

Outdoor Times



MARION COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION
IT STARTS IN PARKS

Volume 16, Issue 1

February 2009

Special Olympics at Brick City Adventure Park



The 2009 Special Olympics - County Summer Games for Adult Athletes is scheduled to be held at Brick City

Adventure Park on Monday, February 23 with a rain date of Tuesday, February 24. Approximately 150 athletes are expected to participate.

"It is an honor to host this event at Brick City Park," stated Commissioner Mike Amsden. *"The determination, courage and skill of every athlete is impressive to watch."*

In its 41st year, the Special Olympics offers 2.5 million athletes in more than 180 countries around the world the opportunity to compete in a variety of sports.

Brick City Park is located at 1211 SE 22 Road in Ocala.

For more information, please contact Lynn Brantley, Special Olympics Coordinator at 352-671-1434.

USSSA Travel Ball Tournament

The Rotary Sportsplex attracts thousands of participants and spectators to its park each year.

"This year the Sportsplex has been selected to host a Southeast Regional tournament for 7-8 year olds on July 16-19, bringing hundreds of players and their families to Marion County

from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee," stated Jeff Salamone, Rotary Sportsplex Board (RSB) President.

"This tournament is a great opportunity for our Community," added Harvey Vandeven, RSB member.

The Sportsplex also will be holding the District Rookie Qualifier, which draws more than 40 teams of 7-8 year olds and will run from June 11-14.



Fishing Tournament Held at Carney Island

Competitive crappie fishing is one of the fastest growing sports in the state. On January 17, Crappie USA held a tournament at the Carney Island Recreation and Conservation Area. Crappie USA is one of the oldest and largest organized crappie fishing organizations in existence.

Lake Weir and Little Lake Weir are being touted as



the new hot spots for crappie anglers, especially with the family friendly amenities offered.

"Carney Island was chosen to host this event because of the addition of the six lane boat

ramps and floating docks," commented Commissioner Stan McClain. *"What was once a good lake for pleasure boating and fishing now has the opportunity to attract national fishing tournaments."*

Carney Island is located at 13275 SE 115 Avenue in Ocklawaha.

Outdoor Times is a monthly newsletter provided as a public service to park visitors and guests.

Any questions related to this publication may be directed to Gina Peebles, Administrative Manager, in writing at Marion County Parks & Recreation, 111 SE 25 Ave, Ocala, FL 34471, by telephone at 352-671-8560 or via e-mail at gina.peebles@marioncountyfl.org

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Orange Lake Overlook ROW Donation

On December 2, the Board of County Commissioners executed a Warranty Deed between Bill and June Glass and the County to enhance access to the Orange Lake Overlook (f/k/a Sawallis Property). The Glass family generously donated the linear swath of land for

access and other park related purposes.

The Department is also working with two additional adjacent property owners for a right-of-way easement or deed to improve ingress / egress to the property.



Kayaking Anyone?



learn the correct way to hold a paddle, paddle strokes, how to get in and out of a kayak and more.

This is a great opportunity to see if kayaking is for you.

Have you always had an interest in trying your hand at kayaking? Sign-up for a beginner kayaking clinic held for adults on Little Lake Weir at Carney Island. Participants, using a single or tandem kayak, will

The fee is \$15 per person for the three hour program which includes lesson time as well as paddling time around the Lake. The park fee is also included. Program times are 10 am and 1 pm. The dates are:

Mondays - February 23, March 9, April 13 and May 11.

Fridays - February 27, March 13, April 10 and May 15.

Other adult paddling trips for beginner and intermediate kayakers are offered the first and third Thursday of the month from February through May on the Rainbow and Silver Rivers. Most outings will be less than three hours and programs are offered in both the

morning and afternoon to fit one's busy schedule. The fee is \$5 per person, plus park entry fee, which includes your kayak and refreshments.

Both programs require pre-registration.

To register, or for more information, please contact the Marion County Parks & Recreation Department at 352-671-8560 or stop by our office located at 111 SE 25 Avenue in Ocala.

HPER Club Offered

The Marion County Parks and Recreation Department is offering a *Home School Physical Education & Recreation Club* (HPER), which focuses on promoting a healthy lifestyle through physical activity. The program will encourage teamwork, strategy and fair play in a social setting. Classes will be held each Wednesday at Brick City Adventure Park, located at 1211 SE 22 Road in Ocala

from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. for 5 – 10 year olds and from 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. for 11 – 17 year olds.

The HPER Club fee is \$10 per month for



the first child and \$7 for each additional child within the same family. Participants who register for two months will receive the discounted rate of \$15 for the first child and \$10 for each additional child in the same family. The program started January 7 and will run

throughout the school year.

To register, or for more information, please contact the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department at 111 SE 25 Avenue in Ocala or call Dan Burleigh at (352) 671-8560.

SR 200 Survey Available

The Marion County Parks and Recreation Department hosted a public meeting on January 21, 2009 at the Parks and Recreation Department's Conference Room to discuss the potential acquisition of a 40 acre property east of Oak Run.

The property is surrounded on three sides by the Greenway, is gently rolling and home to a typical sandhill community. A portion of the land has been disturbed; however it is an ideal property to fill the

deficiency identified in the Department's adopted Master Plan. It is centrally located to the highest density of children and family residences and can serve as a trailhead to the Greenway. If acquired, the Department plans to construct multi-purpose community park facilities.

The Department is applying for a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) federal grant to purchase the property.

A survey is currently available to determine the public's interest in the property until February 16, 2009. The link for the survey is:

[www.marioncountyfl.org/
Parks](http://www.marioncountyfl.org/Parks)

For additional information, please contact the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department at 352-671-8560 or stop by our office located at 111 SE 25 Avenue in Ocala.

Brown Bag Bunny Brunch

High-tail it to one of your County parks, where we will have a hopping good time with games, storytelling and an Easter Egg Hunt led by our own *Mr. Bunny*.

The fee is \$5 per child which includes a pizza lunch. Extra lunches for parents are only \$2. The program starts at 10:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required. The program will be held on Monday, April 6 at Brick City Adventure Park, located at 1211 SE 22 Road in Ocala; Tuesday, April 7

at Liberty Community Park, located at 10575 SW 57 Terrace Road in Ocala; Wednesday, April 8 at the Baseline Road Trailhead, located at 4255 SE 58 Ave; and Thursday, April 9 at Wrigley Fields, located at 405 E Hwy 316 in Citra.

For more information, or to pre-register, please contact the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department at 352-671-8560 or stop by our office located at 111 SE 25 Avenue in Ocala.



Overnight Kayak / Canoe Trip Planned



Enjoy an overnight adventure on the Ocklawaha River! An overnight kayak / canoe trip is planned on Saturday, February 28 - Sunday, March 1. A local guide will provide great insight in the local history of the River

and the Greenway habitat. Participants will take part in a night hike that teaches night compass navigation and nocturnal wildlife observation.

The cost is \$60 per person which includes kayaks, camping gear, food and beverages. The program is limited to ten adults and pre-registration is required.

For more information, please contact the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department at 352-671-8560.



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Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location	Time
February 4	HPER	Brick City Adventure Park	10 a.m. and 11:15
February 5	Kayak & Koffee (for adults)	KP Hole (Rainbow River)	10 a.m.—1:30 p.m.
February 7	Youth Kayak Clinic	Carney Island	10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
February 11	HPER	Brick City Adventure Park	10 a.m. and 11:15
February 14	Birding & Nature Walk	Sunnyhill (Moss Bluff)	9:30 a.m.
February 14	Youth Kayak Clinic	KP Hole	10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
February 16	SR 200 On-line Survey Closes		
February 18	HPER	Brick City Adventure Park	10 a.m. and 11:15
February 19	Kayak & Koffee (for adults)	Ray Wayside (Silver River)	10 a.m.—1:30 p.m.
February 23	Special Olympics	Brick City Adventure Park	
	Kayak Clinic for Adults	Carney Island	10 a.m. and 1 p.m.
February 25	HPER	Brick City Adventure Park	10 a.m. and 11:15
February 27	Kayak Clinic for Adults	Carney Island	10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Youth Kayak Clinic



The Marion County Parks and Recreation Department is offering youngsters, 10-16 years of age, the opportunity to learn the basics of kayaking. The program fee per session is \$25 per child which includes equipment and the park fee entrance. Pre-registration is required and the class is limited to eight participants in each age group.

During the first class, paddlers will learn basic skills

that include the correct method of holding a paddle, proper stroke, getting in and out of a kayak and safety procedures on Little Lake Weir at Carney Island. Participants will also take part in maneuvering drills and skill contests. Carney Island is located at 13275 SE 115 Avenue in Ocklawaha. The second class will consist of a kayak outing on the Rainbow River at KP Hole located at 9435 SW 190 Avenue Road in Dunnellon.

The Program dates and times are:

February 7 at Carney Island from 10 a.m. - 12 noon for 10 – 13 year olds and 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

for 14 – 16 year olds.

February 14 at KP Hole from 9 – 11 a.m. for 10 – 13 year olds and 12 noon – 2 p.m. for 14 – 16 year olds.

March 7 at Carney Island from 10 a.m. - 12 noon for 10 – 13 year olds and 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. for 14 – 16 year olds.

March 14 at KP Hole from 9 – 11 a.m. for 10 – 13 year olds and 12 noon – 2 p.m. for 14 – 16 year olds.

For more information, please contact the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department at 352-671-8560 or stop by our office located at 111 SE 25 Avenue in Ocala.