VILLAGE SPECTATOR.com The Villages, Sumter County, FL



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Taste of Wellness Expo



Here is a little history and information about the World of Wellness. Jean Sumner and Traci Brosman founded World Wellness Education in January, 2009, sharing a common mission of World Wellness Education's to educate the world about wellness

one story at a time. We do this by sharing peoples healing journeys through our TV show, Youtube videos, conference calls biweekly ezines, speaking engagements, and health fairs. We also have a Kids Outreach program where we go into schools, boys and

girls clubs meetings, boy scout and girl scout meetings. Our program is geared to teaching kids about the ingredients in their food, what is good food and what is bad food and where our food comes from. The Taste of Wellness is our major fund raiser's. The funds raised

at the Taste of Wellness allow us to continue to meet our mission.

We had 51 Vendors, hundreds of visitors, 11 sponsors 9 food vendors and many hands on specialists in the spa room where people

(Continued on Page 8)



When running the country, the current administration needs to make a priority list on who needs care first. What they are doing is self-serving and backwards from what history tells us.

VETERANS #1:

They put their life on the line for their country and need to be considered first for healthcare and Social Security. Remember, a veteran in his or her 80's is still willing to fight for their country.

SENIORS #2:

Way too many people underestimate seniors. First, seniors have experienced more than the youth and can give the youth a head start, if the youth will listen. Seniors have paid into the system for years with their money and the employer's matching money. What do the politicians do but raid the SS funds and then say it's going broke. I can't say enough about seniors and veterans. THEY NEED TO COME FIRST!

CHILDREN #3:

Children are our future. They should have a chance to choose their own religion, arithmetic. They should have recess (exercise) and music education. We should be teaching them how to take pride in what they do! SPORTS: Football should come

they should be taught reading, writing and last. The reason football is so important to the schools is because it is a source of revenue. Pro football is fine but don't let it injure the kids in high school and in college.

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EXPO Saturday February 15th See Tent Ad on Page 6 Vendors Call 352-753-6029

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GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS

SUPPORT OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS IN GOD WE TRUST

A.J. "Tony" Powell

As I SEE IT

-The New Year is a good time to review the reactions to President Obama's recent State of the Union speech, which was made to a joint session of Congress.

-As predicted, Republicans dismissed all and any achievements of the Democratic President and Senate. But I doubt that the White House is claiming any 'Home Runs' either. -The TV networks had only modest ratings which wouldn't keep a regular TV show on the air for very long.

-But these speeches seldom earn much public interest. Mostly, in my opinion, because Presidents boast about their very minor victories while their opponents dismiss and ridicule everything that has been said.

-In the meantime the needs and interest of the American People are ignored by both protagonists.

-Immigration reform is important to most people, who ask "Should 'illegal' immigrants be allowed to stay here?"

-That poses the problem that, even through the Republican Bush-League years in the White House, these people, got jobs and raised a family. Those children are American Born. So, do you arrest and deport the parents, and thereby, in effect, 'orphan' their American children?

-Seems ironic to me that Obama himself was not American-Born-of-American-parents, yet he shows no sympathy for those who have since followed his path.

-Deportations have soared during his White House Years, which has angered Hispanics/Latinos. Obama aides blame the Republican Congress for their inaction, but, on this issue Obama and Congress are united-"Get rid of the illegals". -Neither side seems to care about the devastating damage such actions have had, and will have, on farming and agriculture.

-Are there 'native-born' Americans who want to abandon welfare and unemployment benefits to go out into the fields and groves to pick citrus and produce for less-than-minimum wage? That I doubt.

-CNN reports that only 22% of the viewing public said they disliked the speech. And CBS poll shows over 80% of responding

viewers said they approved of Obama's proposals, and only 17 percent disapproved

-This is in stark contrast to news reports and most TV Pundits, even PBS, most of whom are vigorously pro-right-wing and are determined to give no credit for accomplishment to Obama, no matter how much the country recovers from the devastation of the Bush years.

-In fact, the most negative and vitriolic opponents that I've talk to admit that they didn't even watch the speech, or even read a transcript. "Don't need to", they say, "I know what he's about".

-But these 'negativo's have no answer to Obama's push for gender paycheck fairness (equal pay for equal work); or an increase in the minimum wage for honest, full-time workers who are being exploited by multimillion dollar executives of so many companies large and small.

-Obama also called for greater government support for better education, reasonable student loans, and expanded job training.

-From what I've read, many of the socalled 'swing voters' in the 'swing states' – received the basics of Obama's speech quite positively, ignoring all the 'quacking' coming from so many lawmakers, their aides and conservative hackers in Washington.

-How many reasonable, thinking people would disagree with Obama's stated positions (abbreviated below) on some of these issues?

"Women make up about half our workforce. But make 77 cents for every dollar a man earns". "A woman deserves equal pay for equal work". "She deserves to have a baby without sacrificing her job". "A mother deserves a day off to care for a sick child or sick parent"

-As I See It, this is your wife, your daughter, your grand-daughter he's talking about.

-In case you forgot, the very first bill Obama signed as President was the so-called 'Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act', which made it easier for women demand equitable pay.

-Most are not new issues. Obama steadfastly pursued improved job training, universal Pre-K, equal pay for equal work, gun control, more money for research and development. This is the President's agenda, and has been for some time.

-Right now there are more than 48 million people on food stamps, an all-time high, and the country's poverty rate has hovered at 15% for the past three years. But the unemployment rate has declined.

-At the same time, the rich keep getting richer. The richest 1% in the USA now take about 95% of available income. The Republicans answer is 'Reaganomics'. Give the rich a break so they'll net even more. Did work back then and will not work now.

-Even one conservative 'opinionators' had to admit, "A rare gift the president has. He's the only guy who can say, "We're going to some place better, follow me". He continued, "I think it's going to help him and the Democrats".

-President Obama also commented on the ongoing healthcare reforms.

He said,

"The American people aren't interested in re-fighting old battles". And challenged the Republicans, "If you have specific plans to cut costs, cover more people, and increase choice – tell America. Let's see if the numbers add up".

-Of course, Republicans have voted numerous times to retract parts of the 'OBAMA CARES' program. But, as usual, the media refuses to challenge these people. To me, the obvious question is, "If you're against 'OBAMA CARE' why are you on it?"

-As I See It, the Affordable Health Act is tax-payer subsidized health care for everyone. Almost all elected Republicans and government workers say that they are against it.

-Yet to me, they are all receiving those very benefits - Health Insurance Premiums which are reduced by subsidies from our income taxes.

-So, they are saying that 'Affordable Health Care' is OK for them, but not for us!

-I think 'two-faced, deceitful hypocrite is not too strong a description of these people.

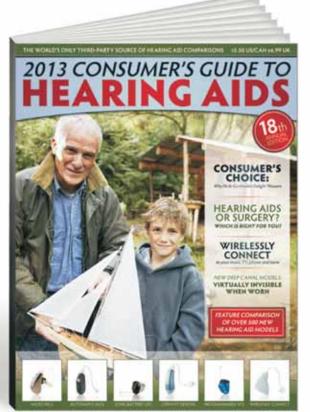
-If you're an American, you're entitled, by birthright, to a fair chance at health, wealth and happiness. If you're cursed with ill-health, through no fault of your own, then the citizenry will rally round and help. All will 'chip in' a few dollars, just-in-case it's

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⊨Tom Loury

Publisher's Notes



"Believe it or not!"

In my opinion!

I Wonder Who? I wonder Why? I Wonder if you will believe this?

How about this "Believe it or not!"

I ask myself first who is respon-

sible for the disastrous Obamacare website? Looking into it you will find a Princeton Classmate of Michelle Obama's, Toni Townes-Whitley, they were both members of the Association of the Black Princeton Alumni. Toni was the Senior Vice President of a Canadian company called CGI Federal. After President of CGI Federal became a contributor for the Obama Campaign 2012, they acquired the contract on the website which was never put up for bid!

CGI's previous experience the Canadian Company was building gun registry for the Canadian Government . When the bill got to \$100 million dollars CGI Federal was fired by the Candian Government.

Obamacare went from \$98 million dollars to where it is now \$678 million and still going up!

Here is a simple subparagraph taken out of the current healthcare act: - is there any

wonder where the confusion comes in?

1 Subparagraph (B) of section 6724(d) (1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to definitions), as amended by section 1502 is amended by striking "or" at the end of clause (xxiv) and inserting "or" and by inserting after clause (xxiv) the following new clause: "(xxv) section 6056 (relating to returns relating to large employers required to report on health coverage)."

Can anyone tell me what this subparagraph means?

Illinois: More people on welfare than there are people working. In the last six months there were more deaths (murders) in Chicago than in Iraq. Chicago has one of the strictest gun laws in the USA. They can't blame the republicans - there aren't any. Obama set up the economy of Illinois and now he is fixing the US. His friends? Ryan is in prison, Blagoyic in prison, Jesse Jackson Jr who is fighting not to go to prison. Maybe the United States should throw Illinois out of the union, or can we do that?

Oklahoma passed an amendment to put the ten commandments on the front entrance of the State Capital. They passed a law to arrest all illegal Immigrants and ship them back to where they came. Oklahoma also passed a law to include DNA samples from all illegals to put into the Oklahoma database. Oklahoma also voted to make all drivers license exams printed in English and all road signs are in English. There will be a population Explosion in Oklahoma in the future.

The President is trying to produce equal results instead of equal opportunity by squashing down the rich instead of giving the poor a lift up.

Veterans Should be Considered First for Health Care

(Continued from Page 1)

WELFARE #4:

Our country certainly does not guarantee welfare, food stamps, unemployment and/or FREE MONEY!

It broke my heart one day when I tried to give someone a job and they said "I'm sorry but I'm enjoying not working for a living!" I said the American way of life is to work for a living and they said "not anymore!" They're right, unwed mothers can have babies free, which encourages it. Illegal immigrants can come to our country and get aid for food and education when they can't get it in their own country. Our current administration is en-

couraging people to sign up for welfare. The land of opportunity is being fleeced by those who don't want to work and by those who are not supposed to be in this country.

PRIDE has taken a backseat to those who do not want to work! Can we survive this on slot? YES by changing our way of thinking! By bringing PRIDE back to Americans! Fight for smaller government and shorter terms in government. Make lawmakers live by the laws and perks they pass for the all of the citizens!

FIGHT FOR AMERICA, SHE IS WORTH IT!

Outrageous Flood Insurance Hikes

Governor Scott said, "President Obama has had more memorable speeches. But, in fairness, it's hard to top 'if you like your healthcare plan, you can keep your healthcare plan.' Unfortunately, what we didn't

hear tonight was how he would make healthcare more affordable by undoing his failed law or how he would undo the outrageous flood insurance hikes he forced on Floridians."

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12am, February 19th

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

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CCLUMNS are the opinions of the uniter and do not more saily reflect the opinion of The Village Spectator, and an elected to represent a diversity of views on local issues. The news copy on page 4 is not more saily the opinion of the Poblisher only.

Thomas L. Croley, M.D. CARING FOR YOUR EYES



By Thomas L. Croley, M.D.

Board Certified Ophthalmologist

Director of Central Florida Eye Institute

"Visual Emergency or Normal Visual Changes"

Life is too short

to lose sight of the big picture. As we have birthdays our eyes require more attention. For healthy eyes a complete eye examination can help protect your eyesight.

Sudden changes in your vision are not normal. A sudden visual decrease as well as a sudden onset of eye pain must be addressed immediately. If you notice an abrupt significant decrease in your vision you may require prompt attention to help ensure recovery of your sight or to help stop further decrease. Abrupt changes such as vision loss in one eye, sudden cloudy or hazy vision, severe pain, flashing lights and numerous floaters are signs of conditions that may require immediate attention and treatment.

Gradual decrease in vision or vision that fluctuates may be normal due to the aging process. An example of normal vision decrease may be difficulty in reading or working on a computer after the age of 45-50; looking down to read and not being able to see anything is not a gradual decrease. Seeing a floater or two may be perfectly normal; seeing dozens or hundreds is not a normal

visual disturbance.

Your eyes and their health may be affected by many different conditions including, but not limited to, aging, medical conditions, and environment. Comprehensive eye examinations can help protect the health of your eyes but may not always prevent unwanted situations from happening. Vision can be affected by diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol, poor circulation as well as many other conditions such as trauma, family history and recurring birthdays.

If you experience sudden changes in vi-

sion or sudden pain you should contact your ophthalmologist without hesitation. In some, but not all situations sudden vision loss may be recovered if treated promptly. The sooner you report your condition to your ophthalmologist, the higher your chance is of stabilizing or improving your condition.

Early detection, diagnosis and treatment can help maintain good vision for a lifetime and can be done during a complete eye examination. Some conditions require additional testing to help provide you with the best overall treatment. Don't miss a single day of good sight.

A.J. "Tony" Powell

As I SEE IT

(Continued from Page 2)

needed

-What would you call a system where everyone pools some money, just in case it's

needed by one of us in the future? Sounds like insurance to me. . . .

Til next time. . . .

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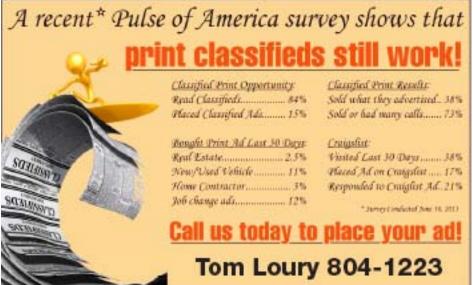
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It's a New Day!
Encouraging
news came in a recent study of the
financial health of
state governments
and Florida led
among large states
when reviewing factors of fiscal sound-

ness. This fiscal soundness has led to Florida's improved bond rating, saving millions in the cost of bonded projects across the state. It has also set up conditions for con-

tinued job growth and decline of unemployment. Latest revenue estimates for Florida's state budget projects 1.2 billion increase, opening the way for tax relief, primarily on motor vehicle fees that were dramatically increased to help cover the budget hole during recession. Florida is proof positive "living within your means" is sound planning for economic renewal.

It's a New Day in Florida and the folks at home are doing better. And when the folks at home can do better, there is nothing a little prosperity won't help. North Central Florida is poised for continued healthy growth.

We have hard-working determined folks at home to thank and we can also thank leaders who work on principles instead of pressure. We hope this will encourage many more Floridians and entrepreneurs to make 2014 the year of recovery.

Meanwhile, let's all give thanks for a year

of new beginnings and may the hardships of recession make us wiser, stronger, and more determined and grateful. The American Dream of hard work and determination yielding opportunity is in renewal. Let's be thankful that it is "A New Day!"

Image

By TomL

When looking in the dictionary under image there are many descriptions. The one I'm looking for is a mental picture, in other words what is your image or, more importantly, what do you think others think your image is.

When looking in the dictionary under prospective it says expected or anticipates. This word is underrated in the dictionary. It deserves more description.

Short story: When I worked for a corporation which employed about 400 people, the upper corporation realized that they needed to change their image starting with the employees. When you change the image of 400 people, it will help with your image in the public's eye.

Corporate started with an open door policy for employees, so that employees could communicate their frustrations of the every day job. Scenario, employee goes to Personnel Director and complains about a person, another employee or their boss. The complaint is supposed to be confidential. How can the personnel director fix the problem if he or she can't tell the person or boss who complained and why? This is where it is mishandled most of the time.

What I'm driving at is what you are trying to achieve as your image can be changed on how you are "perceived" - new word. It comes down to how you are perceived by your employees, customers, the general public, etc. How you are perceived is how to change your image.

When you are trying to change your image ask questions of people who think the worst of you. Ask them one by one about why they think the company is their enemy. You will hear "they tried to cheat me on my hours" or "they tried to cheat me on my pay". First thing I ask is who is they? Another complaint is they tell me to do a job that is beneath me. Then I ask who is supposed to do the task? People (employees) do not think the way you do, in fact no one person thinks the same!

Remember when you want people to project the image of your company it might only take an explanation on why you did something or why you want it done your way and very important, be consistent.

What prospective customers think of your company is very important!



Happy Valentines Day



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Dr. Dulgar



DO YOU KNOW 3D PRINT-ING?

Last month I gave you ten things you could do to make your 2014 the best year that it can be. The beauty of these things was that they were

things you can do yourself, to yourself, without going anywhere or necessarily buying anything additional. I gave you those things because it seems we are all caught up in our fast paced world buying things and going places, but sometimes don't take the

time to take care to do the simple things to and for ourselves, like taking the time to reflect, pray, eat better, exercise, laugh, read books, forgive, giving thanks daily for your many blessings, etc.

I did this because we are living in challenging, but yet exciting times that can keep us from doing these simple, but very effective, things that can make us happier and healthier. The acceleration of our technological capabilities gives us great opportunities but also great risks, risks that can affect you, your family, and your happiness in the future. Case in point is the advent of 3D PRINTING. For those of you not familiar with this technology, let me explain. Most of us are familiar with the term as it

relates to HD and 3D with TV's and movies, computer and phones. In the physical universe 3D refers to the three dimensions: height, width, and depth. 3D technologies in the TV, movie, computer and phone industry have actually been around for quite a while, but have gained popularity in recent years as it makes the experience seem more real. This has contributed to the great boom in sales of these technologies. They are great additions to our lives, but we have also paid a price with these, as studies show that young people are spending more time with their "technologies" that participating and interacting with other people.

Now 3D PRINTING adds a whole new dimension to the future of our society, economy, and the way we look at and interact with the rest of the world. You can now buy

a machine that can actually make things before your very eyes. All you need are the raw materials and a "blueprint" to do it. This is amazing (kind of like Star Trekish!), but the implications are tremendous and far ranging. For example, if you are members of your family are in the manufacturing business, do you know the future implications of this technology? Right! You better get out of the manufacturing business and get into the raw resources business! Get my drift? Right now the technology is in its infancy and most of what is being "made" are simple things from plastics. But the future is limitless. There are companies springing up all over that are blueprint sites (eg. "thingiverse") where you can go and but the blueprints for what you want to make.

(Continued on Page 10)





Brody

By TomL

Christmas season two years ago I was blow away by a picture of a young man reading our newspaper. The cutline back then read "Brody Reads Our Paper." Commissioner Dan Vincent took Grandson Brody, age 2-1/2, to the Town Hall to watch the school children decorate the Christmas tree. Brody's interest was only in the Lady Lake Magazine. Photos by Sharon Vincent, grandmother will cause you to crack a smile. Guess starting them young could be a great way to increase the readership in the publication. Sharon and Brody say "we're certainly sold!"

Fast forward two years and guess what? I ran into Brody at a ribbon cutting just before Christmas, now he is two years older, what a handsome guy. I showed Brody his picture on an ad we have been running. I said "you're famous", he said "yes, I'm going to cut my picture out and take it to school." Grandmother reminded Brody next week was the P's, I guess they learn a letter each week and how to use it. We started listing them paper, picture, print, photo and suggesting many of the possibilities. It was sure good to see Brody, Dan Vincent and Sharon Vincent, Brody's grandparents . Thanks for letting us use his picture in our papers.

World Wellness Presents . . . Taste of Wellness Expo

(Continued from Page 1)

could experience some great stuff, Massage, Acupuncture, Detoxifying Foot Baths, Structural Therapy Adjustments, Angel Card Readings, Testing for heart health.

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Dr. Dulgar

(Continued from Page 7)

This will, of course, end of lot of retail sales stores. And if you think that the Internet affected retail sales via Amazon, EBay, etc. wait until this future technology really gets a foothold.

And speaking of "foothold", what about its application to bioscience? They are already producing synthetic transplant parts, like noses, ears, fingers, artificial organs, via "bioprinting". Wow! Do you see what I mean? The beauty here is that the medical service industry will not be at great risk yet, as it will be impossible to have your chiropractor replaced anytime soon, so don't think you're going to get rid of me yet, as there are no robots that can do what I do or tell the good jokes! Next month we will delve further in this technology. I ask you to "Google" the term and research it for yourself. We will also start a discussion of the other dimensions that are out there beyond these three, starting with time...J

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■—ONE PERSON'S OPINION =

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor

It is time for all United States Citizens to get out and vote. If you think things are tough now just wait and see what happens if Obama's immigration bill passes. It is time we start taking care of our own here.

I don't have Obama care but I still have had to face increases in my health care due to his.

It isn't fair for us to have to pay for all the illegal's that are in this country. We pay for their health care, food stamps welfare and whatever else they need. Making them legal is not going to help things. This Country is stretched beyond it's limits. This is because a man became President who doesn't have the experience nor the background or education to handle it. He believes in sharing the wealth, taking from the rich and giving to the poor. It doesn't work that way, it has already been tried. Just when is America going to say NO?

Harry Reid, Nancy Pelosi and numerous others including republicans have lined their pockets with our money, and I don't see them sharing their wealth. President Obama has more corrupt people in the white house than anyone has ever had and they get paid with our money. He holds no one responsible for anything not even himself. Remember FAST & FURIOUS, BENGHAZI, NSA, IRS. Count the dead in Benghazi, border patrol agents and remember all this when it

comes time to vote. America's voters have very short memories.

PL

To the editor

"Americans are so enamored of equality that they would rather be equal in slavery than unequal in freedom." ~Alexis de Tocqueville

Remember in October, 2008, when candidate Barack Obama promised his acolytes that they were only "five days away from * fundamentally transforming the United States of America (Preview) *"? Granted, it's taken longer than five days; but here five years into his presidency in the country's history, we can see that fundamental transformation at work just about everywhere... and now he's fundamentally transforming the military.

I apparently I don't understand the words "uniform" and "standards" The idiot who conquered up this folly does not understand the word DISIPLIN nor does he understand the results you get when there is a lack of DISIPLIN--we'll just have a hodge-podge mix of disparate attire. Just as "multi-culture" means no unifying culture, so too we'll see the dis-unifying of the military. Divide and conquer little by little. This is not a good idea, in my opinion.

"The immediate commander can approve (at his peril) some of the religious accom-

modation, but some will have to be kicked up to higher headquarters." This just opens the door to feelings of resentment...and further lowing of morale.

Dear Village Spectator

I have spent eight Decembers as a renter in the Villages, Florida. I'll soon sell my home in Michigan and intend to live full time in the Villages after that.

I can come up with only one complaint about the Villages. It's the grossly inconsiderate people who take their dogs somewhere other than they're own property or the provided dog parks to deposit their daily "business".

In conjunction with the sanitation and aesthetics issues involved with dog droppings along the streets and in community areas. It's a matter of consideration for other residents. After all, once the dog's walks away from the deposit, how much difference is there between that deposit and, oh let's say, a human one?

When approach on this subject, some say they have to take their dog for a "walk". But the "walk" ends as soon as the dog does his/her business somewhere other than at home. Other owners reply, "I pick it up". If picking it up makes everything fine, why not pick it up from their own property? Further, they can't pickup enough of it to prevent that spot becoming a bulletin board for other dogs. Many of us feel that dogs should be taught

to take care of the function at home before the walk.

In the event I ever get to live permanently in the Villages, I will be making a big "stink" about this.

E

"Americans are so enamored of equality that they would rather be equal in slavery than unequal in freedom." ~Alexis de Tocqueville

PAY ATTENTION!!

"But after seven straight years of decline, the U.S. has dropped out of the top 10 most economically free countries. . . . Those losing freedom, on the other hand, risk economic stagnation, high unemployment and deteriorating social conditions."

Does any of that sound familiar? And yet our supposed leaders shilly-shally around, trying to score advantage for re-election instead of taking the hard steps to economic stability and growth. Meanwhile the clueless public is easily distracted by a baseball player suing because his suspension for doping is too harsh. Bread and Circuses...meanwhile, we're spiraling down. We're not even in the top 10; but it wasn't that long ago we were #1, the example to be emulated.

America's Dwindling Economic Freedom

Regulation, taxes and debt knock the U.S. out of the world's top 10.

Happy Valentines Day

New Website Offers Free Classifieds for The Villages

THE VILLAGES, FL — A new website offers residents of The Villages a way to buy and sell for free.

The new classified website, Villages4sale.com, is published by the same company that has produced Ocala4sale.com since 1998.

The online marketplace is a place to buy and sell homes, cars, boats, RVs, furniture and more. Private sellers can post classifieds for free.

"Many people have asked us to launch a website exclusively for The Villages and surrounding communities. We're excited to make that happen," said publisher and co-founder Michael Warren.

"We believe every community deserves a great online marketplace. Our team works hard to provide excellent local support for individuals as well as businesses. We also review our listings to eliminate a lot of the spam and scams associated with sites like Craigslist." People who have previously used Ocala4sale will find the new site much different.

"It's not a clone of Ocala4sale. Villages4sale.com is an entirely new platform. We're looking toward the future. More of our buyers and sellers are using smart phones and tablets to access our websites. This new site is a step in that direction."

Sellers can use smart phones and tablets to easily post items for sale. Basic listings are free. Business advertisers will enjoy special promotional opportunities during the next 90 days. Those interested should contact LuAnne Warren, sales manager, more information.

To post a classified ad by phone or to learn more about Villages4sale.com simply visit the website or call (352) 633-4623.



Cracker Days - 2014

It's a new year! But you are invited to return to YEASTERYEAR when life on the Florida frontier was marked by hard work, handwork, resourcefulness and patience. Come to Rainbow Springs State Park on US 41, about a mile north of Dunnellon, where the Friends of Rainbow Springs State Park (FORS) bring yesteryear to life on Saturday and Sunday, February 22nd and 23rd, from 9am to 4pm. Park Admission is \$2.00 per person with children 5 and under free.

With the beautiful Rainbow River as a backdrop, weavers, spinners, tatters, embroiderers, knitters, crocheters and rug-makers work alongside basket makers, pine needle crafters, doll makers, a potter and a cooper. Fly-tying, corn grinding, wood carving and more add to the educational focus this event provides for all ages. And don't forget to learn about Dessie, the frontier woman who hunted wild boar, deer and bear, built her own cabin and called fishing tackle boxes "hopechests".

Hop on board the tram and head out to the Cracker Camp where pioneer living and frontier skills reveal what life was like for our forebears. Hear their stories, watch biscuits being prepared in an oven over an open fire, see how butter is made learn how the candles they needed for light were made, play some pioneer games, watch the blacksmith pound iron into useful shapes and note how a broom maker constructs a good, sturdy broom for sweeping.

Do you enjoy pioneer music? Visit Felburn Pavillion and listen for strolling musicians. Hungry? Lots of good eats will be at the park concession stand, Big Lou's BBQ, Jack's Cool Treats and Ruppert's Kettle Korn and Fry Bread. Find hands-on activities interesting? Play ring toss, try your hand with a lasso, make a wagon train doll to take home while supplies last, and see how long you can keep playing bean bag double can.

Want to take a keepsake home? Visit the park gift shop, select from the clever crafts made by the park's own Crafty Ladies (they will be along the sidewalk as you approach the toll booth), and don't miss the items some of our demonstrators will be selling. Do you wish to add some plants native to Florida to your garden or yard? They, too, will be for sale along the entry walkway.

FORS and Park Staff invite you to come to Cracker Days, 2014. A dedicated group of volunteers will greet you and be on hand to help make your experience an enjoyable one. Mark your calendars -the last weekend in February!

The bird walk led by Citrus County Audubon president, Fred Hileman scheduled for February 22nd will meet this month at 8am at the Tubing Facility parking lot located a mile north of Hwy 484 on SW 180 Avenue Road.

Historic Funding for Education

Legislators Applaud Governor Scott's Historic Funding for Public Schools, State Colleges and State Universities in "It's Your Money Tax Cut Budget"

Senator Bill Galvano said, "I applaud Governor Scott's continued commitment to Florida's education system. From K-12, through higher education, our students deserve the best. I am confident with continued support from the state level, our students will be well prepared for future success."

Senator John Legg said, "Governor Scott recognizes that our economic future is tied to education, and he is proposing a very wise investment in the future of our state. It is important to support our teachers and students, from kindergarten through higher education, and I applaud the Governor on today's historic announcement."

Representative Marlene O'Toole said, "I applaud the Governor for helping to improve Florida's economy by bringing new jobs to the state, which, in turn, has increased tax revenues and allowed this level of investment in education. An investment that produces higher graduation rates and better-prepared students is a smart one for the people of Florida."

Representative Elizabeth Porter said, "Governor Scott's commitment to helping improve Florida's colleges and universities shows his dedication to our future work-

force. This increase in performance funding will help to make Florida the best state in the nation for a higher education that results in a successful career."

Representative Erik Fresen said, "Today's announcement of funding for K-12 education is great news for our students and teachers. I applaud Governor Scott for his continued commitment to education."

Representative Janet Adkins said, "Education is the one gift we can give our children that no one can ever take away. The proposed increase in the K-12 Education Budget is an investment in building a strong workforce that can compete and innovate in a global economy. I believe this investment in Florida's children will serve Florida's growing demand for a skilled workforce."

Representative Jeanette Nuñez said, "The most important investment we can make is in the future generations of Floridians. I applaud Governor Scott for offering ideas to enhance our education system so we can prepare our students for success in college or a career."

Representative Michael Bileca said, "I applaud Governor Scott's commitment to both jobs and education. He truly understands that a talented and educated workforce begins in the classroom. This investment in education will help to further Florida's education achievements."







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