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**Daily Commercial Correspondent**

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Michael Rebel said about Eustis, "I grew up in a town that loved me. I grew up in a place where I was accepted for who I was; and I had a glorious youth."

Rebel, a licensed mental health counselor, has a practice in Lake and Marion counties.

He said, "I deal with people who are unhappy being who they are. Unhappy with their lives. I came into the profession by first attending counseling myself. I realized I was thinking irrationally and I got help. It worked for me so I tried to do it for others.

"We live in a world where we are becoming alienated from each other by contraptions, computers, cell phones and voice mail. It has brought about a change in our emotional and intellectual behavior.

"I think that most of it is about fear or some kind of physical pain. When someone is in pain or in fear they tend to become narcissistic or self involved. They lose track of how they interface with the rest of the world.

"It's like having a pair of vice grips hanging on to the end of your finger. It's hard to think about anything else as long as those grips have your finger screaming in pain." He adds, "Pain is inevitable."

"I view life differently. I counsel under the assumption that people are doing the best they can with what they have. I help people who come in to see me to learn about themselves. They probe into their own psyche. I try to have them come to a place where they can learn about themselves.

"Where they can come to a place where they can accept being who they are and learn to enjoy themselves."

As a therapist I apply natural laws. I practice the concept that God doesn't make mistakes. That each person is who they are

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