



PHOTOS BY SUE PERRY

Stone Creek Veterans at Wreaths Across America

Members of the Stone Creek Veterans took part in the recent Wreaths Across America at Highland Memorial Park. At right is Commander Bob Dreisch. See story on Page A6.

reviewed textbooks in 17 subject areas at all grade levels. Their recommendations were then presented to Superintendent Dr. Heidi Maier.

Maier will present her recommendations to the Marion County School Board in early 2018. The public online access window to view copies of all recommended student editions, now required by state law, is open and available at www.marionschools.net. Individuals wanting to review and comment on proposed textbooks should click the "Recommended Textbook Adoption Information Here" under the "Important Messages" tab. Comments may be presented in person to the School Board at a Jan. 9 public hearing. The Board will vote on all recommended titles on Feb. 13. Following the Board vote, a 30-day objection window opens to the public. If necessary, a public hearing on all formal objections will be held in March, as required by state law.

For more information, call 352-867-2121.

Jobless rate for November climbs slightly

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

See JOBLESS on Page A4

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JOBLESS

Continued from Page A1

a fun activity that is healthy physically and
ly in a wholesome, smoke-free environment.
ormation contact Norm 873-1734 or Tony 861-

day, Jan. 14

Symphony at Countryside

n the New Year with an afternoon of wonder-
c! Sunday, Jan 14 at 3 p.m., the Ocala Youth
ny will present a concert at Countryside Pres-
Church, 7768 SW State Road 200, Ocala. Mu-
ange in age from 10 to 18 and play a variety of
everyor e. Come and listen to their musical
and see what is right with the youth of Mar-
ty. Selections include a classical work by
ldi, contemporary music by DelBorgo and
and a selection from Pirates of the Carib-
ing a friend! Call 237-4633.

eday, Jan. 18

ogical Society meeting

Marion County Genealogical Society will meet
Jan. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Marion County Pub-
y, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd. in Ocala. A
ness meeting will be followed by the Janu-
m "Understanding and Using Your Autos-
Test Results" by Drew Smith.
her information, contact Joel Swanson at
40 or president@mcgsocala.org.

y, Jan. 21

ety to perform

a Jazz Society invites you to join them on
l. 21, from 2 to 5 p.m. for its monthly perfor-
wing, Big Band, Dixieland, 50s and all your

orward to seeing you at the smoke-free
781, 9401 SW 110th St., across from Oak
nd performs on the third Sunday of each
donation for Hospice is appreciated. For
237-0234, ocalajazzsociety@yahoo.com.

perspective."

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

"It's true, at this time of year, we might expect sea-
sonal hires to have a greater impact, but the best mea-
sure 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 num-
ber 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 unem-
ployment 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.

Last month, Citrus County's labor force shrank by
52 - a much smaller drop than the 1,106 reported in
October - to 46,937, the number of employed de-
creased by 254 to 44,441 and the number of those with-
out jobs rose by 207 to 2,496. That is 690 fewer
unemployed and nearly 100 more than in November
2016 when the jobless rate was 6.7 percent.

Levy County's labor force decreased by 141 to
16,794, the number of employed dropped by 197 to
16,128 and the number of unemployed increased by 56
to 666. That's 275 fewer unemployed than a year ago
when the jobless rate was 5.2 percent. That is 194
fewer unemployed than the previous year when the
rate was 5.1 percent.

Marion County saw its labor force fall by 288 to
135,057, the number of employed decreased by 813 to
129,068 and the number of jobless rose by 525 to 5,989.
Compared to November 2016 when the jobless rate
was 5.8 percent, the labor force has expanded by 720,
the number of employed increased by 2,458 and the
number of unemployed dropped by 1,738.

Among the counties, Citrus County held the third
highest unemployment rate; Marion County contin-
ued to hold the 13th highest, tied again with Dixie and
Holmes counties; and Levy County