A free publication serving the people of the Ocala area

ocala DownTown

BUY LOCAL!

Take Me Home!
FREE

Volume 10 Issue 6 June 2019



The Annual senior Fishing Derby was a great success. The weather was great, the people were friendly, there were plenty of door prizes and the food was great. For more pictures see page 6.



Pictured right is the Ocala Business Leaders President Connie Pendleton presenting a $2010.00 check to April Savarese CEO of the Boys and Girls Club. The following is a press release from the Boys and Girls Club::

I am excited to announce that we are now able to offer Summer Programming at our Dunnellon Club. The Dunnellon Community jumped into action and quickly raised nearly $20,000 needed to fund the program.

The Silver Springs Shores Club will remain closed for Summer programming.

The Ocala Club currently has 85 Members enrolled for Summer and may add more as financial support from the Community continues.

Frank Deluca, Ocala Sunset Rotary, Ocala Business Leaders, Nobility Homes, Diane Doane, Hamlet Construction and many others have contributed to the Club since the announcement of limited Summer Programming.

I am so proud of our community and the way that they have worked together tackle the immediate needs of the Club. It will be important for the Community to continue to support The Boys & Girls Club to ensure that we will always be here for our youth.

April Savarese, CEO
Boys & Girls Club of Marion County

United States of Amazon?

Are we looking at what is becoming the United States of Amazon?

By Peter W. Wagner

Being part of a community – be it a town, neighborhood, church or social/service organization - was just about everyone's desire when I was growing up as the youngest of two boys in a traditional family of four.

A dozen years later, when my wife and I were starting our first paper, I came to realize every town needed five things to exist: a locally owned and managed bank willing to support civic endeavors, a local school system with programs and sporting events that brought the people together, a community newspaper to create consensus, at least the semblance of retail stores offering a good selection of the everyday basics from groceries, clothing, auto parts to greeting cards and finally, because I live in Northwest Iowa, a locally owned and managed cooperative elevator.

But the times are changing. Everything is becoming multi-location and regional. Few small-town banks are still locally owned and managed. Most large corporate banking organizations are less interested in supporting local projects such as the rebuilding of the aging baseball field or the use of their lobby for a charity bake sale.

Local K to 12 schools have been integrated with other nearby school districts and the "hometown" football team has disappeared. The excitement of Friday Night Lights has drifted down the road and so has the weekly gathering of fans and the exceptional local spending that went with it.

Entire main streets have gone the way of the earlier mentioned local school. In many small towns only a bar and a convenience store/gas station exist for the purchase of essentials such as milk, bread and a six-pack of beer. Many small communities are simply thankful that a new Dollar Store recently decided to build on the highway at the edge of town.

What were once local cooperative elevators have merged and remerged over the last 10 years to eliminate even the hint of competition.

And the nation's newspapers, with no community to support them, are disappearing. It is reported that 1,800 have closed in the last 15 years. Newspapers reflect the vitality of the community they serve.

The problem with all of this is the buyers, at least for the moment, depend more on the internet rather than local suppliers for everything from prepared boxed meals to on-line college degrees to buying a new car. I can understand the magic and power in all this online buying, but it will surely lead to a smaller "community".

There was a time when shopping for groceries or a new dress was a social experience. Two shoppers would bump into each other while working their way down aisle three or headed for the dressing room and stop to catch up, share a recipe or two or plan to meet for coffee.

Continued page 4

Are School Bus Drivers Being Thrown Under The Bus?

by TomL

There are so many incidents about school bus drivers that were thrown to the wolves, I decided to write about it.

The schools in our country are riddled with children that should have a different environment, not the school system. Children that can't learn for one reason or another are put into a contained room at school all day. Not being allowed to leave could make things worse. They eat, use the bathroom, spend the day in the contained unit. Yes that is what they call it "containment unit!" I guess you can say it's a type of restraint and they are "physically" taken if needed to a school bus where the driver is expected to take them home safely. Being contained all day probably has them on edge. That is why I say there needs to be a different environment, not prison school (containment unit). They need one school per county just for the challenged and their parents need to drop them off and pick them up. Just escorting or sending the children to the school bus is not enough. Allowing this to happen is poor leadership.

Last month I wrote about a school bus driver that had her career ruined because the school pressed child abuse charges against her for doing her job. A child punch the bus aide in the face. The child also hit the aide in the head with the buckle of the seat belt. The school bus driver saw the altercation, went back and restrained the student for seconds to protect the aide and get the child safely buckled into his seat. The law reads the bus can't move unless the children are buckled in. The School pressed charges against the School Bus Driver. Now the bus driver has a record and facing child abuse charges. Does this sound right to you? Some children are not in school to learn. In fact the school is being used as a baby sitter. Get involved. Tell the school to drop the charges against this bus driver and change the rules to control what children are allowed to do. This story has prompted many stories to come out. Here is one that happened to my wife some years ago. If you want to read the first story go to Tomlpublishing.com click on

Continued page 9

Kevin Sheilley

Ocala/Marion County Chamber & Economic Partnership



By Kevin Sheilly

The Ocala/ Marion County Chamber & Economic Partnership has again been named a finalist for the 2019 Chamber of the Year award, presented by Alexandria, Va.-based Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.

The award, sponsored by MemberClicks, is the most prestigious and competitive recognition presented annually by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE). ACCE is an association of more than 8,000 professionals from 1,300 chambers of commerce, including 93 of the top 100 U.S. metro areas.

The CEP is honored to again by a finalist for this recognition. It is a great testament to the incredible work of our team, leadership, and most significantly, our partners. We were a finalist in 2017 for this award. We were awarded the Florida Chamber of the Year by the Florida Association of Chamber Professionals in 2018.

The Chamber of the Year award recognizes the leadership role chambers have in their communities. Those honored with the Chamber of the Year designation have demonstrated organizational strength and made an impact on key community priorities, such as education, transportation, business development and quality of life. Chamber of the Year winners will be announced July 15 at the 2019 ACCE Annual Convention in Long Beach, Calif.

Chambers of commerce interested in competing for the award first must qualify by participating in a vigorous multi-stage process. Organizations entering the Chamber of the Year competition must meet minimum thresholds in at least three of five key performance areas, including net revenue and assets, membership account retention, and membership dollar retention.

Qualifying for Chamber of the Year is a rigorous process. Chambers compete based on meeting key performance criteria on the ACCE Annual Operations Survey. Qualifying chambers enter the competition with a written application addressing all aspects of organizational operation and programmatic work. Applications are scored by peer chamber executives to determine finalists. Winners are selected from among finalists based on an in-person interview before a panel of experienced chamber professionals.

It is for this rigorous process that we pursue these types of activities. They drive us to operate at the highest levels of operations and professionalisms to ensure that our partners are deriving the best return possible on their investment.

This year's competition drew numerous entries from chambers throughout the U.S. To ensure the fairest competition, applicants are grouped into four categories based on: annual revenue, membership, area population and other factors. The CEP is competing as a Category 3 chamber.



Genealogical Society

Marion County Genealogical Society will meet Thursday, June 20, 2019 from 2pm - 4pm at the Marion County Public Library, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala, FL. Jack Butler will present "Land Records, the Underutilized Resource". For more info visit www.mcgsocala.org or call (352) 897-0840.

New Toll Roads

A Bill Creating Three New Toll Roads

Florida's largest road project in half a century was given a green light Wednesday, after the House voted to send a bill creating three new toll roads to Gov. **Ron DeSantis** for approval. Overcoming opposition from environmental groups and questions about whether the roads were needed, the House voted 76-36 to start the ball rolling on creating one new toll road and extending one new one. The bill would extend the Suncoast Parkway to Georgia, extend Florida's Turnpike to the Suncoast, and build a new toll road from the Naples area toward Interstate 4 near Orlando. Construction would begin in 2022 and be finished by 2030.

Teachers To Be Armed

After about seven hours of angry, sometimes deeply painful debate about race and gun violence that spanned two days, the Florida House passed a bill Wednesday that would allow classroom teachers to be armed an expansion of the program it created last year after the Parkland shooting. The debate at times reached emotional heights that had Democrats shouting or tearing up as black members delved into details about their personal experiences with racism and their deep-seated fears about minority children being targeted by teachers who have guns. The bill is now on its way to Gov. **Ron DeSantis'** desk. For teachers and other staff to be armed, school districts must opt-in to the so-called “Guardian program,” which allows teachers and other staff to volunteer to carry a gun on campus after undergoing screening and training by a local sheriff's office.

Support your local COMMUNITY

Florida State Senate

Dennis K. Baxley



Friends,

It feels great to be home! The past few months in our State Capitol has again reminded me of the blessing and honor it is to be able to represent hardworking, salt of the earth people in Senate District 12. I thank you for the privilege of letting me work alongside of you to protect freedom and liberty. With the 2019 legislative session officially ending on May 4th, I felt that it might be good to share with you a few of the big highlights from our work in Tallahassee.

The first big accomplishment was that we killed a lot of bad bills! Out of the 2500+ bills that were filed, less than 200 actually made it all the way through the House and Senate, and Governor DeSantis has already vetoed a few of those. Did some good pieces of legislation die with those? Sure. We didn't get everything that we wanted but it has been my experience that the more bills that pass, and the more government messes in our lives, the less freedom we have. So, I am very pleased to see that this process is working, and that every decision we make is met with careful inspection and reflection. This process isn't always pretty, but our country's great experiment is still the best in the world.

I was very proud of some of the work that the Florida Senate did with workforce education (SB 770, by Sen. Hutson). Recognizing the demand we have for a skilled workforce, we created a new high school graduation pathway that allows students to gain work experience and master a skill, through apprenticeships and other work related programs while gaining a conventional education. Your Senator was also able to fill a big need in District 12 by obtaining $500,000 in funding for the Elevate Lake program. This construction academy in Lake County will produce 140 high school students per year, who, upon program completion, will obtain industry certification, advanced trade school training and will prepare them for direct employment in high wage construction careers.

Florida continues to be strong financially. This year, we passed the 2019 Tax Package which delivers broad-based tax relief to families and businesses across the state. In total, the bill provides approximately $121 million in tax relief. All while increasing per student funding by $242, which will bring the per pupil funding up to a record high $7,672 per student. Overall, the Florida Senate invested nearly $35 billion in our state's education system. This investment means that school districts now have an additional $364 million in flexible spending that can be used for teacher pay raises or other district needs.

As Chair of Ethics & Elections, I was very pleased of what we accomplished through SB 7066 in protecting the integrity of our elections process. We worked very closely with our Supervisors of Elections on correcting some things that will help them run more effectively and deliver timely results. As a father to blind son, I was very proud of the fact that we were able to implement voting machines for blind people to interface privately and personally with the ballot. This gives them more freedom and independence to exercise their voting rights at the polling places. That's a major win for me, and for my son, Jeff.

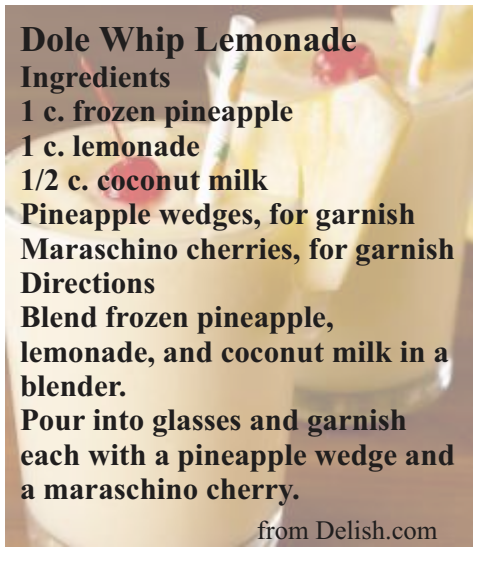
Patients Turning to the Black Market

The clock neared midnight Tuesday as Representatives in the Florida House debated at length over an amendment to a larger healthcare bill that would put a proposed cap on THC for smokable medical marijuana. House Democrats asked amendment sponsor Rep. Ray Rodrigues a series of questions related to the affordability of medical cannabis, potential for litigation and the issue of patients turning to the black market to treat their ailments with stronger marijuana. But at 11:50 p.m. the bill was temporarily postponed before the main debate on the bill even began. House Speaker José Oliva then told the chamber they'd be taking up SB 168, or the Senate's version of a bill to ban so-called "sanctuary cities" in Florida. And that was that in the battle Democrats were waging against one of this session's most controversial bills.

Did Barr Lie to Charlie Crist?

The *Washington Post* is reporting Wednesday that special counsel **Robert Mueller** sent a letter on March 27 to Attorney General **William Barr** expressing displeasure with the Department of Justice's four-page summary of the investigation into Russian election interference and President Donald Trump. Barr's brief summary for Congress "did not fully capture the context, nature, and substance" of the 448-page investigation, Mueller said. The summary said Mueller found Trump did not collude with Russia and while Mueller was inconclusive on obstruction of justice, Barr determined Trump did not.

Summer Refresher



Dole Whip Lemonade

Ingredients

1 c. frozen pineapple
1 c. lemonade
1/2 c. coconut milk
Pineapple wedges, for garnish
Maraschino cherries, for garnish

Directions

Blend frozen pineapple, lemonade, and coconut milk in a blender.

Pour into glasses and garnish each with a pineapple wedge and a maraschino cherry.

from Delish.com



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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



Someone needs to tell the Democrats to stop investigating and start investing in our country. It's time to stop acting like children. Our country and our values are at stake. I really think they are afraid of what the AG is going to uncover. We might be surprised about how high it goes. The Democrats think they have been cheated. Our Attorney General Investigated it's over! The Democrats won't stop! I wrote about the indicators of a civil war. They are all right in front of us today. Let's pray it does not happen. That is what Russia and China want.

As Publisher I try to decide the next step forward. How do I move this publication forward? We are attaching our online editions to Chamber of Commerces, businesses and we will move more into online videos also. Watch for us. Use our newspapers by advertising with us. You won't be sorry. For advertising call Tom at 352-804-1223. There is something different happening in the Villages. When people tell us they are going north, stop the paper, we give them the online info. We still print and deliver the same amount of papers, we just reach out further.

Socialists are hiding in the Democratic party. The Socialists are using the Democrats. They figure they can get some Democratic votes, promise people free stuff and get the socialist vote. You better root them out before all is lost. The Republicans are getting a good footing and doing what the people are asking them to do. Don't hide, take a stand!

I met an interesting reader Robert Dreyfus, a conservative Christian. We talked for an hour about life in general, politics, religion, etc. We found a parallel. I went to school with his cousin Carolyn. She was a good person, always kind to everyone. Her father was the police chief of Hollywood, Fl. He was also the Principle of the school where I started first grade. Actually it was a 1st thru 12th grade school. Now there are Elementary, Middle & High School.

They are talking about the Sun-Coast Parkway again. They claim it is going to Georgia. Georgia just said on the news they were not told of the toll road. I'm not sure they would believe Florida anyway. Years ago the Turnpike Authorities told Georgia they were going to improve the road on the west coast along Hwy 19. They were going to extend the Florida Turnpike to Hwy 19 which goes all the way to Georgia.

The tax payers in Florida said "no" and stopped them. The current Turnpike cut off the flow of water east and west. Yes they put in bridges but not enough. If the truth be known some of what is wrong with the Everglades is the Turnpike and Alligator Alley. The TurnPike authorities have added the word Enterprise to the end of their name. Florida has created a machine that eats up money and land. The Tolls never dropped like they originally promised they would. The roads are not better and when we get on a road that we paid for we get the pleasure of paying to use it and slow down for all the Construction along the route south and back. Now the Turnpike Authority Enterprise has changed the name to Sun-Coast Parkway. Someone needs to talk to Georgia and see if they want the road. Georgia and Florida are not friendly. There's a lot of things that the two states reciprocated that have been dropped, never to be discussed again. Hunting / Fishing don't reciprocate. I had a hunting permit at age 65 for life in Florida and Georgia and some years back Georgia stopped it. I feel the first promise to bring the Turnpike extension ruined all that. The Turnpike Authority Enterprises should be taken apart and the road construction should be bid on and let the DOT and the Governor's office Comprehensive Grow study take over.

Special quote
We don't need Tax records of Millionaires who are Politicians.
We need Tax records of politicians who became Millionaires!

What is your opinion? tloury@att.net

Amazon

Continued from page 1

Just a few years ago there was a time when a trip to the elevator included a visit with the counterman about anything and everything from the weather to the upcoming election. Now everything is ordered from the elevator by email.

Once, when a family thought it was time to buy a new car it was the center of every conversation. They'd discuss the pros and cons with extended family or those gathered around the table at the local café. Now it's possible to order the car on the internet and have it delivered to your door just a few days later. In many cases this and other factors have left entire counties without a single car dealer to provide the follow-up care or service.

Bookstores have all but disappeared and so have "record" shops.

The abundance of streaming services are cutting deeply into the working capital of bigger city television stations.

As for newspapers, they were the first writers of local history. Newspapers were, and still are, the original social media.

The local paper disseminated news of the happy and caring times from births to who had Sunday dinner at whose house to weddings. They were the source for the weekly update of who was ill, where the fund-raiser was going to be that weekend and what exciting new things there were to see, do and eat.

More importantly, the local paper delivers balanced, credible news and shopping opportunities to the majority of the community, not just the few that are friends on some store's Facebook list.

If we can bank on-line, order any piece of clothing on-line, get an education on-line, vote on-line, order our groceries, insurance and new car on-line what happens to our community?

Will we, as a society, all look back one day and see social media was the start of the decline of society and not beginning of a "brave, new world"?

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Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator
12am, June 26th

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Cost of Socialism in Other Countries

NATION	INCOME TAX	SALES TAX	PRICE OF GAS
Germany	47%	19%	$6.00 per gallon
England	47%	20%	$6.10 per gallon
Italy	45.80%	22%	$6.84 per gallon
Greece	65%	24%	$6.83 per gallon

This is what the democrats want to pass. The countries that have this structure are unraveling. **Wake Up!**



ONE PERSON'S OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WOW! Thomas Sowell hit a home run, touchdown, and a basket with this book, Discrimination and Disparities.

Thomas Sowell reaches back to antiquity, and touches base all along the course of history, to find info to refute the misconceptions about the items in the title. He uses hard facts and basic information to discredit the opinions proffered by Boomer Boob progressives on social justice, discrimination, and disparities. Boomer Boobs have visited more havoc on the human race than any monster in history. How can you be lucid when you are high?

Thomas Sowell's writing style has always been thorough, and highly intricate, but this book is written in a style that is readable by blue collar readers. If you want the other perspective on these topics this book will more than adequately fill that need.

Discrimination is broken down into many different aspects of human behavior and situations. There are a myriad of reasons for disparities. Just anticipating the next fact is reason to hold your attention. If this is not enough to entice you to read the book, a quick browse of pages 177-185, and 198-223 will be quite enlightening.

The pages on immigration will shock you, as might a few other issues explored. America has dealt with immigration issues before.

I am on cloud 9. You might not be as enthused, and only make it to cloud 7. If you are ever open to a different perspective, this might be the one to try.

D.I. L.

Letter to the editor

Nearly 55 million children are enrolled in the public (government) school system by well meaning parents who believe the school they are sending their children to is a 'good school.'

If parents knew the truth, they would do everything possible to avoid placing their children in public schools. Research shows this system has become so corrupt that many view it as a form of legalized child abuse which is devastating children intellectually, spiritually and morally.

There have been hundreds of books, thousands of articles and numerous documentaries detailing the disastrous impact which this educational system is having on children and the nation. Two veteran educators, Drs. Lundt and Wiles In their book, *Leaving School - Finding Education* state: "The public school system is responsible for increasing amounts of cultural decay and social dysfunction in our society... Schools have no hope of reforming themselves. Schools cannot and will not change... Schools are resistant to changing; they have always been this way... Parents should be both frightened and outraged... Schools are the largest impeding force in our nation... Schools are beginning to pull other institutional agencies downward...This is an institution, your authors believe, in its final days...An alternative must be found quickly. What we believe, after very full careers in schools as teachers, administrators, and curriculum leaders, is that defining any improvement in the school will be both a futile exercise and a self defeating proposition... The American school cannot be fixed. Schools are now in a dysfunctional state...The time has arrived for the United States to think seriously about bidding farewell to its schools... they are a relic from another age".

RD

To the editor

To destroy the Constitutional Republic socialist Democrats are using the Cloward/Piven Plan to overwhelm the economic system with impossible demands resulting in the collapse of government. They would then replace capitalism with a socialist/communist system as they have done in other areas of the world which has led to over 120 million deaths in the 20th century.

Some of their proposals are unlimited immigration, free college, free health care for everyone including illegals, guaranteed income and the elimination of fossil fuels. This would overwhelm the system and bring about the fall of capitalism by overloading the government with impossible demands, initiating economic collapse as it has in Venezuela and many other countries.

Tragically they have been very successful. According to recent studies 58% of millennials now prefer socialism!

RD

The Healthcare Game

Do you know how to play it? I do not, and it may end up costing me my life.

Obama said I could keep my health plan, and I did: the F plan. The best there is. So, good they are discontinuing it, telling us to buy the G plan. I have never paid one penny Co-pay. The F plan is pricey, but the only way I will be able to keep it is if I can afford the new gigantic premium. So, the game goes on, and I do pay the increase, what next.

Some people think healthcare is the new candy store, and services are woefully lagging behind demand. So severely, that if you have a bacterial infection, and a doctor referral, the wait is 2 months for an appointment. You could be dead in that amount of time. That is happening a lot according to an article in the newspaper. Thousands of elderly are being allowed to die.

If I go to a doctor it is because I am pushed, shoved, frightened, and cajoled. It has to be serious, none of this hangnail stuff. When someone says doctor it has to be serious, or it is a no go. I have been my own best doctor. Have not had a cold in 50 years. I know me, and take care of me. Who else is supposed to be responsible for me?

So, I have my insurance sans the care part. How do we rectify that issue? Is it just Sham care, Phony care, Pretend care, Care if you can get it? Anyone have any clues, I am listening. This is a serious issue: Life and

Continued page 10

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SENIOR Fishing Derby

The Annual senior Fishing Derby was a great success. The weather was great, the people were friendly, there were plenty of door prizes and the food was great. The Senior Fishing Derby is put on by the Ocala Parks and Recreation Department. Buses from the local senior living homes bring people to picnic and fish and seniors that live on their own attend and have a good time.

A Big Thank You To:

Volunteers: Bridgett R. Griffin, John N. Spencer, Charles Dobson, Allen G. Nelson, Jacob Baker, Patrick P. Gilman, William Rodriguez-Cayro, Grace Huffman, Connie C. DeLong, Dustin Echols of Clay Electric , Seth A. Crevison, Suzanne Shuffitt, Tom Loury.

Sponsors: Senior Voice, Nelson Lawn Service, Greater Hopewell Church, ASB Financial, Silver Springs Water, BJ Trophies, Clay Electric, Ocala Recreation and Parks.

Watch for next year's announcement in this paper next year.



























PALS Auto Repair hosted a Networking event for the Ocala Business Leaders, some customers and friends. They gave a tour of their shop. There was entertainment, games, door prizes, great food and drink. The Ocala Business Leaders is a business networking group that has been inviting business people to breakfast on Wednesday morning for many years. They share information weekly. The club and the breakfast invitation is for open categories. One business per category. For more info call 804-1223.









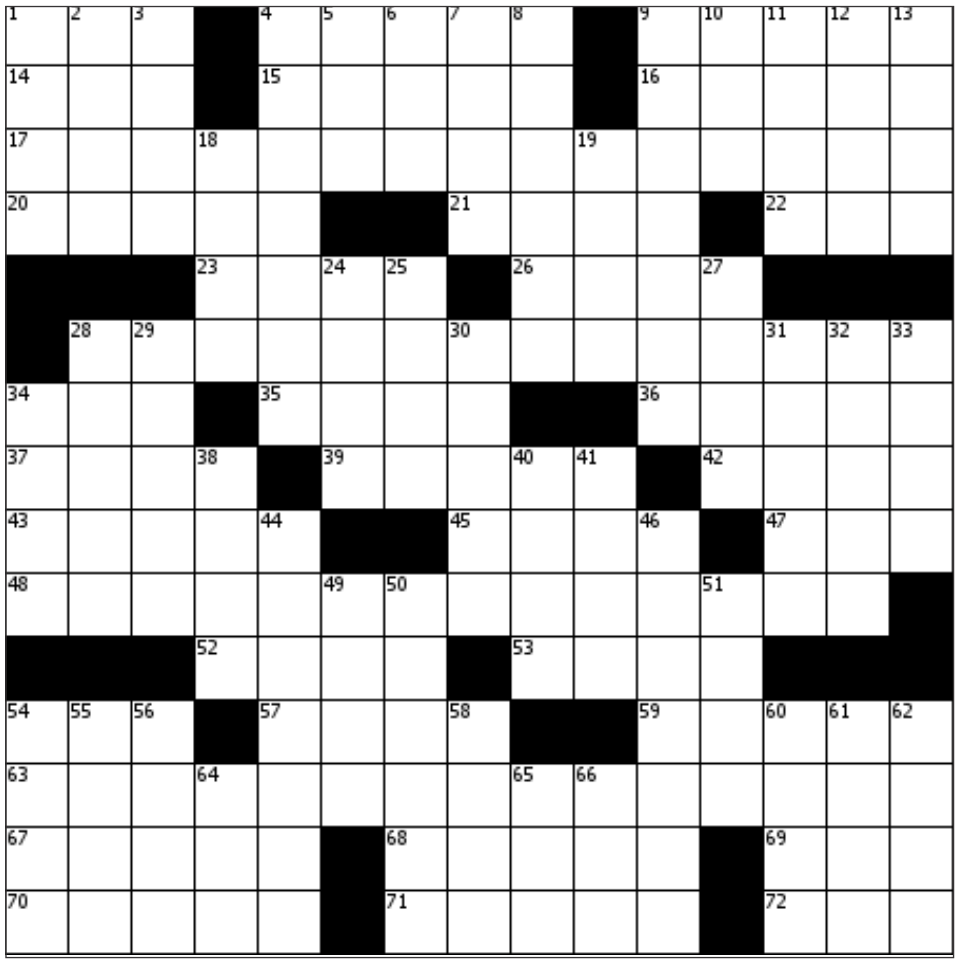
Answers page 11

Across

1. Hansom vehicle
4. "John Brown's Body" poet
9. 1998 Disney heroine
14. "Kill Bill" star Thurman
15. Lots of paper
16. Slightly ahead
17. Member of the Blue Angels
20. Genesis
21. Word on an octagon
22. T or F on a quiz
23. Kinsey portrayer Neeson
26. Hearty meal
28. Uses MapQuest
34. In need of fuel
35. Treat a pledge poorly
36. Safety device
37. Cruising
39. Brainy bunch
42. They poll with CNN
43. The Ricardos' landlord
45. Big NCAA conference
47. Subj. of "The Professor and the Madman"
48. Most worthy goals
52. D'back, e.g.
53. Busy sort
54. Sound of a fan
57. South Pacific souvenirs
59. Abdul of "American Idol"
63. Fourteen Points presenter
67. Danny's daughter and Phil's wife
68. Dan of "Laugh-In"
69. Improve, as cheese
70. "___ River Anthology"
71. Convinces
72. Not a lot

Down

1. Stephen King canine
2. Last word in prayer
3. Nutty
4. Like the Beatles and Stones
5. Head lines, for short
6. "Uh uh"
7. CPR experts
8. Fly over Africa?
9. Sesame Street denizens
10. AP rival
11. "Damn Yankees" temptress
12. In the near future
13. Takes home
18. Had an opinion
19. Coll. marchers
24. Noted rib donor
25. Johnny of the old NY Giants
27. Gold medal winner Katarina
28. "Look for yourself"
29. Pretty pitchers
30. Nicole's "Cold Mountain" costar
31. Heavenly hunter
32. Celebrities
33. Risked a ticket
34. Follower of Mary
38. Memo abbr.
40. Storm particles
41. Words of reference
44. Big number
46. Stickers on neckwear?
49. Exigency
50. Judges, at times
51. Spoken
54. Tach readings
55. Not give ___ (care less)
56. Long lunch?
58. February forecast
60. Letters on a B-2
61. Theater section
62. Freshly
64. ___-pitch softball
65. Hughes corp.
66. Method



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School Bus

Continued from page 1

Ocala DownTown current issue. It's on the front page of May's edition.

Here is another example of school bus driver's unfair treatment. This ex-driver was a school bus driver of 10 years. She loved her job and she liked the people around her, including her supervisors and she loves children. This one morning, first morning of school, still dark, she did her bus inspection, walking around the bus. The grass was wet. Finishing her inspection, she went to get into the bus, her feet were wet. When her feet hit the rubber mat on the top step which had been finished with Armor All, her foot slipped and she went down into the stairwell. The fall split the bone in her leg all the way up into her knee cap. She was in a lot of pain. When the bus portable supervisor realized she was hurt they immediately check protocol. She was put into the back seat of a compact car (no ambulance) and taken to the workman comp clinic (not the emergency room). They x-rayed her and reported she had a bad break, put her in a temp cast and set an appointment with a surgeon. She had surgery two days later. They put her back together with bolts and pins and put her in a cast and sent her home in a wheelchair with her leg straight out and said keep it that way until you come back. To use Armor All on school buses was against the rules, but nothing was ever said after the accident. It had been done by the bus driver the year before to pass year end inspection of the bus.

The injured bus driver cried probably every hour or so for the next ten days in pain. But four days after the surgery, the surgeon signed papers that said she was fit to go back to work. She is in a wheelchair with her leg straight out, taking pain medication and she is deemed fit to work. I went to the surgeon's office, confronted him and called him an incompetent fool! Later on, I was told the school board made a deal with the surgeon to get employees off of workman's comp and they would give him their business as the workman's comp surgeon. By this time I was no longer allowed in the surgeon's office. Our private nurse took her to her appointments, which were many.

I went to the workman's comp doctor and told him what had happened. I told him that I called the surgeon an incompetent fool and it was medically impossible for her to go back to work. He said the school system wants their people back on the regular payroll instead of on workman's comp. My wife needed a full time nurse for several months so I could work. She needed assistance to go to the bathroom, bathe, could not cook, actually could do nothing at doctor's orders, but she was fit to work.

This is part that will surprise you. I called her supervisor and told her what was going on and she said "if they release her for work she must report to work". I explained she needed a full time nurse and could not report. The supervisor said again, "if they release her for work she must report to work". So she had to call in sick using her 10 years of employment accumulated sick pay. You see she did not call in sick but once or twice in ten years. After the sick pay was used up, using a walker she went to see her supervisor. She was a totally different person. The supervisor was cold and acted indifferent. A few months before, she was very friendly. The supervisor statement never changed. The doctor said she was fit to go back to work. The next scheduled year of school, part of the annual test was to jump out of the back of the school bus. The doctor said no! She was terminated! They said she could not perform her duties.

We hired a workman's comp attorney. The state of Florida put a limit on the amount of money an attorney could charge on a workman comp case. At the end you find yourself in a room with the arbitrator with no representation. My wife would not walk out of that meeting, she still had some idea she would go back to work. At the end she got her pension which she was entitled to, they paid the hospital bill, reimbursed her sick pay and that was it. Nothing for dedication, nothing for being loyal and she was very disappointed in the way some of her so called friends / supervisors treated her. No supervisor called to see how she was but a couple of bus drivers did call her every day and are still her friends. She was told "once she hired an attorney she would never go back to work for the school system." She is now working a job for 9 1/2 years. She still does not call in sick, only this job has no benefits.

Fast forward a year later I saw the surgeon having lunch with his office manager. I repeated what I had said previously in his office that day a year before. I gave him an unwanted update on my wife losing her job. I never saw him again. A friend told me he moved his practice out of county. He should have been shut down for making a deal!

We have been getting some positive responses from our Facebook and emails on our web sites. Send us your opinion. tloury@att.net

WHAT SAY YOU?







Letters

Continued from page 5

death. Those with pre-existing conditions are being treated, but at the expense of the elderly, who are the sacrificial lambs. .Everyone does not win. As with everywhere else universal coverage has been tried, this is a failure as well. Citizens of the shining star, Sweden, must now buy insurance if they want health care that matters. Nothing is EVER for free, it cannot happen. You get what you pay for. Chairs in the grocery store, Drugstore, Walk in clinics. Nary a doctor in sight. Is this good enough? QUALITY be damned. Adequate be damned. Just so you can say the words health care, that is good enough.

Just because one is old does not mean they want to die. The old should have choice. Die? Not die? I have seen it happen. Friends allowed to die. The helplessness is unbearable. It happens to veterans, too. We lost 2 in our group.

Anyone know where or how we can find an uncorrupt government? Our founding fathers tried as hard as they knew how, but, alas; they failed. Ours is about as corrupt as they come.

Every few months more and more healthcare administration is being absorbed into a government bureaucracy. More bureaucrats, more control , more surveillance, more money, less and less for patient care. How does that benefit citizens? Is that O.K. with you ?

There is a pack of papers waiting for me, in order that I can attend my next appointment. If it keeps increasing, soon we all will become book authors. How much paperwork is too much, and why is it necessary? How does it make healthcare better?

Citizens are supposed to rule? Aren't we? Why are we ceding control to the government? Vote for people who think we are the ones with the brains, or are we?

D.I. L

Kitchen Habits Making You Sick?



Your Kitchen Habits Could Be Making You Sick

Following four simple steps at home -- Clean, Separate, Cook, and Chill -- can help protect you and your loved ones from food poisoning.

Clean:

- Wash your hands and surfaces often
- Germs that cause food poisoning can survive in many places and spread around your kitchen.
- Wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water before, during, and after preparing food and before eating.
- Wash your utensils, cutting boards, and countertops with hot, soapy water.
- Rinse fresh fruits and vegetables under running water.

Separate:

- Don't cross-contaminate
- Raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs can spread germs to ready-to-eat foods--unless you keep them separate.
- Use separate cutting boards and plates for raw meat, poultry, and seafood.
- When grocery shopping, keep raw meat, poultry, seafood, and their juices away from other foods.
- Keep raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs separate from all other foods in the fridge.

Cook:

- To the right temperature
- Food is safely cooked when the internal temperature gets high enough to kill germs that can make you sick. The only way to tell if food is safely cooked is to use a food thermometer. You can't tell if food is safely cooked by checking its color and texture.
- Use a food thermometer to ensure foods are cooked to a safe internal temperature.
- 145 F for whole cuts of beef, pork, veal, and lamb (then allow the meat to rest for 3 minutes before carving or eating)
- 160 F for ground meats, such as beef and pork
- 165 F for all poultry, including ground chicken and turkey
- 165 F for leftovers and casseroles
- 145 F for fresh ham (raw)
- 145 F for fin fish or cook until flesh is opaque

Chill:

- Refrigerate promptly
- Bacteria can multiply rapidly if left at room temperature or in the "Danger Zone" between 40 F and 140 F. Never leave perishable food out for more than 2 hours (or 1 hour if it's hotter than 90 F outside).
- Keep your refrigerator below 40 F and know when to throw food out
- Refrigerate perishable food within 2 hours. (If outdoor temperature is above 90 F, refrigerate within 1 hour.)
- Thaw frozen food safely in the refrigerator, in cold water, or in the microwave. Never thaw foods on the counter, because bacteria multiply quickly in the parts of the food that reach room temperature.

Attorney General Ashley Moody



Our **Back the Blue Campaign** continues to highlight individuals that take extraordinary steps to further build positive relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

This week, I traveled to Fort Myers to present a Back the Blue Award to School Resource Officer Donna Aiossa-McNally who serves at Buckingham Exceptional Student Center. Deputy Aiossa-McNally gave up her office and turned it into a food pantry so that special needs students could learn the shopping experience. By creating the food pantry, students are able to develop important vocational skills, build confidence when making decisions, and bring food home so they do not go hungry at night. This is especially significant at Buckingham because 78 percent of the students qualify for free or reduced lunches.

Deputy Aiossa-McNally is also working towards making the school's home economics kitchen ADA and wheelchair accessible. This would give students the opportunity to learn how to cook and make meals themselves from the items they picked at the food pantry.

School resource officers are important to the schools they serve in many ways. After visiting Buckingham, it was clear how valued Deputy Aiossa-McNally is by these students and the impact she has made at the school. She started this project by personally stocking shelves herself and is now partnered with Harry Chapin Food Bank. The food bank delivers 400 to 500 pounds of food to the school every Friday.

Thank you, Deputy Aiossa-McNally for going above and beyond your duties, for building a strong relationship between local law enforcement and your community, and for simply being the good person you are.

For more information about our Back the Blue Campaign and to nominate a law enforcement officer, citizen or organization for an award, MyFloridaLegal.com.

In closing, I would like to take a moment to recognize American's fallen heroes. Monday is Memorial Day, and as Floridians prepare to enjoy a long holiday weekend, let us not forget the courage and sacrifice of our military heroes who gave their lives, so we could live free.

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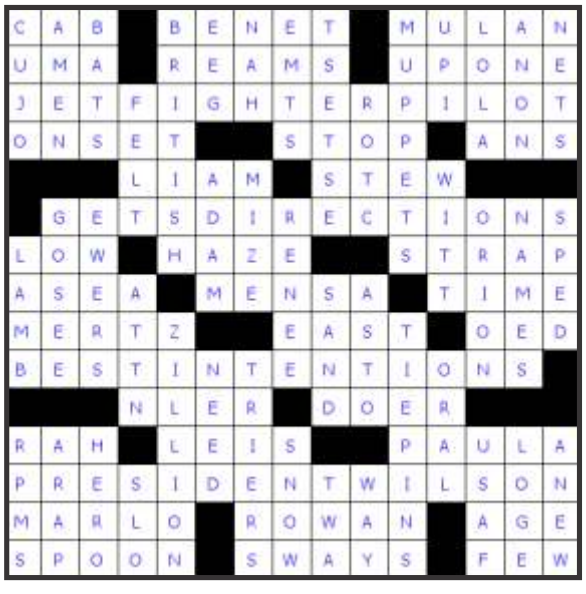
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