



Chief Graham shared to the OBL Breakfast group some surprising statistics about the effects of Opiate addiction in our community. Opiates were the number one cause of deaths, 70, in Marion County in 2017. With just a few weeks into 2018, Marion County has already recorded 34 overdoses and 9 deaths. The Ocala Police Department has created a new task force to help with this epidemic. He called on us, as members of the community, to support treatment facilities and educate others on the use of prescription drugs.



Lions Club holds fund raising for Charity. Here are some members of the Ocala Fort King Lions Club selling brooms at the Fresh Market in downtown Ocala. They are also on a membership drive. If you're interested in joining, call Walt at Walt's Brakes and More 352-629-3134.

The Ocala Downtown Market is the place where a diverse array of farmers, artisans, craftspeople, and food trucks come together to sell their products to customers from Ocala, Marion County, and beyond.



Daddy's Home This is Lane Loury watching for his daddy coming home from work. He does the same thing when his mother is coming in the driveway. He figured out at about 9 months he could push the stool to the window and stand on it and he could get a good view out the window. Mommy and daddy both drive big dodge diesel trucks so he can hear them coming. All the animals start making a racket because they know it's feeding time at the Loury Farm.

School Shootings, Gun Safety and Bullying

By TomL

Let me start from the beginning. I believe the school shootings are because of something that happened at school to set it off but it started at home! Most school shootings are about bullying and belittling a child or teenager in front of others. I am an eye witness to the bullying that goes on at school. I went to school in Broward County School system 100 years ago, time frame slightly off, but it has not changed.

In the school shooting incident in Broward County the officials were sufficiently warned: Law Enforcement was warned, FBI was warned, School Officials were warned, School Officials warned others, everyone was warned. In this case they simply needed to enforce the law. They did not! There are many suggestions on why they did not stop this young man. They are excuses. One reason given was local law enforcement stop making a lot of arrests so it would look like crime went down. Now isn't that interesting? Someone wanted to get re-elected, instead they should be put in jail.

When I went to school in Broward County it was many years ago. I went to school first five grades in a school that had all twelve grades. You want to talk about bullying. Actually I witnessed a couple of teachers getting bullied, one deserved it.

Bullying is the 2nd stage and part of the beginning of the problem and worse yet is when it happens to a child that is prone to mental health and does not know how to deal with a bully, they get belittled in front of others time after time and eventually snap. What they do when they snap has a lot to do with their home life and how they live prior to snapping. "That school system does not help stop the problem!" If you are a

child, you are being bullied you complain to the teacher, the teacher turns it in to the Dean, the Dean calls you in and says "suck it up" and go back to class or he will bring the accused bully in the office with you. Now you are face to face with your bully and you are very uncomfortable. The Dean walks out of the office and the bully says "now you've done it, I'm going to ... ". Just then

Continued page 9

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The Power Plant Business Incubator is Ground Zero in the CEP's Business Creation efforts. The incubator, in existence since 2012, is a facility in downtown Ocala where entrepreneurs can temporarily locate their new businesses and

receive a host of resources and connections. Resident companies must meet entrance criteria including being innovative, scalable, and open to coaching/mentorship.

The incubator currently has 14 companies in industries including software, mobile application development, biotech, virtual/augmented reality, media, 3D printing, medical device and more.

Some of our new Residents:

Elistars – *Bharat Patel, Founder*
Convenience store business management and back office software that sets business on cruise control and makes managing a store a breeze. www.elistars.com

Tell Them I'm Gone, Inc. – *Susan Fowler, Founder*

An online platform created to "Leave Nothing Unsaid." It's a place to leave love letters, messages, secrets, anything you can think of for loved-ones which will be delivered once you have passed-away. www.tellthemimgone.com

BluGrown Aquaponics – *Will Young & Tony Herrera, Founders*

The Blugrown Discovery System is an indoor garden/aquaponics system ready-to-go out of the box. Also incorporating the latest in robotics, it's a place to learn about your food and how it grows. www.blugrown.com

MediRides Transport Corporation – *Toykia & K. Spellman, Founders*

A new and innovative non-emergency transport company, which has begun residency at the Incubator's Ocala Health Center for Health Services Innovation. info@mediridestransports.com

New Programs:

1 Million Cups Ocala – A free event called 1 Million Cups Ocala is open to the public. Each week, two entrepreneurs in the community tell our audience what business ideas they are considering, or what companies they are in the process of starting. The community then brainstorms with each entrepreneur, discovering resources and connections to help them grow. For more information and to see videos of our past presenters visit

www.1MillionCups.com/Ocala

FastTrac -- The Power Plant Business Incubator is now an Affiliate of the Kauffman FastTrac program. Kauffman FastTrac equips aspiring entrepreneurs with the business skills and insights, tools, resources, and peer networks necessary to

start and grow successful businesses. Via the FastTrac website, entrepreneurs can take online courses to acquire basic business knowledge. A series of local, in-person courses will soon be offered as well. More information at

<https://learn.fasttrac.org/affiliates/power-plant-business-incubator>

Free Tours & Presentations – Staff from the Power Plant Business Incubator provides regular free tours of the facility, for groups up to 45 people. Group tours are often paired with presentations on entrepreneurship and local success stories. A speaker is also available for group gatherings, civic organizations, etc. Contact 352-629-8051 for more details.



Marion Target Practice Law

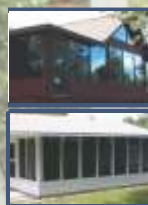
Question:

I have been reading about the new Florida gun law which prohibits local governments from enacting laws regulating firearms. This makes gun regulations equal throughout the state. My county prohibits the discharge of of any firearm except at a range. Does this new law mean that I can now do some target shooting on my own property so long as I shoot safely?

Answer:

Depends on county rules. In Marion County, you need a minimum of 10 acres and one really good backstop - then there are the distances to certain institutions like churches and schools, etc. The laws you are

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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



"You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.

You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.

You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.

You cannot lift the wage earner up by pulling the wage payer down.

You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.

You cannot build character and courage by taking away people's initiative and independence.

You cannot help people permanently by doing for them, what they could and should do for themselves."

~ Abraham Lincoln

"Any man who thinks he can be happy and prosperous by letting the government take care of him had better take a much closer look at the American Indian."

~ Henry Ford

SENIOR FISHING DERBY: It's that

time of year again. The Marion County/City of Ocala Recreation Department will host the Senior fishing derby on Monday, April 30th from 9am – 12pm. There will be door prizes, fishing and lots of good food. Every year the Seniors catch and release hundreds of Catfish, a few Brim, a few Bass. The big fish gets a trophy and the oldest fisher person gets a trophy. Let's hope April 30 brings us good weather. I'll be there taking pictures. They do usually need a few volunteers and they could use some door prizes. Clay Electric will be cooking for those who are registered to fish. There will be visitors from many of the senior retirement homes in Marion County and many visitors that frequent the Senior Center.

In this paper I had a lot to say about school safety, bullying in any school and how a child can snap if they are an introvert or have certain problems dealing with things. Being belittled by a bully in front of their peers is very embarrassing and causes them to want to retaliate. The school systems are not trained to handle bullies and

if the teacher does handle them, someone wants to sue them. The teacher is caught in the middle. Go back and read the story on page one.

I saw our State Senator Dennis Baxley on Fox one night late. He did not agree with some of the remedies that were being suggested early in the discussion. I am anxious to see what he has to say in the near future. He has a good head on his shoulders

and will approach it with a common sense side of things.

Trump is being Trump! He is a master at pulling peoples' chain and setting things up prior to negotiating a deal. He is about ten steps ahead of most and appears to be unpredictable but is very predictable. When he does something, he is preparing for a deal for next month. That is the sign of a great business negotiator (strategist).



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High-Profile Credit Breaches

(NAPSI)—Last year saw a number of high-profile data breaches that caused major headaches for consumers, and that's not likely to change. The Equifax data breach, for example, compromised the personal information of approximately 147.9 million Americans (basically all U.S. adults with credit reports), impacting credit scores and peace of mind. Uber's data breach exposed the information of as many as 57 million Uber users, and the breach involving Alteryx and Experian affected more than 120 million American households, just to name a few.

Following these breaches, there's been no shortage of advice on how consumers can safeguard their personal data, and rightfully so. Put simply, if you're an adult with a credit report, you should be looking at ways to protect yourself. Recent breaches have exposed a host of information, including names, addresses, Social Security numbers, birth dates, driver's license numbers and credit card numbers—all of which can be used to steal your identity and open lines of credit in your name.

Social Security numbers and credit reports are the gold standard on which financial institutions, organizations and lenders base decisions. Keeping this in mind, it's especially important to take steps to protect yourself following large data breaches. That way, if something unexpected shows up while you're applying for a mortgage or getting a background check for a new job, your credit report can be corrected.

If you're concerned about identity theft following a data breach, placing a credit freeze on your report is an ideal option for protecting your information.

What is a credit freeze?

Backed by federal law (and many state laws as well), a credit freeze is the most effective solution to help combat identity theft following a security breach. A credit freeze lets you restrict access to your credit report. This makes it more difficult for thieves to open new accounts in your name.

How does it work?

To place a freeze on your credit report, you need to call each of the three credit bureaus—Equifax, Experian and TransUnion—to make the request. You'll then get a letter from each bureau confirming the freeze and providing a personal identification number (PIN) or password. Keep these in a safe place, as you will need them to lift the freeze.

Once you freeze your credit report, no new creditors can view it unless you provide your unique PIN number. That means everyone from your landlord or employer to your new loan provider is restricted from accessing your report. It costs only \$10 per credit bureau to freeze your credit report (in some states it costs even less). Perhaps best of all, you don't have to worry about restoring access to the accounts you already trust. Current credit accounts created before the credit freeze can continue to pull credit reports as needed.

In some states, credit freezes expire after seven years. However, in most states, a freeze remains in place until the consumer asks for it to be temporarily lifted or removed altogether. A credit reporting company must lift a freeze no later than three business days after getting your request. The cost to lift a freeze varies by state.

Credit and data breaches show no signs of slowing down, but by going through the simple process of freezing your credit, you can be confident your personal information is secure.

House-Training Your Dog

(NAPSI)—If you're a pet parent to any of the country's estimated 78 million dogs, here's how to make house-training easier for both you and your pet.

1. Take your dog to the “bathroom” every one to three hours, as well as after he first wakes up in the morning or after a nap, after each meal, after being left alone for a stretch of time, and before going to bed.

2. According to that schedule or when your dog's behavior indicates he has to relieve himself, ask him if he has to go with a simple phrase, such as “Go potty?” This phrase should be unique to house-training to avoid confusion.

3. Take him on a leash outside and down the same path to your designated potty spot.

4. When you arrive, repeat the designated phrase and stay in that specific area for at least 15 minutes.

5. Once your dog has finished, praise him or give him a treat right away. Giving your dog immediate positive reinforcement is most effective; waiting until you're back home can be confusing.



6. If your dog hasn't successfully done his business, bring him back to the house and keep an eye on him for 15 minutes. If he starts to go, you will be right there to get him outside quickly. Otherwise, bring him outside after those 15 minutes.

7. Keep your dog on a consistent feeding schedule to make his elimination schedule more predictable.

8. Supplement your training with dog pads. They are a great way to reinforce the specific areas that are designated for potty. Dog pads are also useful for those rainy days when your dog may not want to go outside.

Veterinarian's Advice

“Don't reprimand your dog when he has an accident,” advises Georgette Wilson, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. “This usually confuses him and slows the house-training process. Positive reinforcement is much more effective for successful housebreaking.”

“Until training is completed,” Dr. Wilson says, “dog pads are a good idea. They're also handy for dogs that have incontinence problems due to age or illness, for small dogs that can't go out due to predators, for dogs stuck inside during bad weather, and for use while traveling.”



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Cracker Days

Cracker Days is held every spring at Rainbow Springs State Park in Dunnellon. For a \$2/person admission fee, you can spend all day experiencing Florida's frontier, a step back in time. Watch the crack of a cattle whip, touch the mane of a unique Florida Cracker horse, enjoy fresh made food from that era, including kettle corn, marmalade, and other goodies. You can also have hands on experience at corn grinding, vintage children games, and much more. 1800's living history demonstrators will educate and entertain you with stories from the past. New this year was a flintknapper demonstrating how the Native Americans made arrow heads. There was lots of fun, food, music surrounded by the natural beauty of the state park.



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Marion County Master Gardener's Spring Festival



Thousands of people, hundreds of vendors attended. Nurseries, landscaping companies, lawn designers, gardeners, etc.

I went to get information about Camellias for my wife who could not attend. They had it and every other plant you could imagine. One vendor said "if it's not here that plant bloomed early. This show is about color." There was brilliant color!

The Festival is always held the 2nd weekend of March, so put it on your calendar for next year.

Not to forget the second reason I went to the Festival, there was a food truck rally! You will get some foods that are not usually available. I almost always find the one that is serving Italian Sausage Hoagies with onions & peppers, yum! See you at the next Festival.



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School Shootings

Continued from page 1

the Dean walks back in. You want to go home and never come back and some do just that. I witnessed several cases that the child left school and never went back! On weekends while at home you are thinking about the bully and what he is going to do to you the next day. You play your war games on your computer where you are shooting people and blowing them up. You take your frustration out on the game.

The next weekend your dad takes you to the Paintball court or a Paintball course in the woods where they play war games with the paintball equipment. The idea is to shoot the other person. Then they are out of the game. Your dad has more fun than you!

Monday morning, back to school to face the bully. That's all that is on your mind, you try to blend in, take routes to avoid the bully but sooner or later he is standing in front of

you. The kids around you know something is going down and they scatter, but if

three or four of them walked up and stood with you the bully would probably back off. Meanwhile the school had been totally ineffective and actually made it worse. Some of it is because they don't know how you feel. There are laws protecting children good and bad so what can you do? Some teachers just tell you grow up and be a Man or Woman, but that should not be their call. They are there to educate you and keep you safe, anything else is a distraction. The week goes slow because you are worried and won't let your guard down. The term Thank God It's Friday was invented by you the person that was being bullied.

A new weekend and some mental rest from worrying about the bully. Your Dad takes you on a father, son gun safety course

that tells you never ever point a gun at another person, even if it's a toy gun. You say "dad I'm confused" and your mind goes in circles. Last weekend it was OK to shoot at each other playing paintball but the Gun safety class says NO, NEVER!

Do you see what is happening in our society? Young people get confused sometimes because of the grown up leading them through life recklessly and sending mixed messages. Put that together with being bullied five days a week and that is where the snap comes in.

I got lucky early in my junior high school years. I complained to my dad about a bully, the guy who was much bigger and had the locker above mine. The bully would wait until I went into my locker and normally it was just before lunch to get my lunch and he would push me head first into the locker to show off in front of the other kids. The night before the incident, I told my dad I could not handle it any more. He said OK do what you

have to do. The next day when I went to my locker he was nowhere to be seen. I thought I was safe and then he appeared. He came up behind me and shoved my head into the locker with a thunk. It hurt and I heard the other kids laughing, I snapped. I actually had tunnel vision, I came out of the locker with my lunch in my hand, I swung and hit him hard with my handful of lunch, hitting him in the temple with a red delicious apple. He almost did a side flip. Back up and shook his head and said I'm going to get you. I screamed "let's do it now!" He walked away and never bothered me again.

I did not know it at the time, but my dad got to thinking about me getting in trouble for fighting and went to the school to talk to the principle. The principle said it was lunch time in 5 minutes. He suggested they go watch and see for themselves. They witness most of it through a classroom window close by. When the guy shoved my head into the locker my dad started to go outside and the principle said wait. My dad came back to the window in time to see what I did.

The next weekend my dad came out with some boxing gloves and started teaching me some self-defense fighting moves. He had been a boxing coach. Later I would find out in real life you are better off talking your way out of the fight. I also learned the first hard punch really gives you the advantage. SORRY! It does not sound right but it might save you from getting your butt kicked. Once you start, don't stop until the other person says enough or yields. Remember most of the hurt is in your mind before the fight. After the fight you think why did I wait this long? In some of the cases children quit school. I had friend some years back whose daughter came home one day and refused to go back to school. She said if you try to make me I'll run away. She was a "A" honor roll student and went from that to home school. It was never said why! The school system needs to get good answers why a child like this quits school and fix it. If the school won't fix it go to authorities. City first, Sheriffs office, State Juvenile Authority or the Attorney General's office. It sounds extreme but you have seen the end results!

If you say something and the authorities don't do something, complain about that to higher authorities. Don't be silenced!

My story was a true story about a bully and a skinny kid many years ago, but it's happening today in your child's school and maybe to your child. Pay attention!

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Florida State Senate

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The 2018 Legislative Session has come to an end! We have worked hard to secure good policy for our constituents and the people of

Florida. During our time in Tallahassee this year, some big issues were addressed: protecting our schools and seniors, more clarity on our freedom of speech, permanent increase for bright futures funding, and increased focus on mental health and the opioid crisis.

As a result of the terrible tragedy that occurred at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on February 14th, the legislature was forced to take a very serious look at how our schools and students are protected. After weeks of talking with those on the front lines in education, law enforcement, our court system, and mental health experts, the Florida Legislature passed and Governor Rick Scott signed into law the Marjory Stoneman Douglas School Safety Act, a comprehensive plan to

address mental health issues and implement safety measures to protect our students.

This bill, SB 726, creates the Office of School Safety within in the Department of Education, permits a sheriff to establish a Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program, and creates the mental health assistance allocation to assist school districts in establishing or expanding school-based mental health care, among several other provisions.

The Florida Senate continues to prioritize the needs of our seniors so they are able to spend their golden years living healthy, active, and independent lives. This year, we increased funding to nursing homes across the state that provide care to our most vulnerable seniors who can no longer live independently. By this summer, all nursing homes will be required to have back-up generators capable of cooling the facility in the event of a power outage. The budget also includes increased funding for respite care for caregiver relief by



\$800,000 to provide 66 additional slots for patients. Many Alzheimer's patients require care 24 hours a day and this additional funding will allow more caregivers of loved ones to receive respite relief while the patient continues to be cared for.

We worked hard on protecting Free Speech on our college and university campuses. Senate Bill 4 includes The "Campus Free Expression Act," will ensure that our taxpayer-funded college and university campuses remain open for the free, safe, and respectful expression of differing points of view. We need to teach our youth to have respectful civil discourse and be able to interact with those of varying beliefs. This provision will prohibit public institutions of higher education from designating any physical area of campus as a "free speech zone", and instead states that all outdoor areas shall be open for free speech.

In this year's budget, The Florida Legislature reinstated full funding of the Bright Futures Florida Academic Scholars award at 100 percent of tuition and fees for spring, summer and fall semesters, plus \$300 in fall and spring semesters to cover instructional materials and other

costs. We are also funding the Bright Futures Florida Medallion Scholars award at 75 percent of tuition and fees for spring, summer, and fall semesters, beginning in fall semester of the 2018-2019 academic year.

This year, we worked toward the goal of preventing people from becoming addicted to opioids, and helping provide relief to those individuals and families who are already dealing with addiction. The opioid epidemic is impacting families across the state, on average claiming 16 lives per day. By investing more than \$53 million for outpatient and residential treatment services, we will provide individuals and families the tools for recovery that they so desperately need.

We have worked hard this year for the people of Florida, to ensure our liberties and freedom remain protected. Our constituents are always our priority.

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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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