

Lady Lake Chamber Ambassadors



Lady Lake Chamber holds luncheon to introduce new Ambassadors

Lady Lake Chamber of Commerce held a

luncheon to introduce all our new ambassadors. They now have 10 ambassadors and had a planning session and

set into action their one year plan for the program. President Susan Soltysiak spoke about what it means to be an Ambassador

and Terri Friesner talked about why the chamber works for businesses.



Pictured are three of some 40 business people attending the Nothing But Networking luncheon. It is a program for Chamber members and guests to network

before, during and after lunch. The members get to know more about your business and how you can refer each other.

Florida Defense Alliance

Mayor Bob Buckhorn Discusses Local Impact of the Florida Defense Alliance

TAMPA, Fla.

Today, Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn spoke at the Military Roundtable hosted by Governor Rick Scott. Mayor Buckhorn discussed the critical impact that the Florida Defense Alliance has on MacDill Air Force Base.

Mayor Buckhorn said, “...This issue of the Defense Alliance, I’m going to take you back very briefly 1991, 1993 and 1995, I was the assistant to the Mayor. I was the city’s point person when MacDill was on the base closure list. Many of you that have been around for a while will remember that. We were dead. We were on that list and very few cities get off that list once you get there. The economic impact of MacDill Air Force Base

for the Tampa Bay area, it is our number one economic engine in the Tampa Bay area, followed only by Port Tampa Bay. If we were to lose that base and we almost lost that base partially because we didn’t have an organized strategy. We weren’t expecting BRAC [Base Realignment and Closure] to come around. We didn’t anticipate that we would be on the list. There was no Defense Alliance to present a statewide effort in opposition to this. Keeping that Defense Alliance and keeping an organized effort in Washington, D.C. to fight for our bases. And I’m going to be parochial here to fight for MacDill in particular is hugely important...

“...It is very very important to us and to the veterans that live in this area that we fight for the Defense Alliance and make sure that when MacDill is at risk, that we’re organized, that we’re funded and that we’re prepared to do battle...”

Tom’s Picks
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AS I SEE IT

Here's a few (mis)quotes on 'HYPOCRISY'

"There are three types of people who deserve no mercy, hypocrites, fraudsters, and tyrants.(Williams)

"A hypocrite is a politician who cuts down a tree, and then make a speech for conservation from the tree stump".(Lincoln)

"The only thing worse than a liar is a liar who's also a hypocrite!"

-Regardless of your politics, Democrat, Republican or 'other', when it comes to Health Care Insurance, our elected leaders and their minions, without exception, are 'all of the above' - Liars, fraudsters and hypocrites.

You don't have to be that smart to figure

out that, for insurance, 'more-is-better'.

For example, if ten of us chip in together, we could accumulate some cash in case one of us gets sick.

But, obviously it would be better if thousands or even millions of us participate.

Our elected leaders, Democrats and Republican alike, say that they know what's best for the American people. 'Obama Care' which would, in time, bankrupt the country, or 'Trump Care' which takes money from the sick and elderly, to pay for a trip to the planet Mars.

The concept of 'Conflict of Interest' is mentioned frequently regarding the businesses of our politicians. For example, we need to know. "Do you have a financial

stake in farming if you are voting on laws governing agriculture?", or pharmaceuticals or the auto industry.

"Do you have money in a 'foreign aid' country"?

But, for whatever reason, that same question is never asked of our politicians - local, county, state or federal on Health Care Insurance.

Unfortunately I do not have the knowledge or resources to research relevant 'facts' about anything, which is why this column is, and always has been an 'opinion'.

(I.E What I think, not what I know).

-Apparently, our elected officials and government employees at every level have their own Health Insurance Program.-Is it a fact that, we, the taxpayers pay 75% of their health insurance premiums?

Trump-Care -vs- Obama-Care?

It's 'No-Contest' - We have two losers!

Is there an easy and obvious answer? I think there is.

If every interested American would call their elected representative and the media and insist on answers to a few simple questions the problem would be resolved 'PDQ'.

1 - "Mayor, Commissioner, Governor, Representative, Senator, President - Please give us details of the Health Care Insurance you, your family and your colleagues are on".

2 - "Is it true that you get a 75% discount on your premiums, and send the bill to us, the tax-payers?"

3 - "We don't need a complicated, expensive new insurance program. We, the American people, want to join the program that you're on. "More-Is-Better"-Right?"

HYPOCRITE?- They don't believe in Tax-Payer Subsidized Health Care Insurance except for themselves!

'til next time...

All Three Counties Post Job Growth Over the Month and Year

OCALA, Fla. (March 24, 2017) - Consistent with employment trends going back at least five years, the February jobless rate dropped over the month in Citrus, Levy and Marion counties.

According to today's employment summary by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), the unemployment rate for the CareerSource CLM region was 5.9 percent, down 0.7 percentage point since January and the same rate as one year ago.

Out of an expanded labor force of 200,814, there were 11,802 unemployed residents in the region, a drop of 1,396 over the month. While that's 247 more than in February 2016, there were 189,012 people with jobs throughout the three counties, an increase of 2,676 since January and 6,045 more than a year ago.

Additionally, the DEO reports that the Ocala metropolitan statistical area (MSA) continued to hold the fastest annual job growth rate compared to all metros in Florida in professional and business services, at 11.1 percent. The Ocala MSA had the second fastest job growth rate in trade, transportation and utilities at 5.8 percent.

Rusty Skinner, CareerSource CLM's CEO said that the region hit the trifecta when it comes to economic indicators, posting an expanded labor force fueled by

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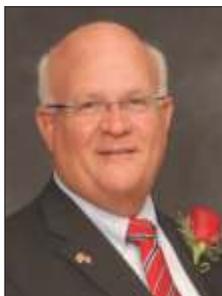
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Florida State Senate

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Florida's "stand your ground" law, could soon provide even more protection to people who invoke it. Senate Bill 128 protects the right of self-defense for all Floridians by

correcting a misinterpretation of the "Stand Your Ground" law in the 2015 Bretherick vs. State Florida Supreme Court decision.

Florida has been a leader in giving citizens immunity in cases of self-defense. While at least 22 states have similar laws that say, people can use force — even deadly force — to defend themselves from threats, Florida could soon be alone shifting the burden of proof to prosecutors.

This bill is not a novel concept. We have a tradition in our criminal justice system that the burden of proof is with the government from the beginning of the case to the end.

The Senate passed legislation to clarify this critical constitutional issue last year, and I am pleased to see Senator Bradley's bill advance again this year. If the State of Florida is going to accuse a citizen of committing a crime, the State of Florida should have the burden of proof at each and every part of the proceeding to prove guilt beyond the exclusion of every reasonable

doubt. This is a fundamental American right guaranteed by our Constitution. A defendant always has the presumption of innocence and the state always has a burden of proof. We have an obligation to zealously guard the protections granted us all in the Constitution.

Severe Obstructive Sleep Apnea Can Be Life Threatening



(NAPS)—Here's news many may find eye-opening: Untreated, severe obstructive sleep apnea more than doubles your risk of dying from heart disease, the National

Healthy Sleep Awareness Project warns.

To raise awareness of this and to urge individuals with symptoms of sleep apnea to talk to a doctor about their risk, the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Sleep Research Society (SRS) and other partners created the "Sleep Apnea Hurts Hearts" campaign.

"Obstructive sleep apnea is a dangerous disease that can severely damage your heart if left untreated," said Dr. Ronald Chervin, president of the AASM. "With millions of sufferers remaining undiagnosed, it is critical to raise nationwide awareness about obstructive sleep apnea so that it can be treated with CPAP therapy, which can reduce the risk of cardiovascular death."

Nearly 30 million American adults are kept from restful sleep by obstructive sleep apnea, a chronic disease that involves the repeated collapse of the upper airway during sleep. According to the National Healthy Sleep Awareness Project, there are five key warning signs and risk factors for sleep apnea: snoring, choking or gasping during sleep; fatigue or daytime sleepiness; obesity (BMI of 30 or higher) and high blood pressure.

Severe Damage

Millions of people with sleep apnea remain untreated, which can lead to dangerous health consequences—including life-threatening effects on heart health. The National Healthy Sleep Awareness Project warns that untreated, severe obstructive sleep apnea hurts HEARTS by increasing

the risk of:

- H—Heart failure
- E—Elevated blood pressure
- A—Atrial fibrillation
- R—Resistant hypertension
- T—Type 2 diabetes
- S—Stroke.

"It is clear that untreated, severe obstructive sleep apnea may have a devastating impact on heart health," said Janet B. Croft, Ph.D., senior chronic disease epidemiologist in CDC's Division of Population Health. "Those who have symptoms of sleep apnea such as loud snoring in addition to obesity and a heart problem or high blood pressure should discuss their risk for sleep apnea with their doctor."

The American Heart Association (AHA) recently released a scientific statement on sleep duration and quality, which stated that moderate and severe sleep apnea are associated with an elevated risk of cardiovascular disease. The authors of the AHA statement recommended that a public health campaign addressing sleep behavior should be launched to promote ideal cardiac health.

Damage Control

Fortunately, treatments for obstructive sleep apnea are available. Following diagnosis by a board-certified sleep medicine physician, the most commonly prescribed treatment for sleep apnea is continuous positive airway pressure therapy—or CPAP. This treatment uses mild

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

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



I have been saying for a very long time Washington has some corruption but never did I think that it was this bad.

The previous administration was totally out of control. The Democratic Party is burying itself. The

Republican Party is fractured into a number of power brokers, kind of like Humpty Dumpty. We are in the process right now trying to put the party back together again. People like Ron Paul are having fun making the party struggle to pass bills and move forward.

I keep hearing Trump said this and that. Everything I have heard from him has turned out to be true. Let's just look at a few things.

Trump did not say: You can't have an abortion. He said you will have to pay for it yourself.

Trump did not say: Refugees are bad. He said we need to first make sure that they are not coming here to harm us.

Trump did not say: Mexicans are not welcome. He said they can apply and come in the proper way.

Trump did not say: He was not taking away anyone's freedom but he is cutting the funding on things that never should have been funded in the first place.

When Trump said he was going to drain the swamp, no one realized how tainted the water was and how deep the mud was, or how many beautiful poisonous flower people would run into. In all this we have lost fact that all, yes all of the facts that were leaked about Hillary were true. When are we going to address that fact?

SPOOFING

I was a victim of Spoofing. When you see a caller ID number on a scam effort, did you ever stop to think how dumb that is to leave your phone number behind. They are leaving someone else's phone number behind. That is Spoofing. I started getting phone calls from California, Georgia people accusing me of trying to scam them. It turned out to be a credit card scam and they were leaving my caller ID number behind. I went to the Marion County Sheriff Office and of course asked for Billy Woods our new Sheriff. He was apparently busy so I talked to the officer on duty in the lobby. He said they had 65 sheets of numbers that were compromised. They are not able to catch the scammers or ID them.

I notified Dennis Baxley and Pam Bondi's office. They were aware of the problem but to date have not been able to catch or do anything about it. The distressing thing is there are people out there that think I was trying to scam them. Hopefully I put enough pressure on them that they got rid of my number.

I lost a friend. He had a bad heart and other

complications but when you lose someone close to you it leaves a hole in your heart and a hole in your life. Yes you go on but its always on your mind. This guy and I fished together for many years. He will be missed.

After my last contact with the Sabal Trail Gas Line people, they buried the pipe, made the land look nice, seeded the Gas Line right away, put my fence back like it was. I gave them an A+ that day.

Sleep Apnea

Continued from page 3

levels of air pressure, provided through a mask, to keep the throat open while you sleep. According to a recent meta-analysis of 27 studies involving more than 3 million participants, the risk of cardiovascular mortality was reduced to normal levels in people with sleep apnea who were treated with CPAP therapy.

The National Healthy Sleep Awareness Project recommends that people who have been prescribed CPAP therapy for sleep apnea should use the treatment nightly to reduce their risk of cardiovascular death. Individuals who prefer a treatment alternative can discuss their treatment options with a board-certified sleep medicine physician at a sleep disorders center that is accredited by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine.

Learn More

To find an accredited sleep center nearby or to learn how you can guard your heart from sleep apnea to avoid being #SnoredtoDeath,

visit www.projecthealthysleep.org.

Florida Businesses Created Nearly 54,000 Jobs in 2017

BRADENTON, Fla. — Today, Governor Rick Scott announced that Florida businesses created 53,800 private-sector jobs in the first two months of 2017, bringing the total number of new jobs added since December 2010 to 1,346,200. Governor Scott made the announcement at Bealls, Inc. in Bradenton. The retailer, which is headquartered in Florida, has created more than 300 jobs across the state over the past two years and employs more than 8,500 Floridians.

Governor Rick Scott said, "I am proud to announce that Florida's private-sector businesses have created nearly 54,000 new jobs in 2017. Over the past six years, we have been relentless in our efforts to make Florida the most business-friendly state in the nation because a job is the most important thing to a family. It is incredibly disheartening that politicians in the Florida House have voted to jeopardize programs that create opportunities for our families, visitors, military members and job creators. However, we will continue to fight for important economic development tools like Enterprise Florida and VISIT FLORIDA and the critical impact they have on supporting our growing economy."

For the 59th consecutive month, Florida's annual job growth rate of 3.3 percent is

Continued on page 7

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for May

Seniors Voice & Ocala Downtown

12am, April 19th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, April 26th

Lady Lake Magazine/Village Spectator

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When a consumer knows that you are a member of the chamber of commerce, they are more likely to patronize your business.

Lady Lake Police

CHIEF CHRIS MCKINSTRY

CRIMELINE



This month I would like to again discuss a very important community/law enforcement partnership, CRIMELINE. CRIMELINE is a non-profit organization led

by citizens against crime that offers cash rewards of up to \$1000 to persons providing anonymous information that leads to the felony arrest of criminals and fugitives. Anonymous CRIMELINE tips are received through a secure tips line or through a secure web connection manned by a professional

program coordinator. Each caller is assigned a code number for the purpose of ensuring anonymity. CRIMELINE is based on the principal that someone other than the criminal has information that can solve a crime and was created to combat the three major problems faced by law enforcement in generating that information:

- Fear of REPRISAL
- An attitude of APATHY
- Reluctance to get INVOLVED

CRIMELINE resolves these problems by:

- Offering ANONYMITY to people who provide information about crimes.
- Paying REWARDS when the information supplied leads to arrest.

CRIMELINE'S mission is to increase

the safety of the Central Florida community by assisting law enforcement agencies in removing undesirable individuals from the community.

CRIMELINE's objectives are:

- To FURNISH law enforcement agencies with information on crimes, criminals, and other criminal activity that they would otherwise be unable to obtain.
- To PROMOTE public cooperation and involvement with law enforcement and to reward such involvement.
- To IMPROVE police community relations through increased public awareness.
- To PREVENT crimes before they are committed.

If you have information about a felony crime, then you can call CRIMELINE at...

1-800-423-TIPS

If the information you provide leads to a Felony arrest or a Felony warrant being

issued, you will be given instructions on how you can pick up your cash reward. The prearranged place to pick up your reward will be known only to you and CRIMELINE.

CRIMELINE's purpose is to motivate citizens to provide information on felony crimes by offering financial rewards and guaranteeing anonymity.

CRIMELINE's pledge to you is if information leads to a felony arrest, you may be eligible for a reward of up to \$1000. You don't have to give your name, and your identity will be protected. You may report information through the CRIMELINE website www.crimeline.org or by calling 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The Lady Lake Police Department receives tips from CRIMELINE on a regular basis that help us solve crimes. Just remember, we want to know what you know, not who you are.

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Assess Your Environmental Impact



(NAPS)—Whether it's Earth Day or any other day, it can be a good time to ask just how "earth minded" your household is. Many of our daily activities such as driving a car, using electricity, or disposing of waste can cause greenhouse gas emissions, which in turn create a carbon footprint. The question is, what does that footprint look like for you?

By taking the new Think Earth online Environmental Survey, families can assess their environmental habits and get practical tips on how to conserve energy, save water, and reduce waste and pollution.

The free survey can be taken in just a few minutes on a computer, smartphone or tablet. Once it's completed, respondents receive personalized recommendations specifically targeted to their survey answers. These recommendations can help families reduce their environmental footprint and, in some cases, even save money. Home and school versions of the survey can be found at www.thinkearth.org/surveys.

The Environmental Surveys were created by the Think Earth Environmental Education Foundation. Founded in 1988, the nonprofit organization developed comprehensive lesson plans to teach environmental awareness to elementary and middle-school students. Educators can download these free lesson plans at www.thinkearth.org.

Recycling is one good way to reduce your family's carbon footprint.

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ONE PERSON'S OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Illegal aliens committed a crime entering my country. If you think that was the only crime they committed, think again. I am not speaking about street crime. I am talking about document fraud, fiscal fraud, voter fraud. The things about which I am aware turn my stomach. Things I have witnessed. You cannot believe the things that kind of mind can imagine. They generally include a hand in American pockets {illegally}. These people are not the cream of the crop, pouring in by the millions.

This is why they appeal to progressives. They are fodder, easy to groom {brain wash, and propagandize} as progressive voters, and demanders of progressive hand out programs {fraudulently}.

Do you have free health care? Do you have free college tuition? Do you have free

food and cell phones? Do you have a new car, home, clothes? Do you deserve to live comfortably? Aristotle thought comfort and happiness were the things humans sought and cherished. If someone is crowding you out of your arena to achieve comfort and happiness, do you have a right to say NO?

If you have been living committing crime after crime, how do you justify any claim to rights? You could have come in legally. You chose illegal. You got away with it, but that is no justification for any right.

Six generations ago my ancestors came to America LEGALLY, we have worked like dogs without government handouts. Survived poverty and hunger through the depression {sans food stamps, rental subsidies cell phones, health care a car clothes.} We subsisted, and were tremendously grateful to be in America, and

lived through hell and high water [literally], had to evacuate through a street floor window into a canoe.

How can you dare try to equate these two paths to citizenship, valid?? Citizens are upstanding individuals, not criminals. Australia tried it once. No more, they now expect us to take the criminals waiting on an island off their coast. Some people learn Australia did, Progressives didn't.

Americans have needs, jobs, housing, cars, education, health care etc. You help your own, not criminals. Progressives want brain washed, propagandized voters.

D.I.L.

Dear Editor:

This story should warm the cockles of staunch progressive hearts. Mailman Yvenel Clotaire {fantastically patriotic American sounding individual} stole the identities of 60 people on his mail route. He and his buds used the info to file fake state

unemployment claims. Yvenel is awaiting sentencing after being tried and convicted. After a few years in prison, what can we expect when he is released? A choir boy?

Where can we find a few thousand more just like him? America needs sterling individuals like this. What a way to build a society, a country, to Hades with honesty and morals. What could morals and honesty possibly bring to a great society? Three cheers for Yvenel, and progressive ideals and standards. All that is needed is a progressive vote from Yvenel and his cronies. Crime is not a consideration for progressives. The VOTE is primo!

Can we put the shoe on the other foot? Let us make it personal. How would you feel if you were one of Yvenel's victims?

Why did we live honest lives? Are we just fools????? Is Yvenel the hero??

Story courtesy: Associated Press

Comment by: D.I.L.



Nearly 54,000 Jobs in 2017

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exceeding the nation's rate of 1.8 percent. In the last year, 239,800 new jobs were created by businesses across the state. Florida's unemployment rate remained low at 5 percent in February, while the labor force participation rate climbed to 59.8 percent. Florida's labor force is growing at a rate of 3.1 percent over the year while the U.S. labor force is growing at a rate of 0.7 percent over the year.

Cissy Proctor, Executive Director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, said, "Florida's labor force is climbing more than four times faster than the nation's and our labor force participation rate has risen over-the-year for eight consecutive months. This proves that Floridians are confident in their ability to land a good job here in Florida."

Other positive economic indicators include:

- Private-sector industries gaining the most jobs over-the-year in February were:
 - Professional and business services with 43,300 new jobs;
 - Trade, transportation and utilities with 42,000 new jobs;
 - Education and health services with 40,500 new jobs;
 - Leisure and hospitality with 40,300 new jobs; and
 - Construction with 34,700 new jobs.
- Florida job postings showed 235,950 openings in February 2017.
- In February, Florida's 24 regional workforce boards reported 29,574 Floridians, including 1,413 veterans, were placed in jobs.

Running Short?



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Easy Maintenance Projects

by Scott McGillivray

(NAPS)—Tackling a few do-it-yourself projects now can help you keep your home in tip-top shape all year long.

Top up your attic insulation. Many older homes have inadequate levels of insulation in the attic that wouldn't meet today's building code. Topping it up will help to save on energy consumption and keep your house cooler in the summer months. A great product for this task is Roxul Comfortbatt insulation. It's easy to install, cuts simply with a serrated blade or bread knife, and protects against fire,

moisture and mold. Aim for a depth of 16 inches (41 cm) or an R-value of 50. Insulating properly could also provide added benefits such as improving the longevity of your air conditioner by reducing stress on the unit as temperatures rise.

Inspect your roof and make minor repairs. Winter can be especially hard on a roof. Look for ice, hail or water damage. Replace any cracked or missing shingles and clear any debris.

Clean your gutters. It's not glamorous work, but your home's gutters play an essential role in moving water away from your home and preventing damage. Consider installing gutter guards to ensure your gutters remain functional and free from debris.

Inspect windows and doors and

recaulk where necessary. Because a proper seal is essential in both heating and cooling seasons, this job should be performed twice a year to protect against drafts and moisture, and to keep insects out. Worn weather stripping should also be replaced.

Other simple jobs include fixing leaky faucets, repairing and resealing decks, inspecting the foundation, and scheduling a checkup for your HVAC system. The key is

being honest about what you can handle and, when in doubt, calling in the pros.

For more information, visit www.roxul.com.

Scott McGillivray is the award-winning TV host of the hit series "Income Property" on HGTV Canada, a full-time real estate investor, contractor, author and educator. Follow him on Twitter @smcgillivray.

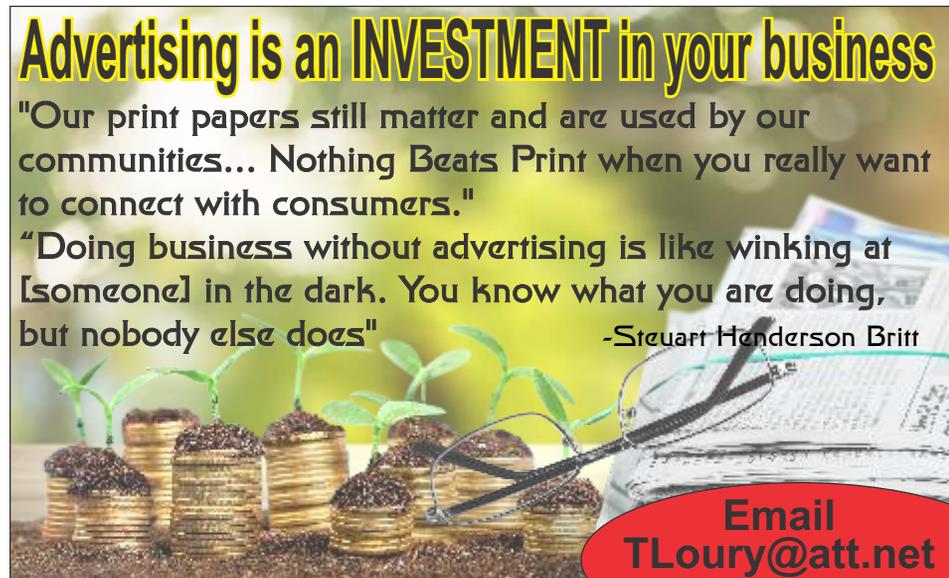
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"Doing business without advertising is like winking at [someone] in the dark. You know what you are doing, but nobody else does"

-Stewart Henderson Britt

Email TLoury@att.net



Cracker Days is an event held every year by Rainbow Springs State Park because the park and this area are rich with history. During the event pioneers are cracking the whip, making soap, making cheese, playing music, showing animal hides, snake skins and showing tools used in the old days. Don't miss next year.

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Three County Job Growth

Continued from page 2

strong job gains and an across-the-board drop in the number of unemployed.

Levy County continued to post the lowest jobless rate in the region, at 5.0 percent, which down 0.7 percent; followed by Marion County at 5.7 percent, down from 6.4 percent; and Citrus County at 6.7 percent, down from 7.6 percent. Florida's not seasonally adjusted rate was 4.7 percent, down over the month from 5.2 percent; and the nation's rate was 4.9 percent, down from 5.1 percent.

Skinner said the February report is a good gauge of whether the optimism of job

seekers resulted in their absorption into the ranks of the employed. "That more than appears to be the case," Skinner said, adding that in addition to job-seeker confidence, the previous month's increase in unemployment was likely also fueled by post-holiday season staff adjustments. "The true test as to whether the economy is improving is whether those who have entered the labor force looking for work have been able to find it." Skinner noted that since at least 2012, February unemployment rates have dropped in all three counties.

The following is a breakdown of preliminary employment numbers for each county:

- Citrus County's labor force increased by 692 to 48,101, the number of employed rose by 1,017

to 44,874, and the number of those without jobs fell by 387 to 3,227 month. The number of unemployed was virtually unchanged from February 2016 when the rate was 7.2 percent, while the number of employed increased over the year by 367.

- Levy County's labor force expanded by 87 to 16,890, the number of employed increased by 208 to 16,048 and the number of unemployed dropped by 121 to 842. That's 325 more employed and only 8 more unemployed compared to a year ago when the jobless rate was 5.1 percent.
- Marion County's labor force grew by 501 to 135,823, the number of employed increased by 1,389 to 128,090 and the number of jobless decreased by 888 to 7,733. While that is 245 more unemployed since February 2016 when the jobless rate was 5.8 percent, the number of those with jobs has increase by 5,353 over the year.

Among the counties, Citrus County continued to hold the third highest rate behind Sumter County at 7.0 percent and Hendry County at 7.2 percent; Marion County remained at 10th highest; and Levy County dropped two spots to 28th.

The Villages MSA continued to post the highest rate among the states metros, Homosassa Springs (Citrus County) was second and Ocala fell from third to fourth.

Much of the region's strong job gains were fueled by the Ocala metro area which posted 103,100 nonfarm jobs in February, adding 4,000 new jobs over the year for a

job growth rate of 4.0 percent. That outpaced the statewide growth rate of 2.9 percent and was the fifth fastest job growth rate among all of the state's metro areas.

In all, seven nonfarm industry sectors rate in the Ocala metro added jobs over the year, and five those grew at a faster rate than statewide. For the second consecutive month, no industries lost jobs over the year.

Industries gaining jobs over the year were trade, transportation and utilities (+1,300 jobs); professional and business services (+1,000); education and health services (+700); mining, logging and construction (+600); manufacturing (+200); leisure and hospitality (+100); and other services (+100).

Professional and business services (+11.1 percent); mining, logging and construction (+9.0 percent); trade, transportation and utilities (+65.8 percent); and education and health services (+3.9 percent) grew faster in the metro area than statewide over the year.

Information, financial activities, and government industries were unchanged. The Homosassa Springs MSA had 33,400 nonfarm jobs, adding 100 new jobs over the year for a 0.3 percent job growth rate, the lowest among Florida's metro areas.

The March employment report will be released on Friday, April 21.



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WOCA

TUNE-IN

For A Lovelier Laundry Room

(NAPS)—While most people think of the laundry room as pretty utilitarian, an increasing number of savvy homeowners have found a way to make it pretty attractive.

Here are six tips and tricks that can help:

1. Let the sun shine in: Increasingly, builders and homeowners are moving laundry areas from the basement to higher-traffic areas such as the master suite, kitchen or mudroom. This allows for more natural light, which is always

welcome in any workroom.

2. Save space: Laundry rooms are still pretty small, so maximizing space is key. With that, compact appliances and accessories are very popular, as are bold and bright colors.

3. Old is new: In addition to efficient modern dryers, many laundry rooms today feature good, old-fashioned drying racks for the things that shouldn't go into the machine.

4. Enjoy yourself: For those who do have the space, the laundry room can be a place to relax with a TV and a wine rack.

5. Be "counter-productive": If your washer and dryer are front loading, top them with a counter for folding and

storage space.

6. Give the laundry room everything including the kitchen sink: A beautiful and durable laundry sink can add functionality in a small space while elegantly complementing a finished laundry environment.

What To Look For In A Laundry Room Sink

Durable materials. For example, BLANCO laundry sinks are available in either sturdy stainless steel or SILGRANIT®, which is a granite composite material that uniquely resists stains, scratches and household acids.

A deep bowl design for soaking. Low maintenance.

Accessories made for the laundry space. BLANCO'S LIVEN™ sink comes with an integrated basket to hold cleaning tools or to dry small delicates. The basket cleverly fits inside the sink so it doesn't use valuable counter space.

Another good fit for small spaces is the BLANCO QUATRUS™ R15. Built for convenience, it has an extra-deep 12-inch bowl and generous corners to make cleaning up closer to carefree. It's built to fit within a variety of cabinet sizes and has a versatile dual-deck design, so it can be installed as a drop-in or undermount.

Drop-ins go over the counter and undermounts are under it. Undermounts tend to be more stylish and easier to wipe down from the counter—into the sink. Which one you need depends on which



countertop material you have. An undermount works well with stone, quartz or granite countertops. A drop-in is better with less expensive materials.

Learn More

For further facts and to see a wide variety of available sinks, go to www.blancoamerica.com.

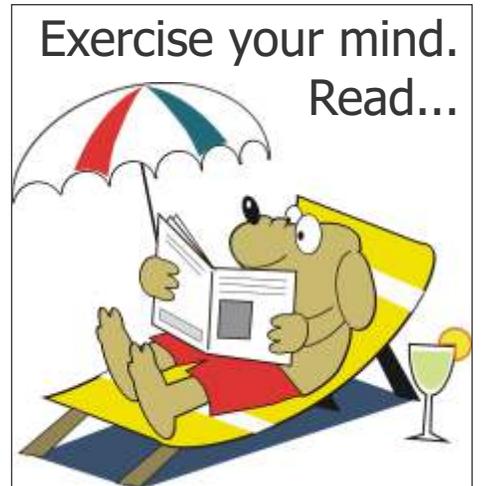


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Increase The Value Of Your Home Quickly And Affordably

Continued from page 4

Be sure to wipe up any spills on hardwood promptly.

- Pets with long nails can cause dents and scratches on hardwood floors that are not covered by your warranty. Be sure to regularly trim your pet's claws to avoid damage.

Carpet Care

- You may not realize it, but carpet is the largest filter in a home. It filters soils, gases, allergens, spills and other pollutants. With this in mind, vacuum it regularly.

- To avoid running into warranty issues with your carpet (and many other types of flooring), make sure you use cleaning products recommended by the floor's manufacturer.

Be Smart About Ceramics, Stone and Vinyl

- Try to clean up spills as quickly as possible on ceramic floors so the grout or tile doesn't become stained. Don't use bleach or ammonia-based cleaners, as these can discolor your grout. Don't clean glazed tile with oil-based cleaners. While ceramic tile is considered very durable, it's not indestructible and may crack or chip under extreme force.
- With ceramic floors, after the installation process is complete and the grout has had ample time to cure, sealing the entire floor can provide protection from dirt and spills by slowing down the staining

- process.
- With vinyl floors, avoid using rubber-backed mats or rugs as they can damage and potentially discolor your floor. Instead, use mats or rugs made especially for vinyl floors.
- With stone floors, always blot spills immediately. A neutral-pH detergent or pure soap, such as Liquid Ivory and warm water, can be used for spills or periodic cleaning. Never use lemon juice, vinegar, ammonia or other acids—or products that contain these fluids—on marble, limestone or travertine. Also avoid using scouring cleaning products or cleaners that contain abrasives on any stone as they will dull its luster.

Limit Sun Exposure

- Protect the finish of your laminate, hardwood, carpet and resilient floor from

the harmful rays of direct sunlight by using window shades and closing drapes. It's also a good idea to periodically rotate rugs and furniture exposed to direct sunlight so your floors don't develop unwanted "tan lines" and discoloration.

When It's Time for New Flooring

Even the best care can't keep your floors at their best forever. If you're thinking of getting new flooring but are concerned about the possible cost, consider these two ideas:

1. You don't have to redo all your floors at once. Research shows that the first two areas of a home potential buyers look at are the kitchen and the bathroom. New floors there can make a powerful first impression.

2. It's a common myth that flooring needs to be expensive to add value. The truth is that kitchens can be patterned with inexpensive floor tiles for a customized effect. Similarly, adding accent tiles in a bathroom can make it appear more finely detailed and attractive. If you do decide upgraded floors are in order, it's very likely your kitchen and bathrooms do not take up a lot of square footage, which means relatively small investments in actual flooring product. That translates into big impact for very little cost.

Expert Advice

"Money invested to upgrade replacement floor covering, particularly in kitchens and baths, prior to reselling a house can be expected to return substantially more than 100 percent of the cost of renovation," said Scott Humphrey, Chief Executive Officer, WFCFA. "For example, if homeowners invest \$5,000 to replace worn-out floor coverings and then list their home on the market, they should factor in an extra \$10,000 to \$15,000 on the selling price. We've seen this time and time again for homes of all values in markets across the country."

What's more, for every \$1,000 spent on upgraded flooring and financed into the mortgage, the buyer's payment typically increases by less than \$10 a month. The new floors can usually be written off during the first few years of the mortgage.

Learn More

For further facts and tips on caring for all types of fine flooring, go to www.WFCFA.org. There, you'll find an overview of each flooring category including the pros and cons, a product catalog, varieties and styles available, cleaning tips, things to consider before purchase and how to prepare for installation. There's also a searchable database of reputable WFCFA retail members across the country.



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Bill and Noele Vander Brink, pictured on the left, hosted the 2017 Horse & Pet Expo. There were a lot of events for the whole family. They had animals, demonstrations, vendors, food. The children enjoyed miniature horses, dogs and the shows. The Royal Horses put on a show and educated the onlookers why the horses were trained to do certain

maneuvers for Ancient war times. The expo was enjoyed by a large number of people and Bill says they will start getting ready for next year.

Equestrian Magazine has a large circulation which reaches far beyond Florida. They follow the horse circuit when possible.

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