



A guest speaker from Downtown Chiropractic Dr Laurence H. Churchill spent some time explaining some of the procedures. Dr. Churchill has set hours on certain days in two different locations: Downtown Ocala and HWY 200. The office number 732-2745.



Tim Flynn guest speaker at Ocala Business Leaders. Tim has worked with Raymond James for over 18 years. Tim carefully analyzes their personal financial needs and goals. Tim feels It's important to have appropriate balance in your portfolio. He has offices in Ocala and The Villages, Tim says he is ready to help with your plan.

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CEP/Ocala Chamber of Commerce held a Ribbon cutting at Roberts of Ocala Funerals & Cremations this last month. The event was well attended. Pictured are Terry Roberts & Family cutting the ribbon, with the mayor helping, Roberts' staff, CEP Representatives, city dignitaries and friends.
Change is Good... The original Roberts Downtown Chapel is no longer corporately owned. Back to traditional family values, family owned & operated. "Our Family serving your family". Food for the Ribbon Cutting catered by Ivy House. Check the ad in this paper.

State Response to Marjory Douglas HS Shooting

Gov. Scott Issues Updates on State Response to Marjory Douglas High School Shooting
PARKLAND, Fla. – Following the tragic shooting at Marjory Douglas High School in Parkland yesterday, Governor Scott has continued to be briefed by law enforcement and emergency management officials and has remained in communication with state leaders to ensure all state resources are made available. The Governor has also spoken with President Trump, the Department of Homeland Security and local school officials. Governor Scott remains in Broward County and additional details regarding the Governor's schedule will be made available throughout the day. Governor Scott also announced that he will be organizing meetings with state and local leaders in Tallahassee next week to discuss ways to keep Florida students safe, including school safety improvements and keeping guns away from individuals struggling with mental illness.
Information on the State of Florida's response:
Florida Department of Education
The Department of Education has offered to send crisis management teams to Broward County. These individuals have extensive experience in crisis situations and stand ready to coordinate with Broward County's crisis management teams to provide any additional community support.
Grief counseling is available today, Thursday, February 15, 2018, at a number of locations in Broward County for anyone needing support following the tragic events at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School: <http://bit.ly/2o7sIkW>
Broward College is offering students counseling and 24-hour crisis support. To schedule an appointment or speak to a mental health professional, students should call 954-424-6916.
The Florida Department of Education has communicated with the Florida Association of School Psychologists, and their health care professionals, which are on standby to assist, and with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Association, a branch of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,

Continued page 8

■ Kevin Sheilley ■

OCALA/MARION COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



It is hard to believe 2017 has come to an end and we are already in the second month of 2018. The CEP recently hosted its Annual Luncheon with a sold out crowd of more than 600. With a theme of Delivering on Success, we shared with our partners many of the

successes of the past year and goals reached through the first year of our 5-year Action, *Moving Forward-Phase II*.

Talent

The major new initiative of this plan is actually a two-prong approach to grow and attraction talent. The CEP took several steps

for this effort in 2017 with the hiring of a Director of Talent Development, Dean Blinkhorn, and the creation of two programs to focus on these efforts.

Our Talent Development Initiative is presented by Townley Manufacturing who has made a significant commitment to this effort. The CEP will be partnering with our schools systems and higher education partners to ensure that teachers have the tools they need to provide relevancy to their lessons. This does not mean that we are going to tell teachers how to teach. Instead, we are going to provide them with resourced to help them prepare students for the realities of the workforce they will be entering.

Live Life Here is the name of our Talent

Attraction effort. Just as we have successfully worked to bring talented businesses to the community, we think we can do the same with attracting talented people. Thanks to a presenting sponsorship from Sellstate Realty with partner sponsors Angie Lewis State Farm, Columbia Bank, Prime Mortgage, Spherion Staffing, and Trinity Catholic High School, the CEP will be running an ongoing digital marketing effort to drive targeted populations to the www.LiveLifeHere.com website. The campaign has coordinated print collateral and personal touches as well. The goal is roll this effort out later this quarter.

McLane

The McLane Company has announced that it plans to locate a new wholesale grocery distribution facility in Ocala. The company, a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway, has purchased an existing 113,000 sq. ft. facility here and plans to triple the building in size. The facility will

eventually house 500 employees at an average of more than \$40,000/year. The CEP was pleased to work with McLane throughout the location process.

Goals

The *Moving Forward-Phase II* plan has goals for every area of the CEP but also includes three big goals: to impact the announced creation of 4500 new jobs; that those jobs will pay 15% above the County average wage; and result in a capital investment of our community of \$400 million. We are through the first year of this five year effort and can report that we have announced 2056 new jobs (46% of goal); they pay on average 17% above the County average wage; and will result in a capital investment in our community of more than \$194 million (49% of goal)! This is a great start to this important effort and we are excited about the opportunities we are already working on for 2018.

Time To Get Ready, Florida

by Chip LaMarca

(NAPSI)—Florida has now sustained 117 direct hits by hurricanes in recorded history, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This is almost twice as many major storms as the runner-up state of Texas.

In fact, in Florida's annual hurricane season, which runs from June through November, residents can anticipate tropical storm and hurricane warnings for all or parts of the state.

From the effects of Hurricane Andrew in 1992, to more recent Hurricanes Maria and Irma, we've been here before—and, sadly, know all too well the aftermath that comes with them.

Floridians typically expect the storms to hit somewhere along the Sunshine State's 1,350-mile shoreline, but how prepared are their homes, offices and other buildings to withstand the potential damage? Not very, it seems.


In a survey commissioned by the National Hurricane Survival Initiative, more than half of Floridians said they were caught unprepared in at least one way—ranging from lack of window protection to absence of an evacuation plan—leading up to Hurricane Irma's detrimental landfall last year.

Busy hurricane seasons—such as that of 2017, which left Florida battered—are the “new normal,” says former FEMA Director Craig Fugate. Add to the fact that hurricanes leave states and local jurisdictions with billions in recovery costs and the result is debilitating for Florida.

In response, nearly a dozen organizations, including the FAIR Foundation, International Hurricane Research Center, National Emergency Management Association, and Salvation Army, have recently come together to launch “Get Ready, Florida!”—an awareness campaign to educate and encourage Floridians to take the necessary steps to protect their most valuable assets—their homes and families—in advance of the upcoming hurricane season.

The data tell us this proactive approach makes economic sense. Research by the FAIR Foundation shows that for every \$1 invested in mitigation, the state avoids \$4 or more in post-hurricane spending.

Continued page 6



Friday, March 16

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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



Here we are in March and it feels like there is a full time election campaign going on. Democrats and Republicans are lying to each other, doing strategy to make a deal so they can get re-elected.

Throwing everything in but the kitchen sink. After taking a shower at night and watch an hour of Fox News I feel dirty again, and the unfortunate thing is most of what I have been hearing is what I suspected to be true.

Someone needs to go back to the Judge that gave the FBI the right to spy on the other party and ask the Judge to squash the warrant based on the fact that the information furnished was not true.

Congress and the House need to work together and stop loading every bill with

things not related to the bill. There is no such thing as a clean bill any more. It seems like everyone is looking out for their own special interest and not for the good of the Citizens of the United States.

Someone said while giving a speech on the floor of the house, "It's always better when we work together." I would say they're right: it's "better together". You could get more done together, if you were looking out for our US Citizens first. Then worry about doing something for the immigrants. I say "Build That Wall!"

For several years we have been running a banner at the bottom of all of our front pages, we are moving it to the bottom of page four, the editorial page. Maybe change the verbiage a little. I don't know yet but we do want to show support for our Troops, First Responders, the Constitution and above all "In God We Trust!" and show respect for all other people's religion. I pray for the wisdom to do what is best, when

putting out a newspaper or in my daily life!

Chris Boody who is in charge of our Graphics is working very hard to bring you our newspapers online and to promote us online, I think she is doing a great job!

All these shootings are crazy, disrespect for the law enforcement, disrespect for our leaders, opposing leaders not respecting each other, not having a good family environment, cracking down on the drug problems, busting the gangs, stopping human trafficking and drug trafficking.

Our society is getting to a place where they don't value people's lives. I still say and have been saying that the activity of taking your kids to the paintball range and shooting at each other is not good training on how to act. The war games available for the computers seem real enough that children and grownups play them for hours. The right way is to teach a child never point a gun at a person, a toy gun or an empty real gun. Never point it at anyone.

I have neighbors that have moved from a small lot in the city to a 2.5 acre lot and they decide they can target practice in their yard, no gun safety classes. I have heard a bullet

close enough that it was buzzing. We need an ordinance against this behavior. If you want to shoot in your yard have a qualified gun safety officer check it out or have the Sheriff's office check it out. This is unsafe and it won't stop until someone stops it. How about a county ordinance about shooting in neighborhoods?

What is your opinion? tloury@att.net



Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for April

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

12am, March 14th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, March 21st

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P.O. Box 1698, Dunnellon FL 34430

Publisher

Tom Loury

352-804-1223

Fax: 352-489-7208

tloury@att.net

General Manager

Wendy Netherclift

Ocala Office 352-895-4168

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Florida State Senate

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



By Florida Senator Baxley

Session Update
Session is now over halfway done!

We have been hard at work the past five weeks ensuring good public policy makes its way to the people of Florida.

So far, we have passed out of the Senate SB 192, which clarifies that elected officials are allowed to ride to functions together and participate in fact finding missions without violating Florida Sunshine Laws.

We have also worked on SB 1048 which deals with Church Protection. This bill will allow churches to authorize concealed weapons permit holders to carry on church property for the purpose of protections. We want to empower law-abiding citizens to protect themselves and others and stop violent crime.

We are working to help veterans with SB 328, which would direct the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to create a veteran ID card for veterans who have been honorably discharged. This will



allow veterans an easily accessible proof of service to show to discounts and fee waivers.

Behind the scenes, we have worked to remove provisions that would have swept the Consumer Protection Trust fund for Preneed sales in the Division of Funeral, Cemetery and Consumer Services. This will ensure that consumers have protection should the contracted funeral service go out of business prior to the execution of the preneed contract.

We want to thank you for all the support and correspondence we have received from constituents while we have been in Session. It's good to stay involved! It's your government!

Type O Blood Donors Needed



LifeSouth is in critical need of type O blood donors. Trauma patients and patients in surgery have sharply increased the usage of type O blood, and supplies have hit a critically low level.

Type O blood can be received by all blood types, so having it available for emergencies is critical. If you are type O, LifeSouth asks you to donate today. If you do not know your blood type, now is a great time to donate and find out. Donating with LifeSouth directly impacts the community and those treated at area hospitals.

Anyone 17 or older, or 16 with parental permission, weighing a minimum of 110 pounds and in good health can donate blood. A photo ID is also required. Go to www.lifesouth.org to find a blood drive near you, or call toll-free 888-795-2707 for additional information.

Contact:
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Ready, Florida

Continued from page 2

One way “Get Ready, Florida!” recommends residents prepare is through hurricane protection improvements and retrofits to their homes. Partnering with the campaign on this effort is Ygrene, an energy efficiency and resiliency finance company in Florida helping residents make these improvement projects faster, easier and more affordable through its Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program.

PACE financing provides a long-term, low-rate financing option for consumers who otherwise would be forced to turn to short-term, high-rate financing. It enables Florida homeowners to save on home improvements and hurricane protection projects such as impact-resistant windows and doors, roofing, HVAC and solar panels. These retrofits significantly improve a building's resilience to even the strongest of storms.

As the survey findings from the National

Hurricane Survival Initiative have shown, however, there are still thousands of Floridians who need help preparing for future hurricane seasons. In fact, according to the survey, while fewer than 8 percent of Floridians said they were aware of the PACE program, the majority—53 percent—said they would be interested in such a program.

In the wake of Hurricane Irma, Florida residents need every resource available—from affordable home-hardening improvements, proper insurance coverage, and a well-devised preparedness plan—to prevent avoidable losses before, during and after catastrophic events.

“Get Ready, Florida!” is a worthy effort to help Florida residents protect their property and loved ones from severe storms, and to create a more resilient future for Florida's communities and beyond.

Learn More

Visit www.hurricanesafety.org for tips on hurricane preparedness and for more information on the “Get Ready, Florida!”

Happier As A Homeowner

(NAPSI)—Despite 41 percent of millennials opting for “vacation moves”—relocating somewhere without the intention of staying permanently—reports show that the nomadic life might not be all it's cracked up to be. Mobility has its perks, but the greatest social advantages are found in homeownership, says a recent National Association of Realtors study.

While the economic impacts of homeownership are well known, there are other benefits that are just as, if not more, valuable. For instance, homeownership is at the core of community building. The stability gained in an area through consistent ownership creates strong, cohesive relationships and social networks.

Likewise, neighborhoods with more

family-owned homes than rentals experience higher property values and social capital, according to a Harvard University review. Compared to renters, homeowners display increased civic engagement and feel a greater sense of responsibility to invest time, money and resources in community and environmental improvements.

Collectively, these factors lead to better school systems, lower crime rates and stable neighborhood growth—a ripple effect that persists for generations.

While renting undoubtedly allows for the ability to move and explore, homeownership enables the freedom to customize one's home to truly reflect personality and lifestyle. Unlike renting, a lack of restrictions allows space for self-expression and personalized functionality, two of the biggest contributors to personal growth and life satisfaction, as recognized by psychologists around the world.

The desire to be upwardly mobile isn't the only reason some are choosing to rent. Many consumers find the idea of locating and financing a home to be daunting. However, tools such as Rocket Mortgage from Quicken Loans are revolutionizing the home-buying process and making it so simple that it can be managed on a cell phone—in as few as seven minutes, the company says.

“Rocket Mortgage takes a formerly intimidating process and makes it fast, simple and transparent. It keeps the mortgage process on pace with that of today's busy generation, eliminating tedious paperwork,” says Bill Banfield, Quicken Loans EVP of Capital Markets. “By pulling personal financial information directly from the source, Rocket Mortgage provides a totally unique, customized mortgage solution. No guesswork, no misleading rates or timelines—just simple, personalized options paired with an unmatched process and world-class communication.”

Tools such as Rocket Mortgage provide around-the-clock counsel and access to personalized options, helping potential home buyers feel confident and prepared.

While there certainly is a time and place for renting, it's worth learning about the many benefits of owning a home before making the decision to pay a landlord for another 12 months.

Investing in homeownership early allows greater long-term flexibility with income, proving that homeownership doesn't tie you down. Instead, it brings empowerment, freedom and sense of purpose.

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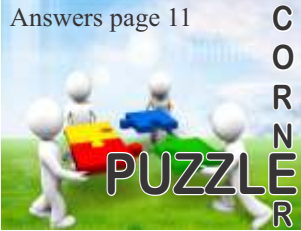
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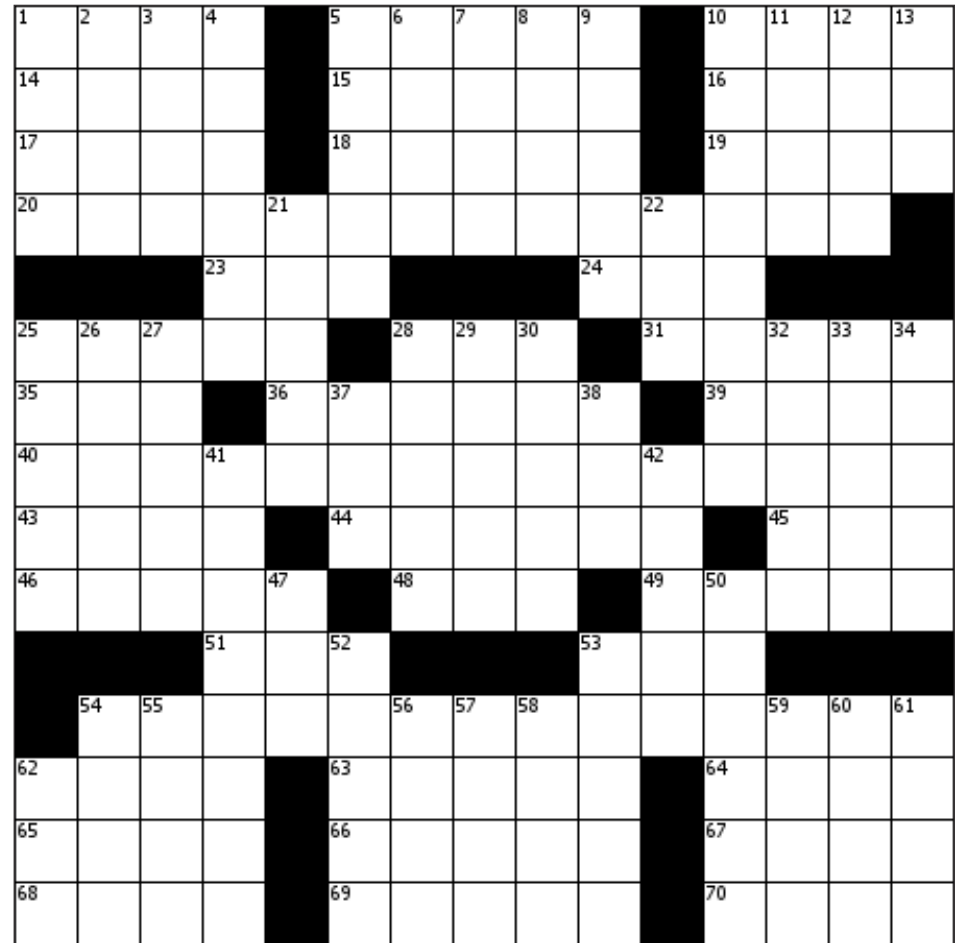


Across

1. Beat the air
5. Concord
10. Small price to pay
14. Plentiful
15. Garden-variety
16. Candid
17. Take in
18. Tester of Solomon's wisdom
19. Catalog
20. Let it go
23. Second ending
24. Help wanted notice?
25. Berlin's "A ____ With an Umbrella"
28. Light touch
31. Very sophisticated
35. Paleozoic, e.g.
36. Potential boat capsizers
39. Settled down
40. Clean one's clock
43. Manipulator
44. Liked
45. Prefix with conservative
46. Pass twice on the

Down

1. Wilma's hubby
2. Untrustworthy one
3. '70s 'do
4. Distant communicator
5. Forward
6. U.S. tennis great
7. Table sticks
8. "Hands off!" (Var.)
9. Thick portions
10. Side dish
11. Monumental
12. Cozy spot
13. It can be a real blast
21. Riffraff
22. Old Testament book
25. Leg bone
26. Jagged
27. Boutonniere setting
28. "Moll Flanders" author
29. Amalgam
30. Chap
32. Put in a row (Var.)
33. Locales
34. Guiding beliefs
37. Anti-prohibitionist
38. Another 37-Down?
41. Crushed
42. Hawsers
47. A way to stand
50. Zinger
52. Treasure container
53. Harold Robbins novel (with "The")
54. Bear of literature
55. "The Virginian" author Wister
56. Big showcase
57. Campus area
58. Arm bone
59. Pelvic bones
60. Berkshire response
61. Orbital point
62. ____ Paese (cheese)



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State Response

Continued from page 1

which have offered virtual and in-person support.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement

- Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) agents are assisting Broward County Sheriff's Office with the investigation and FDLE analysts are gathering information.

- Florida's See Something Say Something number is activated to accept calls for information regarding the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting. Anyone who has information, please call 1-855-FLA-SAFE.

Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

- Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) provided perimeter support and is assisting

law enforcement with the ongoing investigation.

- The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles will be deploying two Florida Licensing on Wheels (FLOW) Mobile units to provide credentialing services to those impacted from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. In addition, impacted customers will be offered priority service in all DHSMV credentialing offices. Obtaining a Florida credential (DL or ID) will invalidate any previously-issued credential.

Florida Department of Children and Families

- The Florida Department of Children and Families' (DCF) local managing entity, Broward Behavioral Health Coalition, has community providers, including Henderson Behavioral Health, offering grief and crisis counseling services to students, families, and school

personnel. Currently there are eight counselors available at four sites designated by Broward County Public Schools.

Florida Department of Health

- The Department of Health has been in contact with our partners at the Florida Emergency Mortuary Operation Response System (FEMORS) and stand ready to assist Broward County's medical examiner.

- OneBlood has responded to meet the current blood needs of the Parkland area hospitals, however OneBlood is requesting that those who are able donate O negative in order to replenish supply. Find donation locations here: <https://www.oneblood.org/donate-now/>

- DOH continues to monitor the situation and stands ready to assist in any way.

Volunteer Efforts

- The Salvation Army is supporting

with meals and water at the Family Assistance Center established by the Broward Emergency Operations Center.

- American Red Cross staff, including Disaster Mental Health, Disaster Health Services, Disaster Client Services as well as management and logistics support, are on scene at the Family Assistance Center. Emergency Response Vehicles (ERV) have also been deployed.

- Approximately 45 American Red Cross volunteers have responded in support of the families and first responders.

- Volunteer Florida is supporting partner agencies responding to the event and will continue to coordinate with their local and state partners regarding potential unmet needs.

Florida Office of the Attorney General

- Attorney General Pam Bondi, her

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State Response

Continued from page 8

director of victim services and approximately a dozen advocates are on the scene helping victims and their families with counseling services and funeral, burial and medical expenses.

Victims of the attack in need of assistance can contact the office toll-free at 1(800) 226-6667 or use the following contact form: http://myfloridalegal.com/Contact.nsf/Contact?OpenForm&Section=Crime_Victim_Services.

What Parents Want



(NAPSI)—As the current administration shines a spotlight on school choice, families around the country are opening their minds to new educational opportunities. Many states are inspired by Indiana's tax-credit scholarships and school voucher program, which, a recent EdChoice and Hanover Research study discovered, are not only popular, but also increase parental

involvement in their children's education. Indiana is home to the nation's largest, single statewide school voucher program. Vouchers give parents the freedom to choose a private school for their children using all or part of the public funding set aside for their children's education.

Key Findings

Here's what the survey found:

The vast majority of parents are somewhat or completely satisfied with the state's voucher and tax-credit scholarship programs.

Sixty-one percent say they communicate with teachers and participate in school activities more and 55 percent say they volunteer or perform community service more.

Parents value the opportunity to choose a school they believe is a better fit for their child. Parents also value the freedom to choose a school outside their neighborhood.

Private school parents are significantly more likely than district school parents to report satisfaction with their children's current schools.

Of the students who have left school choice programs, most have done so because they graduated or program restrictions rendered them ineligible. Few if any leave because they're unhappy with the program or their schools.

More than a third of parents who never had a child in the programs were unaware of them.

Most parents whose kids are not participating in the programs would if they qualified or if the award amount fully covered tuition and expenses.

On average, three-fifths of parents using the programs found it somewhat or very easy to

find their children's current schools.

Many parents and educators believe all families deserve the opportunity to choose the best educational fit for their children, regardless of their income or zip code.

That's the idea behind EdChoice, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to advancing full and unencumbered educational choice as the best pathway to successful lives and a stronger society. "Indiana is a national leader when it comes to the way our programs operate and the number of students we're able to serve, but we've still got work to do making sure families know these programs are available to help their students," said Robert Enlow, the group's president and CEO. "Parents want options, and we need to do a better job letting them know those options are out there."

Learn More

For more information on school choice, visit www.edchoice.org. To see the entire report, go to www.edchoice.org/WhyINParentsChoose.

FBI Director Needs to Resign

Gov. Rick Scott: FBI Director Needs to Resign

PARKLAND, Fla. — Today, Governor Rick Scott made the following statement regarding the FBI's admission that they failed to take action after receiving information on January 5, 2018, regarding "[Nikolas] Cruz's gun ownership, desire to kill people, erratic behavior, and disturbing

social media posts, as well as the potential of him conducting a school shooting."

Governor Scott said, "The FBI's failure to take action against this killer is unacceptable. The FBI has admitted that they were contacted last month by a person who called to inform them of Cruz's 'desire to kill people,' and 'the potential of him conducting a school shooting.'

"Seventeen innocent people are dead and acknowledging a mistake isn't going to cut it. An apology will never bring these 17 Floridians back to life or comfort the families who are in pain. The families will spend a lifetime wondering how this could happen, and an apology will never give them the answers they desperately need.

"We constantly promote 'see something, say something,' and a courageous person did just that to the FBI. And the FBI failed to act. 'See something, say something' is an incredibly important tool and people must have confidence in the follow through from law enforcement. The FBI Director needs to resign."

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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:
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DUNNELLOMAN ARRESTED

MARION COUNTY, Florida (February 13, 2018) – Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Major Crimes detectives arrested Dunnellon resident David Romig (DOB: 10/07/1965) for reporting an alleged home invasion on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, in an effort to cover up the murder of his live-in girlfriend, Sally Kaufmann-Ruff (DOB 10/06/1953).

Romig told detectives at the time of the incident that an unknown armed subject entered his home located at 10499 SW 122nd Court in Dunnellon in the early morning hours on Tuesday, and that Kaufmann-Ruff had been shot during an altercation between Romig

and the subject. During the investigation, evidence proved that David's initial testimony was false and that he had staged the scene to support the presence of an intruder after he had shot Kaufmann-Ruff during an "out-of-body" experience.

When deputies arrived on scene that morning, Kaufmann-Ruff was immediately issued medical attention and was transported to the hospital, where she later passed away from her injuries. Romig gave detectives his initial story and MCSO forensic technicians began processing evidence. A metal smoking pipe was found in the front yard and a piece of cloth was

found on the door frame. Romig initially said these items must have come from the suspect, but Romig's DNA was found on both items.

Romig also sent several incriminating text messages to detectives and his wife the day of the incident. Romig texted detectives the morning of January 30th saying, "I think they are going to arrest me." Romig told detectives that the text was meant for his wife and that he had accidentally sent it to them. Romig also texted his wife on January 30th saying, "I'm afraid I did something I don't remember." Romig further stated, "If I did this I will kill myself."

In a Post-Miranda interview with MCSO Major Crimes detectives on Monday, February 12, 2018, Romig said he had been suffering from "black-outs" and that he was hearing voices. He described having an "out-of-body" experience the morning of the shooting, saying he felt like he was wrestling with himself and the gun went off, shooting Kaufmann-Ruff in the head. Romig said he staged the scene to make it look like a home invasion because he blacked out.

Romig previously told detectives that he was the sole beneficiary listed in Kaufmann-Ruff's will, excluding her only child. Investigation revealed that Kaufmann-Ruff's estate included in excess of \$200,000 in liquid assets, in addition to her physical property (home, car, etc). Romig was arrested and charged with Second Degree Murder, Tampering with Evidence by Staging the Crime Scene and False Reporting of a Crime. He is currently being held in the Marion County Jail on no bond.



Support Pollinators



Unexpected Ways to Support Pollinators (NAPSI)—It's a common misconception that you need a large yard and advanced gardening skills to support honey bees by planting more forage. However, the reality is that anyone with enthusiasm and a potted plant can provide bees with the food and habitat they need. While individuals are crucial in protecting pollinators, many organizations are also finding solutions to help pollinators thrive in unexpected places.

Urban Gardens

One such organization is the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). After receiving funding from the D.C. Department of Energy and Environment to create a "green roof," the university's College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES) went a step further by restoring an existing

greenhouse to form what would eventually become the largest food-producing green roof in the city. The D.C. Master Gardeners worked with UDC to add a garden to the roof that supports pollinators and serves as a beacon of education and outreach for those interested in urban gardening and habitat restoration.

Golf Courses

Golf courses around the nation are also doing their part to plant more forage for honey bees. Since 2010, Cantigny Golf in Wheaton, Illinois, has been restoring several acres of native prairie land, providing vital habitat for honey bees and other pollinators. Club superintendent Scott Witte started The Bee Barometer Project to illustrate how golf can be part of the solution to sustaining pollinator health. Witte now serves as an important link between golf courses and organizations raising awareness about bee health.

On Long Island, Bethpage State Park is also creating pollinator-attractant areas throughout its vast recreational space. The park has restored nearly two acres of pollinator habitat and planted scores of wildflowers, and it's not stopping there. Agronomy director Andrew Wilson and his staff plan to create an entire corridor for pollinators by removing invasive species and restoring the areas' native habitats.

Many of these organizations have joined Feed a Bee, a nationwide initiative sponsored by Bayer to support pollinator health. Feed a Bee's current goal is to plant pollinator forage in all 50 states by the end of 2018. By partnering with organizations that provide habitat in unexpected places, the initiative's message that anyone can support bees and other pollinators is loud and clear.



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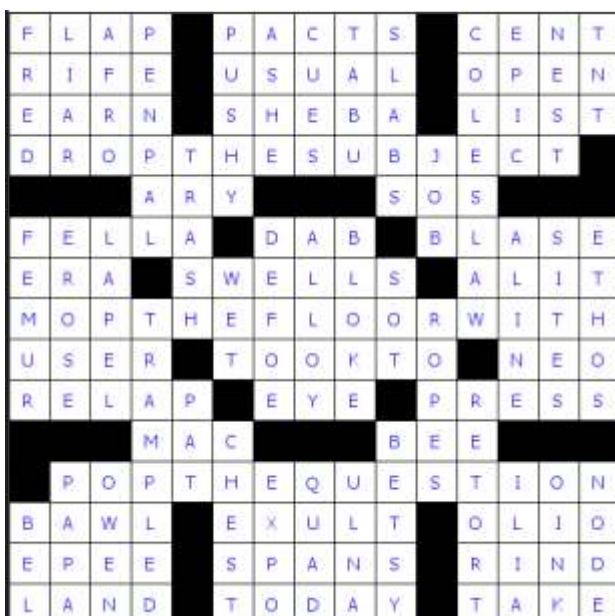
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