

West Marion Moose Lodge

Sunday - Open darts and other indoor games and football on televisions from noon-7 p.m.

Tuesday - Light meals from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. for \$5 and \$6 (menu varies)

Wednesday - Bar Bingo at 6 p.m.

Thursday - Shuffleboard at 6:30 p.m.

Friday - Fish (fried or baked), fried shrimp or baked chicken with baked potato or French fries and salad or Cole slaw from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. for \$8 and entertainment from 6 p.m.-10 p.m.

2nd Saturday of the Month - Taco Buffet from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. for \$6.

4th Saturday of the Month - Dinner from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. see fliers at our lodge.

Saturday - College football on televisions

Sunday - Dec. 31 welcome in the New Year in the social quarters 7-??, bring a dish to share and enjoy the music and socializing.

West Marion Moose Lodge, 10411 SW 110th St. Phone 352-854-2200. Open to members and guests only.

VFW events

Non-smoking post.

Bingo is played on Mondays with games beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wednesday and Friday dinners are open to the public and served from 4 to 6 p.m. Prices and menu varies. Wednesday dinners are PRE-SALE ONLY. Tickets are available in the canteen. Second & fourth Fridays are fried fish or chicken. No dinners first, third and fifth Fridays.

Saturday breakfast is served from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and is open to the public.

Saturday, Dec. 30, Cocktails at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. & dance music by Lou Katz until 11 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 31, join the fun at the New Year's Eve celebration in the canteen with entertainment from 7 p.m. to midnight.

Hall rental and catering is available, call 352-873-4781 for further information.

The VFW Post 4781 Honor Guard is available to provide military honors to a fallen veteran. For further information contact the Post at 352-873-4781.

Angela S. Santos VFW Post 4781, 9401 SW 110th St. Telephone 352-873-4781. You can also follow us on Facebook - Angela Santos VFW Post 4781.

Jobless rate in November edges upward in area

The unemployment rate for November in the CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion region edged up 0.4 percentage point over the month to 4.6 percent, after two months of holding steady. The rate was 1.3 percentage points lower than the region's rate of a year ago.

According to today's release of the preliminary jobs report by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, the region's labor force grew over the year by 185 to 198,788 and there were 9,151 unemployed, an increase of 788 over the month but a drop of 2,602 compared to the previous year.

Levy County continued to hold the lowest unemployment rate in the region at 4.0 percent, followed by Marion County at 4.4 percent and Citrus County at 5.3 percent. The state's not seasonally adjusted rate rose slightly to 3.8 percent and the national rate held at 3.9 percent.

In November, nonfarm employment in the Ocala metropolitan statistical area was 104,900, an increase of 1,300 jobs (1.3 percent) over the year.

Kathleen Woodring, CareerSource CLM's executive vice president, said, "At first glance, we may be tempted to say there's not much good news in Santa's bag

with this report. But maybe we need a visit from the Ghost of Christmas (Jobs Reports) Past to put this in perspective."

Woodring noted that, each November's report for the last five years shows a similar pattern - slight increases in the unemployment rate over the month coupled with drops in both the number of unemployed and the size of the labor force.

"It's true, at this time of year, we might expect seasonal hires to have a greater impact, but the best measure of how we're doing is to see where we were in November 2016 when the unemployment rate was 5.9 percent," she said, noting that over the year, the number of those with jobs in the region has increased by 2,787, the number of unemployed has dropped by 2,602 and the labor force has expanded by 185.

Levy County continued to hold the lowest unemployment rate at 3.6 percent, 0.1 percentage point lower than the previous month; followed by Marion County at 4.0 percent, also down 0.1 percent. Citrus County's rate held at 4.9 percent.

DEO's preliminary data shows marginal increases in the number of unemployed combined with a larger drop in the number of those with jobs which led to contraction of the labor force across the board.

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