



Stacy Cruz of Magnolia Family Urgent Care displays tools of the trade. Stacy Cruz, ARNP was one of the speakers at the OBL breakfast. They did a drill called, "What is this instrument used for?" It was very interesting.



Cracker Days On the Rainbow



Cracker Days is an event held every year by Rainbow Springs State Park because the park and this area is rich with history. During the event pioneers are cracking the whip, making soap, making cheese, playing music, showing animal hides, snake skins and just showing tools used in the old days. Don't miss next year. See more on page 6.



The first Ocala Business Leaders Charity Drive for **Feed the Need Donations!** Some 8 to 10 Ocala Business Leaders place boxes in their place of business to raise funds for the needy. Some businesses contributed cash. Thanks OBL for your fund raising.

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Kevin Sheilley OCALA/MARION COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



Last month, I outlined the successes of the CEP's inaugural five-year plan, Moving Forward. In fact, this plan was reached a full year early. This month's column will be focused on outlining

the recently adopted Moving Forward-Phase II plan which seeks to continue to grow and diversify the local economy. Moving Forward-Phase II

Just like its predecessor, this plan did not just happen. It is the result of months of discussion and research by the CEP staff and Board of Directors. Once again, the Board asked economist Dr. Sharon Younger to assist them in the creation of this plan. She provided an incredible layer of analysis and detail to assist the Board including a significant amount of data on how the Ocala MSA and the CEP compare to our ten benchmark communities.

First, it is important to note what this plan does not change. The CEP's mission has not changed. The organization continues to exist to be the catalyst for a more prosperous community by serving as the voice of the business community and working to create and retain jobs and provide a positive return on investment for our partners. Additionally, the approach remains the same. The CEP will continue to focus on Business Advocacy, Business Attraction, Business

Creation, Business Retention, and Business Services.

The Moving Forward-Phase II plans call for the CEP to do more in each area. The following is a highlight of some of the new initiatives or efforts planned to begin implementing over the next five years. In Business Advocacy, the plan calls for the CEP to add an additional team member to grow the opportunities to partner with local and state governments. The plan for Business Creation includes adding a business incubator location in addition to the main Power Plant Business Incubator campus and to create a major business plan competition. This competition would attract would-be entrepreneur from throughout the nation to compete for a significant cash prize (\$25,000 is the goal) and residency in the Power Plant. Business Services would see a continued increase in education and networking opportunities through the addition of at least two satellite locations allowing the CEP to better serve all of our community. Business Attraction would be impacted by the addition of a second project manager which would allow our equine engagement director to focus exclusively on how vibrant horse community.

However, Business Retention would see the growth of the most significant new emphasis. More than a third of the new plan is dedicated to implementing a plan for increasing Skills Development and Talent Attraction. Marion County Schools have taken a significant step forward with the re-alignment of skills-based training and the

announced creation of the two new Career Choice Academies with the promise of additional academies in the future. Skills Development would work to build connections between the schools and business community and work with all of our education partners on the creation of seamless career ladders. Talent Attraction will work much like Business Attraction but instead of focusing on attracting businesses it will focus on attracting skilled and talented people.

Just as the original Moving Forward plan resulted in the meeting and exceeding of

three big goals, the Phase II plan is an effort to meet three even larger goals. By the end of 2021, the CEP will 1) impact the announced creation of 4,500 new jobs. These jobs will 2) pay on average 15% above the current County average wage. These projects will result in 3) a direct capital investment of \$400 million. This plan and the meeting of these will continue to diversify and expand our local economy for the benefit of our residents, our businesses and our governments. However, it will only be accomplished if we all partner to keep Ocala and Marion County Moving Forward.



Gateway Bank of Ocala Florida hosted an after hours for Ocala Business Leaders members, introducing April Savarese the new Bank manager. It was a catered

event. The food was very tasty and the people were friendly. Go by and see April, she is good people.

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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.

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Genealogical Society Meeting

The Marion County Genealogical Society will meet Thursday April 20, 2017 at 2 PM at the Marion County Public Library located at 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd. in Ocala. A brief business meeting will be followed by the April program, "Establishing Genealogical Relationships Prior to the 1880 Census" by Clyde and Kathy Stickney.

For further information, contact Joel Swanson at (352)897-0840 or president@mcgsocala.org.

School Resource Officer Battered Post Job Growth Over the Month and Year

Marion County, Florida (March 24, 2017) – On Thursday, March 23, 2017, a Marion County Sheriff's Office School Resource Deputy at Forest High School was made aware of several individuals that had entered the campus without signing in. Kasey Kohlmaier (DOB: 06/17/1997), Thomas Arthur Smith (DOB: 01/7/1998) and a 14-year old juvenile are not students at Forest High School and they were confronted by school administrators when they were seen in the school courtyard. The three subjects then fled to their car that was parked in the student parking lot. School Resource Deputy James Long pulled his agency assigned vehicle in front of the suspects' vehicle to prevent them from leaving the campus. Kohlmaier, a passenger of the vehicle, then fled on foot but was quickly apprehended by Deputy Long and two school administrators. During the apprehension, Kohlmaier punched Deputy Long in the face, causing his nose to bleed. Deputy Long eventually was able to secure Kohlmaier in handcuffs and detain him for responding deputies who were enroute to assist. Kohlmaier and Smith are on felony probation for six counts of burglary and are not supposed to have contact with one another as a condition of their probation. The juvenile was arrested on two misdemeanor counts.

The Marion County School Board and Marion County Sheriff's Office would like to remind our citizens that it is not only Marion County School District Policy, but it is state law that you must sign in with school administrators before you enter a school

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 strong job gains and an across-the-board drop in the

Continued on page 4

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Real Estate..... 2.5%	Visited Last 30 Days..... 38%
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* Survey Conducted June 30, 2013

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-Stewart Henderson Britt



Email
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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.

Three Counties Post Job Growth

Continued from page 3

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.

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for May

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

12am, April 19th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, April 26th

Seniors Voice of Ocala/Ocala Downtown Products of TomL Publishing, LLC

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SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

BOOMERS & BEYOND | APRIL

Unless otherwise noted, these events are all COMPLIMENTARY!

MEDICINAL PLANT HIKE WITH SUSAN MARYNOWSKI

Fort King National Historic Landmark | 3925 E. Fort King St. Saturday | April 1 | 10:30 a.m. Join us for a fascinating hike with renowned herbalist Susan Marynowski. Learn what medicine grows wild in the back yard and names and types of plants. Discuss the art of traditional medicine that would have been used in early Florida. Wear hiking attire.

DINE AND CRUISE | AGES 50+

Thursday | April 20 Charter bus departs the Eighth Avenue Adult Activity Center

at 8:30 a.m. and returns from Daytona Beach at 6 p.m. Dine on a delicious dinner of your choosing while enjoying a two-hour cruise on the beautiful intracoastal waterway. Leave your cares behind as you relax and enjoy the warm breezes and breath-taking scenery on the Daytona River Cruise with dolphins playing and swimming around the incredibly beautiful Halifax Harbor Marina. Dress comfortably. \$49/person (subject to change), includes transportation and dinner. Pre-register by calling 352-629-8357 or 352-629-8545.

LUNCH N' LEARN SERIES

Eighth Avenue Adult Activity Center
Thursdays | 11 a.m.-noon April 20 |
Veterans' Benefits May 25 | 5 Wishes,
Advanced Care Planning Join

professionals for informational discussions on topics that may affect the lives of our adult community. Complimentary lunch! To pre-register, call 352-401-3916.

EARTH FEST AT ARBOR DAY IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Tusawilla Park | 500 NE Sanchez Ave. Saturday | April 22 | 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Come join in exciting outdoor adventures courtesy of Mother Earth. Tree rappelling for kids, plus a kid's zone, live entertainment, food, crafts, environmental vendors and a tree give-away.

SPRING SENIOR FISHING DERBY

Tusawilla Park | 500 NE Sanchez Ave. Monday | April 24 | 9 a.m.-noon Fishing FUN for senior citizens ages 50 and up. Hook up with us for a few hours of fishing at Lake Tusawilla.

AARPTAXAIDE

Eighth Avenue Adult Activity Center | 830 NE Eighth Ave. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays | Now through April 17 | 9 a.m.-1 p.m. This program has nearly 32,000 volunteers staffing 8,500 sites across the United States. These IRS certified volunteers provide tax counseling and preparation service to low and middle income taxpayers with special attention to those 60 years of age and older.

MISSION AEROSPACE | ALL AGES

Discovery Center | 701 NE Sanchez Ave. Tuesdays through Saturdays | Now through May 4 | 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Get lost in our maze as you explore the history flight and NASA'S vision for the future. Put your knowledge into action with paper airplane and rocket launch pads. Fee is \$3/child and \$5/adult plus tax. Call the Discovery Center at 352-401-3900 for details.

OCALA DOWNTOWN MARKET

Corner of SE Third St. and SE Third Ave. Wednesdays | 3-7 p.m. Saturdays | 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Come to the market at its new location. It's convenient and all under one roof! Reap locally grown farm fresh seasonal produce, homemade jellies and jams, delicious kettle corn, boiled peanuts, homemade crafts and plants. Bring the kids so they can play at the new Market Playground!

ADULT GOLF OUTINGS AND LESSONS

Ocala Golf Club | 3130 E. Silver Springs Blvd. | 352-401-6917

Pine Oaks of Ocala | 2201 NW 21st St. | 352-401-6940 Interested in joining a league or playing a round of golf? Need some

Continued on page 10



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High Cholesterol?

The creator of Gatorade can help.

Gainesville, FL - If you are one of the millions of Americans that have been diagnosed with high Cholesterol, "Natural" help is now available from the creator of Gatorade! The highly regarded later Dr. Robert J. Cade while at the University of Florida did extensive clinical trials utilizing a special formula he developed containing soluble fiber (Acacia Gum). This formula "CholesterAde" proved to lower cholesterol in the human blood by over 17% during an 8 week period. CholesterAde lowered cholesterol naturally, reduced weight and improved bowel functions, which can help reduce many forms of cancer. Dr. Richard Goldfarb, M.D., FACS the medical director for Go Epic Health Inc. states "CholesterAde is a natural alternative to statins and other drugs that can create many types of health problems." Dr. Cade's original delicious tasting formula CholesterAde is now available at these select retailers or call 727-581-1500

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Cracker Days at Rainbow Springs State Park

Thousands of people attended Cracker Days where you can see free demonstrations, including soap being made, as well as cheese, from milking the goat to turning the milk, tanning animal skins and more. You'll see string bands playing, cowboy cracking a whip, cooking outdoors and making candles. A free shuttle takes you to the old time camp. All you had to do was pay the park's entrance fee of \$2 and have a day of fun. So don't miss next year, I will let you know in this paper one month in advance.



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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.

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 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

Continued on page 10

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Parade of Senior Services

2017 Parade of Senior Services was held at the College of Central Florida in the Ewers Century Center. Over 50 agencies came together to provide literature, answer questions and offer services to senior citizens of Marion County. The event was hosted by Ocala/Marion County Parks and Recreation, sponsored by Central Florida Eye, Strive Physical Therapy Centers, Audibel Hearing, Clay Electric, TomL Publishing/Seniors Voice, Compass Research, Pacifica Senior Living and more! Hundreds attended. Don't miss next year event.



CEP Ocala / Marion County Chamber & Economic Partnership

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"

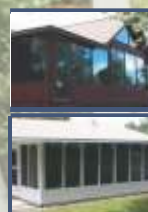
This 60-minute overview is a casual format for you to learn more about the CEP and how partnership in this progressive organization will provide you with additional resources, connections, and advocacy to help in YOUR business development and growth initiatives.

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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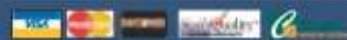
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Seniors Schedule of Events

Continued from page 5

exercise? Why not think outside the green? Play our challenging fairways and bunkers. Call the city golf courses and get ready to **TEE IT UP!** Pine Oaks of Ocala offers half price cart fees for golfers who are ages 80+ and there are no charges for golf carts for golfers who are 85+.

TENNIS ANYONE?

Fort King Tennis Center | 3301 SE Fort King St. | 352-629-8453 **This center is open to the public and offers all types of lessons from certified tennis professionals. If you just want to play some tennis, give them a call at 352-629-8453 to make reservations**

LET'S ALL GO TO THE MOVIES!

Reservations must be made at the hosting center. Seating is limited to eight persons/movie.



"THE WHOLE TRUTH"

Starring: Keanu Reeves and Renee Zellweger Eighth Avenue Adult Activity Center | 830 NE Eighth Ave. | 352-629-8545 **Tuesday and Wednesday | April 7 and 8 | 1:30 p.m.** Barbara Gaskin Washington Adult Activity Center | 210 NW 12th Ave. | 352-629-8357 **Wednesday and Thursday | April 8 and 9 | 1:30 p.m.** Defense attorney Richard Ramsay takes on a personal case when he swears to his widowed friend, Loretta Lassiter that he will

keep her son Mike out of prison. Charged with murdering his father, Mike initially confesses to the crime. But as the trial proceeds, chilling evidence about the kind of man that Boone Lassiter really was comes to light. While Ramsay uses the evidence to get his client acquitted, his new colleague, Janelle, tries to dig deeper and begins to realize that the whole truth is something she alone can uncover. Rated R

"PETE'S DRAGON"

Starring: Bryce Dallas Howard, Robert Redford, Oakes Fegley, Oona Laurence and Wes Bentley Eighth Avenue Adult Activity Center | 830 NE Eighth Ave. | 352-629-8545 **Tuesday and Wednesday | April 7 and 8 | 1:30 p.m.** Barbara Gaskin Washington Adult Activity Center | 210 NW 12th Ave. | 352-629-8357 **Wednesday and Thursday | April 8 and 9 | 1:30 p.m.** For years, old wood carver Mr. Meacham has delighted local children with his tales of the fierce dragon that resides deep in the woods of the Pacific Northwest. To his daughter, Grace, who works as a forest ranger, these stories are little more than tall tales until she meets Pete, a mysterious 10-year-old with no family and no home who claims to live in the woods with a giant, green dragon named Elliot. And from Pete's descriptions, Elliot 11-year-old girl whose father Jack owns the local lumber mill, Grace sets out to determine where Pete came from, where he belongs, and the truth about this dragon. PG-13

SAVE THE DATE ~ NEXT MONTH & BEYOND

MOTOWN DOWNTOWN | Citizens' Circle | May 5 | **WILDERNESS SURVIVAL DAY** | Fort King National Historic Landmark | May 13 | **EARLY BIRD DINNER THEATRE** | Clearwater | May 18 | **POOLS OPEN NEXT MONTH!** | **AFTER DARK IN THE PARK MOVIE SERIES-THE BF** | Jervay Gantt Recreation Complex | June 16 | **THE WORLD'S LARGEST SWIM LESSON** | Hampton and Jervay Gantt Aquatic FUN Centers | June 22 | **AFTER DARK IN THE PARK MOVIE SERIES-PETE'S DRAGON** | Tusawilla Park | July 7

Calling all seniors! We need you. . . yes, YOU! We're looking for volunteers to assist with coaching, tutoring, helping out at events and more. If you love history, volunteer at the Fort King Heritage Center. Get involved. An hour makes a difference. Background screenings are conducted on all volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Connie Carroll at 352-368-5504 or ccarroll@ocalafl.org.

BENEFITS CHECK-UP. Did you know there are over 2,000 federal state and private benefits programs available to help you pay for prescription drugs, health care, utilities, taxes and more? Just answer a few questions and Benefits Check-Up will create a confidential report showing the programs that can help you. For an appointment, please call 352-629-8545.

ELDER OPTIONS

IS A SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) FOR SENIORS. Program available for ages 60+ residing in Alachua, Bradford, Citrus, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Lafayette, Lake, Levy, Marion, Putnam, Sumter, Suwannee and Union counties. Contact 1-800-96-ELDER, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to complete an application over the phone.

54,000 Jobs in 2017

Continued from page 7

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.

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