

VETERANS

11th annual ‘veteran-friendly’ job fair set

Paychecks for Patriots is scheduled for Nov. 9

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

OCALA — CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion will hold a “Paychecks for Patriots” job fair on Thursday, Nov. 9 as part of a statewide effort to connect Florida veterans with employment opportunities.

The free job fair takes place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Marion County Public Library Headquarters, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd., in Ocala. While Paychecks for Patriots is open to all job seekers, priority is given to veterans and active service members as well as their military families.

For fastest access, attendees are encouraged to register in advance at bit.ly/HIRINGHEROES.

Henry Ayala, retired US army and a local veteran employment representative for CareerSource CLM, said that Paychecks for Patriots features local employers with immediate jobs to fill who value the knowledge, skills, and abilities developed during military service.

“CareerSource CLM is honored to serve those who have proudly served our country,” Ayala said. “They bring dedication, a special set of skills, and diversity to Florida’s workforce.”



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In addition to a variety of “veteran-friendly” businesses such as Fidelity Manufacturing, Right at Home Nature Coast, and the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners, Paychecks for Patriots features:

- Free job fair preparation clinic on Monday, Oct. 30 from 1-3 p.m. at the CareerSource CLM Career

Center. The center’s Clothes Closet will be open at no charge for those interested in selecting attire for the job fair.

- In partnership with Ocala SunTran, bus fare tokens for veterans in need of transportation to and from the event will be available starting on Oct. 30. The tokens will be distributed on a first-come,

first-serve basis at Ocala Ritz Veterans Village, 111 NE 12th Ave.; Marion County Veterans Services Office, 2730 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Suite #100, Ocala; Silver Springs Shores VFW Post 4493, 11100 SE Maricamp Road, Candler; and CareerSource CLM’s Career Center, 2703 NW 14th St., in Ocala.

CareerSource CLM’s Paychecks for Patriots takes along with similar hiring events held throughout the month in other CareerSource Florida regions. It is presented in partnership with the Florida National Guard, Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs, and FloridaCommerce, formerly the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. The local job fair is supported Ocala’s SunTran, Inverness-based BIVOUAC Veteran’s News, and the Marion County Public Library System.

Those unable to attend Paychecks for Patriots may apply for open positions online at www.employflorida.com. A special employment portal of information and resource links for Florida veterans is also available at <https://veteran.employflorida.com>

In addition, CareerSource CLM offers Priority of Service year-round to veterans and eligible spouses at all CareerSource CLM career centers. Fee-free staff assistance, job referral and placement, resources and other employment services are available weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Career Centers in Ocala, Lecanto and Chiefland.

For more information about Paychecks for Patriots or CareerSource CLM’s year-round Veterans Services, call 800-434-5627, ext. 2225.

Veterans Appreciation Week honors our local heroes

Parade is set to return this year on Nov. 11

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Citrus County’s 31st annual Veterans Appreciation Week will be celebrated from Oct. 28 through Nov. 12. This year’s theme, “Citrus County Honors the 50th Anniversary of Vietnam,” pays tribute to the men and women veterans of the Vietnam War.

From Oct. 30 through Nov. 10, local veterans will visit Citrus County classrooms to share their experiences and adventures with students as part of the award-winning Veterans in the Classroom Program.

The scheduled activities kick off with free weekend concerts by the Nature Coast Community Band (NCCB) on Oct. 28 and 29. The week’s highlight is the Veterans Day Parade and Veterans Day Memorial Service on Nov. 11 in the host city of Inverness.



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The week concludes Nov. 12 with a free Veterans Appreciation Breakfast, 8-11 a.m., hosted by the Inverness Elks Lodge 2522.

Scheduled activities requiring

registration (spectators/attendees do not have to register):

- Veterans in the Classroom, Monday, Oct. 30 thru Friday, Nov. 10. Registration is closed.
- Massing of the Colors,

Sunday, Oct. 29, 3 p.m., Seven Rivers Church, Lecanto. Organizations participating with national and organizational colors are requested to register.

- Veterans Day Parade, Saturday, Nov. 11, 10 a.m., Main St., Inverness. Staging begins 8:30 a.m. at CHS parking area. Enter from Highland Boulevard. Parade participants must register. Register online at <http://veteransofcitruscounty.com> or download registration form and mail to Citrus County Chronicle no later than Oct. 25.
- Scheduled activities NOT requiring registration:
- Veterans Day Tribute, Saturday, Nov. 4, 10 a.m. Veterans Memorial, Old Homosassa.
- Veterans Appreciation Concert, Saturday, Nov. 4, 3 p.m. NCCB, Citrus Springs Community Center.
- Military Ball, Saturday, Nov. 4, 5:30 p.m. Sugarmill Woods Country Club, Homosassa. Public invited. \$50 pp; call

352-410-9215 for tickets.

- Veterans Appreciation Concert, Sunday, Nov. 5, 3 p.m. NCCB, Seven Rivers Church, Lecanto.
- Women Veterans Appreciation Luncheon, Wednesday, Nov. 8, 12 p.m. Hosted by Crystal River Woman’s Club, 320 N. Citrus Ave, Crystal River. For reservations call 352-746-2396.
- Veterans Program, Thursday, Nov 9, 2 p.m. Inverness Primary School, 206 S. Line Ave., Inverness. All veterans and their guests welcome.
- Veterans Day Memorial Service, Saturday, Nov. 11, following parade, Old Courthouse Heritage Museum, Inverness.
- Veterans Appreciation Luncheon, Saturday, Nov. 11, following memorial service at the Inverness Depot. Hosted by Operation Welcome Home.
- Veterans Appreciation Breakfast, Sunday, Nov. 12, 8-11 a.m. Hosted by Inverness Elks Lodge No. 2522, Hernando.

VETERANS NOTES

Veterans Notes are only for special events that are open to the public. To find out about regularly scheduled post activities that welcome the public during the week, including entertainment and menus, call the post. For information about post members-only activities, call the individual posts for a schedule. Call the individual posts regarding meeting times and dates. Contributed notices must be submitted by Wednesday afternoon before publication the following Sunday.

Do you have an extra wheelchair?

VFW Post 8189 in Homosassa is in need of any wheelchair that you no longer use. They have given out so many to those in need that their supply is now low.

Drop off at the post located at 8856 W. Veterans Drive, Homosassa. For more information, call 352-795-5012.

DAV 70 announces new meeting location

Effective Nov. 1, the Disabled Veterans of America (DAV) Chapter 70 new meeting location is the Citrus County Veterans Coalition building located at 1081 N. Paul Drive, Inverness.

DAV Chapter 70 meets the second Tuesday of each



month at 1 p.m. The DAV Chapter 70 Service Officer is also available at the new location every Tuesday morning from 9:30 a.m. to noon to provide VA claims assistance.

Any disabled veteran or Purple Heart recipient interested in becoming a member of DAV Chapter 70 should call or text Joe McClister at 802-378-0256.

Tribute Bikes to be at Veterans Memorial

On Saturday, Nov. 4, for a Veterans Day tribute, two Military Tribute Bikes will be on display from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Homosassa Veterans Memorial located in old Homosassa, 10935 W. Yulee Drive, Homosassa.

For more information about the event, contact Darrick Buettner at 352-726-1931 ext. 2241.

Show Me the Money held weekly

Join the Harry F. Nesbitt VFW Auxiliary Post 10087 in Beverly Hills for Show Me the Money on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. at the post, 2170 W. Vet Lane, Beverly Hills.

Cards on the table at 4:30 p.m. Dinner is served at 4 p.m. for a small donation of \$5 a plate.

Join in for fun and new friends. Open to the public.

VFW scholarship program accepting applications

Since 1947, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) has had a premier scholarship program, Patriot’s Pen, which is open to sixth through eighth grade levels, and the Voice of Democracy, which is open to grades nine through 12.

This year, the theme for Patriot’s Pen is: How are you inspired by America? The theme for Voice of Democracy is: What are the greatest attributes of our democracy?

Patriot’s Pen is an essay of 300-400 words. The grand prize is \$5,000 at the national level.

The Voice of Democracy is a written essay with an audio recording lasting three to five minutes of the

original essay on a flash drive. The grand prize at the national level is \$35,000.

Application forms are available through your school or any VFW Post. The deadline for submissions to a VFW Post is Oct.

31. There are 10 VFW Posts in Citrus County. Each post will judge and send the local VFW’s first winning application to the VFW District by Nov. 15. The district will judge and send up to the State Chair by Dec. 15.

CCVC here to help veterans

The Citrus County Veterans Coalition normal operating hours are every

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Trunk or Treat

You're invited to have a goulish good time!

Open to the Public

Bring the Family

October 28th, 2023 – 9 AM to 11 AM

with

The Blanton-Thompson American Legion Post 155 Family

6585 W. Gulf To Lake Highway, Crystal River, Florida

352-795-6526