote. When they count heads in the census they ask how many people live here? That is all they ask! They don't ask how many US Citizens live here? With as many visitors as we have it is possible to manipulate. Just offer free money to them in a certain area, Sanctuary Cities.

Draining the Swamp is not as easy as it may seem, but I think Trump is up to it! I believe in this country. We are going through a bump in the road, a glitch. I love my country and I want to feel good about all the agencies that help govern us. God Bless America!

WHAT SAY YOU?

tloury@att.net



Sheriff Billy Woods talks to the local business group about what the MCSO is doing. He said he has moved money from the top to the money for officers pay. This picture supplied by MCSO. There were many questions by the attending members. In all it was a very informative event.

Human Trafficking Awareness Month



Attorney General Pam Bondi's Weekly Briefing

January 19, 2018

Florida is a zero-tolerance state for human trafficking, stopping this horrific crime and saving lives is a top priority of my administration. That is why I presented a resolution recognizing

January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month. During National Human Trafficking Awareness Month, I am calling on all Floridians to join the fight in ending human trafficking.

Human trafficking is far too common across the globe and right here in Florida, with more than 20 million people

worldwide being trafficked. My office launched the website, YouCanStopHT.com—so citizens can learn how to spot a trafficking victim and how to report the crime. Through awareness, if we can empower even one person to get involved, that person can save a life and improve our world.

Awareness is a powerful tool. It is especially important for teens and educators to be aware of human trafficking and how to spot it. Working with the Department of Education, we are providing students with the information they need to identify the signs and quickly report suspected human trafficking. Students and faculty are uniquely positioned to notice changes in behavior that may be related to human trafficking.

I would like to especially acknowledge Florida's law enforcement, local governments, advocates and communities for their efforts in combating this horrible crime. Through strong partnerships with these devoted leaders, Florida continues to be a global example at the forefront in the fight to end human trafficking.



Pictured here is Steve Wilson of Kinetico Water speaking to the OBL Breakfast Club about the Kinetico products, water filtration and the water stats in Marion County and The Villages areas.

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OCALA/MARION COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



As part of the CEP's mission to be the catalyst for a prosperous community, the organization partners closely with local governments (as well as state and Federal) to ensure that we are creating and maintaining a business climate which encourages growth and prosperity. A recent example of this can be found in the issue of transportation impact fees.

In December, the Marion County Board of County Commissioners held a public

hearing on transportation impact fees. Among those who expressed their support in keeping these fees at their current rate was the Impact Fee Task Force coordinated by the Ocala/Marion County Chamber & Economic Partnership (CEP). The Task Force is composed of a broad range of professionals who are working on issues related to building and development every day. This group partnered with the County to study the impact fees when first proposed in 2015 and looked at the issue again last fall. At the conclusion of this hearing, the Commission made the unanimous decision to keep these fees at their current level.

Some have suggested that the County

needs to raise these fees to the highest possible levels (though no one at the hearing spoke in favor of raising the fees). This approach will not only not generate the funds needed to move our community forward but will hamper growth and development. I would like to share some of the findings from the Task Force which illustrate why the recommended and adopted approach is best:

- Construction financing is still a challenge with a significant number of projects (both commercial and residential) struggling to appraise;
- The cost of building supplies and labor has risen significantly over the last four years;
- The County's recently funded Home Matters report clearly outlines the challenges of constructing affordable housing and an increase in these fees

would only further add to this challenge;

- Construction costs have risen significantly in the last year. For example, lumber costs alone have increased 50% from January to November of this year.

The issue is not about profit but about the ability to finance a project. When it costs more to build than the construction appraisal, then a project does not get built. How would adding tens of thousands of dollars in costs which do not add to the value of the project increase the ability of the project appraising? It doesn't.

Some will want to argue the fallacy that through impact fees growth funds growth. History has demonstrated that this is just not the case. In less than two years, the sales tax funds dedicated to transportation will far exceed the impact fees which would have been collected over seven years. The sales tax ensures that 1) everyone including visitors and out-of-county commuters are helping to fund the infrastructure they use; 2) a significant, reliable source of income is available; and 3) that new construction and maintenance needs (on which impact fees are legally prohibited) can be addressed.

The CEP and our business partners greatly value our strong partnership with our local governments and look forward to continuing to work together to keep our community Moving Forward.

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Tom Loury Long time member of CEP/Ocala Chamber of Commerce, Past President of the Ocala Business Leaders, Co-Founder and President of Select Business Associates, Past President of the Lady Lake Chamber.

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



Attorney General Pam Bondi has been busy. They busted a Dentist for Medicare fraud. They were using two homeless people to bill for payment to them in exchange for them staying in a hotel

expenses paid. Good job Pam, maybe you should go clean up Washington!

On a local front, I got a call from a Democrat. The caller said he had a message for Tony Powell one of our columnists. "There are at least two twenty five year residents of the Villages that think Trump is a Nazi!" I just guessed he was a democrat! I wonder why he did not just call Tony himself? Personally I think Trump is kicking butt and taking names. Trump should have shown the head of the Democratic committee the memo that proves how some of his fellow Dems have been. Nuff said! (new word).

Got a call from a scammer saying I was going to be picked up by the local police, not sure why. Probably for using my Freedom of Speech and Freedom of the Press. If it's for that "bring it on!"

Watch out for the flu bug. It is hiding around every corner. Get away from people that are sneezing and blowing their nose.

Germs are flying everywhere. Wipe off the grocery cart when you go to the market and when someone at home gets the bug spray and wipe off everything they use. You can't be too careful.

Went to the UFHealth Ocala Health Brook building the other day, a new location just off SR 200. Very nice facility, well-staffed, well equipped and they are a part of a group in other cities. They have a number of specialties and are expanding into more all the time. Check them out. They are a great medical resource.

We are excited to have a new Healthcare Insurance Co as a client. They wrote my healthcare insurance. It is a Humana policy that specializes in mature people. Give them a call and check them out. You won't be sorry: 352-207-5100 and tell them you read it in our newspaper.

If you need a photo of a family member, a family photo shoot, a wedding, pet pictures or all most any kind of photo call the Vazuls at 352-445-7842. They are award winning photographers including Disney photo awards. They also own a travel co, so book your trips thru them.

I predict that the corruption is so bad they will have to stop or it will consume our country. I believe it will reach the very top. When you hear that millions of dollars are missing and no one is looking for it something is bad wrong. If you follow the money it will take you, me, us to names we

don't want to hear. The word corruption does not have a name it has hundreds of names. Their pockets are bulging with our money and most likely they won't go to jail.

The government shutdown does not make a lot of sense. Think about it this way: a part of our governing body voted for shutting down our country because of illegal visitors from another country, hurting our legal citizens and jeopardizing the safety of our country. Does that make sense to you?

When advertising "Always hold onto the Old as long as it is Good and Grab hold of the New as soon as it is Better" and also use the right trigger words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized". When phrasing a sale "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!" if the inventory is amount small. But Do Not raise the price and give them a discount...they are smarter than that!

Make it a Great Day...or Not...It's YOUR CHOICE!

Your opinion is important to me, email me a letter to the editor, include your name phone number so I can verify that you sent it. Give us your opinion and I will attempt to run it as long as it is not mean spirited. Your opinion should be seen by others and that's what I do, I run your letter with just your initials on it whether I agree with it or not.



THIS FLU SEASON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN MARION COUNTY REMINDS YOU TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS THIS FLU SEASON

OCALA, Fla.-In Florida and throughout the U.S., flu activity is on the rise. Marion County is currently seeing moderate flu activity that is actively increasing. From Dec. 31, 2017, to Jan. 13, 2018, county hospitals and emergency rooms reported 265 confirmed cases of influenza, an average of 19 cases per day. In December, approximately 8 were confirmed each day.

"It's important to see your health care provider if you become sick with flu-like symptoms," said Florida Department of Health in Marion County Health Officer Mark Lander. "The flu can have serious consequences even for someone who has been very healthy previously."

Health care providers can prescribe antiviral treatment if appropriate. Treatment is most effective when started within 48 hours, so calling as soon as you become ill is important, especially if you or your loved one is at a higher risk for complications. Children younger than 5, adults over the age of 65, pregnant women, and those with underlying medical conditions are considered most at-risk.

Residents are encouraged to get their flu vaccine now if they haven't gotten one already. There are still weeks of flu activity to come (and plenty of opportunities to become ill). Flu vaccines can vary in

Continued page 5

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for March

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

12am, February 14th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, February 21st

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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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Florida State Senate

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



By Florida Senator Baxley

Keeping Each Other Safe: This week in the Florida Senate, we will be presenting a bill called The Church Protection Bill. Every week across our great state small and large communities of faith, meet to share their faith walk. As they open their arms wide to receive the troubled souls and receive offerings for

their mission, they also bear responsibility for each other's safety. We have seen these safe havens become targets for violence. This bill will empower concealed permit holders to be part of a safety team in their community of faith to prevent acts of violence becoming massacres, as we have witnessed across the nation in incidents such as Sulphur Springs, Texas and Charleston, SC. What we have learned is that if we empower law-abiding citizens to stop violent acts, they can, they will, and they have. Let us strengthen this right of Self Defense for communities of faith across Florida.



SHOP LOCAL

Flu Season

Continued from page 4

effectiveness from season to season, but they continue to be the best way to prevent influenza infection and serious influenza complications.

The flu vaccine is safe, and it's recommended for everyone six months and older, including pregnant women. Contact your doctor's office or local pharmacy today to check on flu shot availability. Children and uninsured or under-insured residents can get one for free or a low cost at the Department of Health in Marion County's main office in Ocala (1801 SE 32nd Ave.) Monday through Friday. To schedule your flu shot at the Department of Health, please call 352-644-2695 or 352-644-2770. The department also takes walk-in appointments.

It's important to stay home from work and keep children home from school or daycare when sick to help prevent spreading the flu

to others. The department recommends that sick people stay home or keep sick children home until fever-free for at least 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication).

It is also essential to practice good hygiene by properly and frequently washing your

hands<http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/childrens-health/school-health/hand-washing.html?utm_source=PR&PDF>.

Make it a habit to clean and disinfect commonly used surfaces in your home, school or office. You can take additional steps to ward off the flu by coughing or sneezing into a tissue or your elbow and avoiding touching your face. Visit FluFreeFlorida.com<<http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/prevention/flu-prevention/index.html>> for more information on how you can be a part of #FluFreeFlorida. Visit

www.floridahealth.gov/floridaflu<<http://www.floridahealth.gov/floridaflu>> for more information on influenza and influenza-like illness in Florida.

About the Florida Department of Health The department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board <<http://www.phaboard.org/>>, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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[www.floridahealth.gov](http://www.floridahealth.gov/?utm_source=article)<http://www.floridahealth.gov/?utm_source=article>.

Contact:

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MISSING CAVE TEACHER DIVER ARRESTED

MCSO CONCLUDES SEARCH FOR MISSING CAVE DIVER

MARION COUNTY, Florida (January 2, 2018) - The Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) has officially concluded their four-day search for a cave diver at the Silver Glen Springs Recreation Area, located at 5271 North Highway 19 in Salt Springs. On December 27, 2017, deputies were called out to the recreation area in reference to a missing diver. Witnesses at the park saw a male diver enter the water and when the parked closed, his car and personal belongings were still there.

During the investigation, MCSO Major Crimes detectives determined the missing diver to be Alexander James McKeeman (DOB: 11/13/1992) from Orlando, Florida.

MCSO conducted an extensive search for McKeeman, spanning over four days. MCSO's Underwater Recovery Team and several teams of professional divers dove the caves in an effort to locate McKeeman, but he was not found. MCSO's Field Force and Aviation Units have also searched the area multiple times, but their searches have yielded negative results.

At this point, all of the evidence found at the scene leads detectives to believe that McKeeman entered the springs and did not come out. However, if you have any information regarding McKeeman's whereabouts, or if you have information on what happened at Silver Glen Springs on the day of his disappearance, please call Detective John Lightle at 352-369-6715.

Lauren Lettelier
Public Information Officer

LAKE WEIR HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER ARRESTED FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT ON FORMER FEMALE STUDENT

MARION COUNTY, Florida (January 17, 2018) – On Tuesday, January 16, 2018, Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Major Crimes detectives arrested Lake Weir High School (LWHS) teacher Jason Michael Tarlton (DOB: 01/20/1987) for sexually assaulting a 17-year old female student who he used to teach. The offense was discovered after inappropriate pictures of Tarlton and the victim were uploaded to a social media application and were brought to the attention of the MCSO School Resource Officer assigned to LWHS.

On Tuesday, MCSO School Resource Officer Erik Deangelis was made aware of several inappropriate images uploaded to the "Afterschool" phone application depicting Tarlton and the victim in a sexual manner. One of the pictures showed Tarlton and the victim standing in front of a mirror in a hotel bathroom partially clothed. The other picture was of Tarlton completely nude.

Detectives made contact with the victim, who said she accidentally uploaded the pictures from her phone to the application. The victim advised that she is no longer a student at LWHS, but had Tarlton as a teacher last year. She told detectives that they became friends and eventually became sexually involved. She said that Tarlton told her that he loved her and if he ever got caught, he said she was "worth it." Detectives then responded to Tarlton's residence and placed him under arrest. Upon

taking him into custody, detectives observed a printed copy of the Florida statutes for Chapter 948.30, in plain view on the passenger seat of his vehicle. This statute discusses probation and community control involving sex offenses. The paperwork was freshly printed on January 16, 2018 at 3:19 p.m., hours before his arrest.

Tarlton was charged with one count of Sexual Assault by a Custodian- Victim between the ages of 12-18 years old. He has since posted his \$10,000 bond and was released from the Marion County Jail.

Living Well with Dementia

(NAPSI)—The good news is, Americans are living longer than ever before. While longer life spans bring great opportunities, however, older adults face an increased risk of developing a chronic condition or cognitive disorder. In fact, one in 10 people age 65 or older lives with some form of dementia. Symptoms include memory loss, language difficulty, a loss of motor function, and difficulty with problem solving.

See A Doctor

There's no cure for dementia but early detection and treatment can greatly improve quality of life. In addition, reversible conditions—dehydration, thyroid issues, vitamin deficiencies—can have similar symptoms. So if you suspect you or a loved one is exhibiting any of these symptoms, see a doctor.

Resources Available

Many people with dementia require supportive services to maintain independence and increase well-being.

That's where the Eldercare Locator comes in. As the only national information and referral resource for issues affecting older Americans, it connects people who have dementia and their caregivers to a range of services. The Eldercare Locator is a program of the U.S. Administration on Aging, which helps older adults and people with disabilities live with dignity and choices. Visit www.eldercare.acl.gov or call (800) 677-1116.

Prevent Dehydration

It's in every living cell, tissue and organ, and it's second only to oxygen as the thing we need most to survive—pure, clean water. We can't live without it, and we can't live well without enough of it. We are constantly in need of water as we lose water with every breath and every activity of the body. We are especially at risk for dehydration when we exercise or we are ill—this is when dehydration, even mild dehydration, can take its toll, causing you to feel tired and drained of energy. Anyone may become dehydrated, but young children, older adults and people with chronic illnesses are most at risk.

Dr. Julie Scarano, a doctor of chiropractic who is trained in prevention and wellness (in addition to providing care for neuromusculoskeletal conditions such as neck or back pain, for which chiropractors are most well known) believes it's better to prevent dehydration than to treat it. She also reminds you that the 23 intervertebral discs in your spine have high water content and that dehydration can be associated with spinal pain. Here are some preventative tips

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WOCA

ONE PERSON'S OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

So now that Congress has passed HR 1, The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, we need not bother discussing tax reform any more. All our federal tax issues have been resolved. Oh, except it's still and income tax that taxes your hard work and productivity. And there's that pesky withholding tax which requires you to feed the government before you can feed your family. And we still have the FICA tax which is THE most regressive tax and truly hurts the working poor. Oh and don't forget the huge problem of tax evasion in which one out of every five people is evading the income tax. And let's not forget that Congress is still making almost daily proposals to change the tax code - over 1100 proposals in the first 12 months of the 115th Congress.

Look at it this way. Congress is addicted. They are hooked on the income tax and the power they wield in thrusting this byzantine system upon the citizens of our country. They are hooked on using the tax code to conduct class warfare. They are hooked on using the IRS as a weapon against their political opponents. They are hooked on taxing our hard work and productivity. They are hooked on the constant tinkering of the tax code with their daily proposals to amend it. Such is their addiction that they completely ignore the huge problem of evasion that costs every household over \$5000. Very simply, they are addicted to the income tax. We must use the FAIRtax to launch an intervention and break their addiction. Only the FAIRtax is strong

enough to bring them back to reality.

Please support the volunteers of the Florida FairTax Educational Association by becoming a member at www.flfairtax.org. It is an all volunteer organization committed to educating the public about the only REAL tax reform currently in Congress, HR 25, The FairTax Act of 2017.

By the way, HR 25 has more cosponsors than HR 1 had!

RM

Thank you Obama for the gift that keeps on taking. The tentacles just keep feeding in my bank account.

1. My medigap bill just arrived. It is several hundred dollars heavier this year.

2. Same story with my SS statement. Last year the medical premium deduction took all the increase plus \$11 more. The check lost weight in the amount of the increase plus another \$11.

3. 2018 seniors are to get a 2% increase. The increase about \$26 plus \$8. My check gets lighter and lighter, \$34 this year. Total for 2 years \$45. For most of my friends this would be a hardship.

How many years will this continue? Until SS reaches zero, and I must start to pay out of pocket to the government for my SS.

4. This is the best of the lot, the prescription surprise. For 15 years I have gotten 2 tubes of cream. The co-pays were \$40 each. These are not new drugs. Since a new layer of bureaucracy has been inserted

into the system to gate keep what drugs you and I may have. My share of their cost is: \$116.42 for one .625 mg tube {note the .42}, and \$108 for a 50 gram tube. That was this month. What can I expect for a refill?

Who controls their pay raises?

5. Where does it end? Who authorized the withdrawal of funds from my SS check? Did you give anyone permission? Where does this authority come from to take money from our SS checks? The Constitution? Executive privilege?

Is our government getting to be too bold and brassy?

Should we inundate D.C. with STOP signs. Stop the takings. Seniors need that money.

If it has not happened to you, it may in the future.

D.I.L.

Prevent Dehydration

Continued from page 6

to help avoid dehydration:

- Choose your beverages wisely. Avoid or limit fruit juices, sodas, alcohol and high-sugar sports drinks.
- Drink a glass of water during and between meals, as well as before, during and after exercise.
- Plan outdoor activities for cooler parts of the day.
- Eat foods that are high in water content, such as fruits and vegetables.
- Make water your go-to beverage of choice.

For more tips and information and to find a doctor of chiropractic near you, visit www.F4CP.org/findadoctor.

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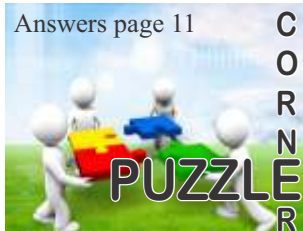
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Marion County's Internet Marketplace

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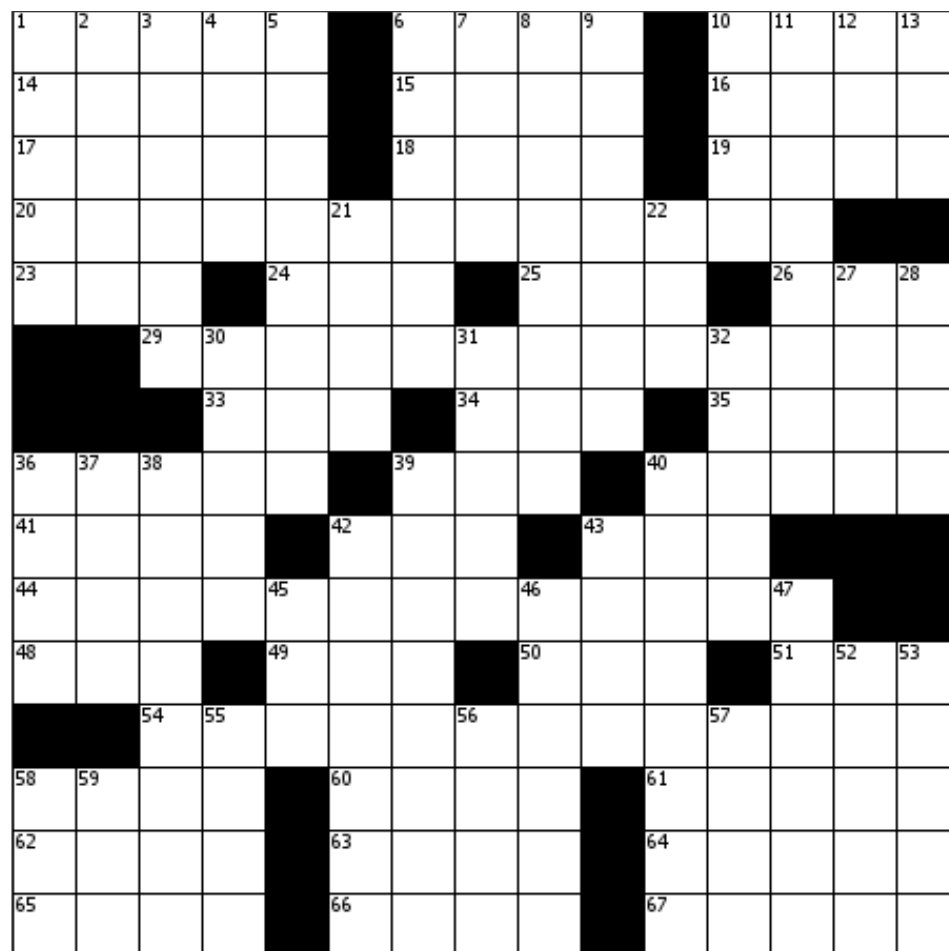
1. Sandbar
6. Takes the bull by the horns
10. Portent
14. First in a series
15. Fingerboard ridge
16. Hemingway, for one
17. Profit
18. Memorization by repetition
19. Canyonlands locale
20. Home cook's low-cal staple?
23. System starter?
24. It often comes to a stop
25. A guy on the green
26. Landmark Supreme Court name
29. Home cook's salad choice?
33. Albanian coin
34. Join forces, in a way
35. Chihuahua snack
36. Revise
39. Word with cap or coat

40. Country on the Irish Sea
41. TV's Roseanne
42. Honorarium
43. Tropical garland
44. Home cook's entree?
48. Title in India
49. Ward workers
50. Peachy keen
51. Historical period
54. Home cook's breakfast enhancement brand?
58. School visitor of rhyme
60. White wader
61. Aspirin targets
62. Jim Davis mutt
63. German actress Sommer
64. Tune for the unhip
65. Candlelike
66. Core element?
67. New drivers, often

Down

1. Sci-fi setting
2. Ruinous damage
3. Elocutionist
4. Quarreling
5. Sadie Hawkins Day originator
6. From the top
7. Gator cousin
8. On a short leash
9. Braced (oneself)

10. Numbered piece
11. Kind of witness
12. Fed. regulator since 1970
13. "Ixnay"
21. Thick, messy stuff
22. Double switchback
27. Without repetition
28. Things that may become bruised
30. Trouble indicator
31. Nerdish guy
32. Prepare a slide
36. How-to stuff
37. Co-star of a 1939 classic
38. Backpacker's fare
39. Fit for repeated service
40. Achilles' heel
42. Likes
43. Role for 37-Down
45. Work or energy unit
46. Upped the ante
47. Make fun of
52. Argument
53. Nave endings
55. Mind
56. Armstrong transport
57. Common ground for Bush and Kerry
58. Contemptible
59. Decay-fighting org.



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Governor's Desk

Tampa Area Ranks Third in State Job Creation

TAMPA, Fla. — Today, Governor Rick Scott announced that the Tampa area added 28,000 new private-sector jobs in the last year, creating the third-highest number of jobs among all Florida metro areas. Tampa's unemployment rate dropped to 3.4 percent, down 1.1 percentage points from one year ago. Statewide, Florida businesses created nearly 30,000 new jobs in December bringing the total number of new private-sector jobs created in Florida to 1,497,100 since December 2010.

Governor Scott said, "Last year ended strong with 28,000 new jobs created in the Tampa Bay area. Statewide, nearly 1.5 million jobs have been created since December 2010, and it is clear that we are on track to making Florida the best place in the nation for families to find new opportunities."

The industries with the highest growth over the year in Tampa were professional and business services with 7,000 new jobs and education and health services with 6,100 new jobs.

The Tampa area remained first among the state metro areas in job demand in December with 40,143 openings. The Tampa area also continues to rank first in the state in demand for high-skill, high-wage STEM occupations with 13,179 openings in December.

As of December, Florida's unemployment

rate is at 3.7 percent, a drop of 7.0 percentage points since December 2010, faster than the national decline of 5.2 percentage points. In the last year, 185,000 people entered Florida's labor force, a growth of 1.9 percent, which is nearly four times the national labor force growth rate of only 0.5 percent.

In December, 18,828 Floridians were placed in jobs by CareerSource Tampa Bay and the state's other 23 local workforce boards.

To view the December 2017 employment data visit www.floridajobs.org/labor-market-information/labor-market-information-press-releases/monthly-press-releases.

Protecting Your Privacy

(NAPSI)—Some people are taking an unhealthy interest in your medical information—but they can be stopped.

The Problem

With data breaches occurring across many industries, even sensitive data pertaining to patient health care records is at risk. A recent University of Phoenix study of 504 registered nurses and administrative staff found that only a quarter of registered nurses have seen changes in the way their companies handle data security and patient privacy over the past year despite increased data breaches across all industries. The survey also found that 20 percent of registered nurses and 19 percent of administrative staff admitted their facilities have experienced a breach of private patient

data.

Furthermore, the Identity Theft Resource Center notes that, as of November 2017, there had been nearly 5 million data breaches in the health care industry. These breaches can be detrimental to organizations: According to IBM's 2017 Cost of Data Breach Study, health care is the most costly industry for data breaches, with the average cost per affected record at \$380.

The issue is further compounded by a lack of trained cybersecurity professionals to combat hackers, especially in health care, where professionals make less and are responsible for not only protecting systems, but lives. Without trained experts, the onus falls on RNs and administrators, who may be unaware of how to identify or prevent breaches.

Expert Advice

"Patient safety transcends physical, emotional and electronic bounds and, in our increasingly digital world, it is important for health care professionals to be prepared for the possibility of data breaches," said Doris Savron, executive dean for the College of Health Professions, College of Education and College of Humanities & Sciences at University of Phoenix. "Everyone in the health care industry must work together to establish protocols and implement training to secure and protect all patient data to reduce the risk of being compromised."

Nurses and administrative staff agree, with 23 percent of RNs and 34 percent of administrative staff stating that additional support and training is needed for health care privacy and security.

"Health care organizations are extremely

susceptible to human error. If one employee accidentally invites malicious malware into a system, the impact can be catastrophic. To limit the amount of breaches, cybersecurity governance must improve," said Dennis Bonilla, executive dean for the College of Information Systems and Technology at University of Phoenix. "Without improved training and robust cybersecurity response plans incorporated into information technology strategies, the health care industry will continue to bear the brunt of these attacks."

What's Being Done

Current steps being taken to ensure the protection of patient data include:

Updated privacy and access policies, according to more than two-thirds of RNs and administrative staff;

Role-based access, according to 59 percent of RNs and 60 percent of administrative staff; and

Data surveillance, according to most RNs and administrative staff.

"Understanding what we do well now to protect patient data can help us create an increasingly sophisticated framework to safeguard this sensitive information," added Savron. "University of Phoenix offers degree and certificate programs that help prepare health care professionals to provide the best possible care to their patients while taking steps to protect their personal information." The school helps working adults move efficiently from education to careers in a rapidly changing world.



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A Flood of Cars

(NAPSI)—Recent research suggests drivers may be behind the wheel of more than 325,000 previously flooded vehicles. That's a 20 percent increase from 2016 and a stark reminder to consumers to do due diligence when used-car shopping.

One Woman's Story

"I bought a car last year and the seller never told us anything about it being a flood car," said Charlene Geiger from Pennsylvania. "When we got home and ran a Carfax, there it was—a flood car from Hurricane Sandy. It showed that the seller bought it as a salvage car and the title was washed when he brought it to Pennsylvania. We lost \$16,000 over all of it."

Where To Be Most Wary

Vehicles reported as flood damaged by a state's Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), insurance companies and more have washed up in every state. These 10 have the most:

1. Texas—51,000
2. Louisiana—29,000
3. Pennsylvania—20,000
4. Florida—19,000
5. Kentucky—16,000
6. Illinois—15,000
7. South Carolina—13,000
8. Virginia—13,000
9. North Carolina—13,000
10. Michigan—11,000.

In addition, several hundred thousand more flooded cars may emerge from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

Historically, about half the vehicles damaged by floods end up back on the market. Flooded cars rot from the inside out as water corrodes the mechanical parts, shorts the electrical system, and compromises safety features like air bags and anti-lock brakes. Health concerns are an added problem, as mold and bacteria permeate the soft parts of the car.

"Our data shows there's still much work to be done in helping consumers avoid buying

flood-damaged cars," said Dick Raines, president of Carfax. "They can, and do, show up all over the country, whether it be a few miles or hundreds of miles from where the flooding occurred. With two devastating storms like Harvey and Irma, it's vital for used-car buyers everywhere to protect themselves from flooded cars that may wind up for sale. Start with a thorough test-drive, a vehicle history report and a mechanic's inspection before buying any used car."

Free Assistance And Advice

With the world's largest vehicle history database, Carfax helps millions confidently buy, own and sell used cars. Now, in the wake of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, it's letting consumers check for flood damage free of charge at www.carfax.com/flood.

Mind-Body

Mind-Body Workshops Help Military Heroes Heal

(NAPSI)—To help veterans, active-duty members of the military and their families

better cope with stress and trauma, the American Red Cross created a new set of workshops teaching easy-to-use skills that promote wellness through mind-body connection.

What They Do

These Mind-Body Workshops focus on the powerful ways in which emotional, mental, social and spiritual factors can directly affect health.

The first workshop, Using Mind-Body Skills for Performance, helps participants explore the use of breathing, mindfulness techniques, stretching, movement and guided imagery to aid healing.

The second workshop, Using Mind-Body Skills, guides participants through using mind-body techniques for personal growth and healing through drawing, journaling, meditation, mindfulness, body scan, progressive muscle relaxation and self-directed imagery.

Expert Opinions

"The Red Cross Mind-Body Workshops will afford service members, veterans and their families an opportunity to learn practical relaxation techniques to improve their emotional, mental, social and spiritual well-being," said Alison M. Whitehead, MPH, RYT, PMP, VHA Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation.

The workshops are part of the organization's well-established resiliency program, which also includes Reconnection Workshops and Psychological First Aid courses. The extensive Red Cross presence in communities and on military installations around the world allows easy access to the new program for members of the military and veterans.

"There is no magic formula for healing both the visible and invisible injuries caused by the challenges of a military lifestyle, and that's why the Red Cross is excited to work with the Bob Woodruff Foundation to create this complementary and integrative program," added Koby Langley, Senior Vice President for Service to the Armed Forces at the Red Cross.

"The Bob Woodruff foundation supports programs that promote a holistic approach to healing for those recovering from the hidden wounds of war," explained Anne Marie Dougherty, the executive director.

How To Learn More

For further information about the Mind-Body Workshops, go to

www.redcross.org/mindbodyworks hops. The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. It's a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. To discover how you can help, visit redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org.





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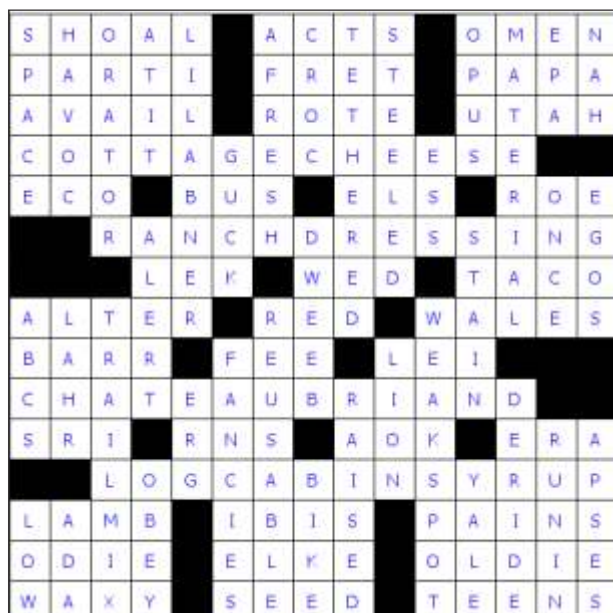
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