

SOUTH MARION Citizen



Serving S.R. 200 Communities & Businesses

BRIEFS

Region's jobless rate continues to drop

Ocala and Homosassa Springs metros to post growth in key industries
 The unemployment rate in the CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion region was 4.2 percent in April, down 0.4 percentage point over the month and 0.6 percent lower than the same time last year.
 Over the year, the region's labor force has grown by 894 to 200,287, employment has increased by 2,223 to 191,952 and the number of unemployed has decreased by 1,329 to 8,335.
 According to today's release of the April employment summary by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, preliminary unemployment rates were 4.7 percent for Citrus County, down 0.5 percentage points over the month; 3.5 percent for Levy County, a drop of 0.4 percent; and 4.1 percent for Marion County, also down 0.4 percent over the month. Florida's not seasonally adjusted jobless rate – a measure that matches the way local rates are calculated – was 3.4 percent, a decrease of 0.4 percent.

Coastal Connector:

Toll road meets total opposition

By **DAVID DAVIS**
Editor



Messenger photo, David Davis
Ocala Mayor Kent Guinn addresses the Marion County Board of Commissioners Friday afternoon during a workshop about the proposed Coastal Connector that would connect the Tampa Bay area with Jacksonville. The road would cut through the heart of horse country.

If anyone was in favor of the proposed Coastal Connector going through Marion County, none make it known Friday afternoon during a Board of County Commission workshop.
 The proposed turnpike would connect Tampa to Jacksonville.
 One person after another spoke for two minutes each during an hour set aside for public comment. All spoke in opposition to the toll road after Florida Turnpike Enterprise project manager Rebecca Bolan gave an overview of where they are in the process and how they got to that point.
 Ocala Mayor Kent Guinn said the project is still in the early stage, "and it would be a great time to stop it."
 He said there are no meetings scheduled in Gainesville or Alachua counties. He urged the commissioners to stand up against it and not waiver.

See CONNECTOR, Page A17

Gas prices pushing \$3 a gallon

As the national average continues to push toward \$3 a gallon, gas prices in the Southeastern United States are among the lowest in the country. Sunday's national average of \$2.92 is 5 cents more than a week ago and 57 cents more than this time last year.
 As of Sunday, gas prices averaged above \$3 per gallon in 14 states. The majority of them are in the northeast and western United States.
 Florida gas prices held steady through the past week, yet remain at their highest levels since November 2014. Sunday's state average of \$2.82 is 52 cents more than this time last year.
 On average, it costs \$42 for a full tank of gasoline - an increase of \$8 from this time last year.
 ■ The most expensive gas price averages in Florida are in West Palm Beach-Boca Raton (\$2.93), Crestview-Fort Walton

Beach (\$2.92), and Pensacola (\$2.89).
 ■ The least expensive gas price averages in Florida are in Punta Gorda (\$2.76), Orlando (\$2.76), and Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater (\$2.77)
 Rising crude costs, switch over to more-expensive-to-produce gasoline by the federal deadline on June 1, tighter supplies and robust gasoline demand continue to help lift pump prices across the nation.
 "Current fundamentals will likely lead gas prices higher before the Memorial Day weekend," said Mark Jenkins, spokesman, AAA - The Auto Club Group. "Regardless of higher prices at the pump, AAA still forecasts the most holiday road trippers in more than a dozen years."
Motorists to hit the road in record numbers
 Memorial Day marks the unofficial start

of summer, and Americans will kick off the season by traveling in near-record numbers. According to AAA, more than 41.5 million Americans will travel this Memorial Day weekend, nearly 5 percent more than last year and the most in more than a dozen years (2005).
 Even as gas prices rise like outside temperatures, AAA still expects an additional 2 million people will take to planes, trains, automobiles and other modes of transportation. INRIX, a global transportation analytics company, expects travel delays on major roads could be 2-3 times longer than normal, with the busiest days being Thursday, May 24, and Friday, May 25, as commuters mix with holiday travelers.
 "Higher gas prices will not be enough to keep travelers home this Memorial Day

See GAS, Page A4

INSIDE

Index

- Bookmark A10
- Cherrywood A6
- Classifieds A22
- Cranes Corner A15
- Obituary A5
- Oak Run A4
- Opinion A8
- OTOW AXX
- Out to Pastor A11
- Pun Alley A12
- Puzzles A16

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<p>2012 GMC TERRAIN \$14,000 2.4L 4 CYL FWD, 48,157 MI</p>	<p>2014 KIA SOUL \$14,000 2.0L 4 CYL FWD, 20,638 MI</p>	<p>2011 GMC TERRAIN \$14,500 3.0L 6 CYL FWD, 94,710 MI</p>	<p>2016 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN \$15,000 3.6L 6 CYL 4DR, 43,431 MI</p>	<p>2014 FORD FUSION \$15,000 2.5L 4 CYL FWD, 11,077 MI</p>	<p>2012 CADILLAC SRX \$15,500 3.6L 6 CYL FWD, 70,154 MI</p>
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<p>2016 DODGE CHARGER \$19,900 3.6L 6 CYL RWD, 29,965 MI</p>	<p>2014 BUICK ENCLAVE \$19,500 3.6L 6 CYL FWD, 76,243 MI</p>	<p>2015 GMC TERRAIN \$18,500 2.4L 4 CYL FWD, 13,840 MI</p>	<p>2008 GMC SIERRA DENALI \$18,500 6.2L 8 CYL 4WD, 118,175 MI</p>	<p>2014 GMC TERRAIN \$21,500 2.4L 4 CYL FWD, 17,522 MI</p>	<p>2016 BUICK TERRAIN \$21,500 3.6L 6 CYL FWD, 41,299 MI</p>
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<p>2014 JEEP WRANGLER UNLMT \$32,500 3.6L 6 CYL 4WD, 50,799 MI</p>	<p>2015 GMC SIERRA 1500 \$33,500 5.3L 8 CYL 2WD, 42,906 MI</p>	<p>2013 FORD F-150 \$37,000 6.2L 8 CYL 4WD, 72,845 MI</p>	<p>2014 GMC SIERRA 1500 \$37,000 5.3L 8 CYL 4WD, 36,701 MI</p>	<p>2011 GMC SIERRA 2500HD \$43,000 6.6L 8 CYL 4WD, 63,272 MI</p>	<p>2014 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 3500HD \$44,000 6.6L 8 CYL 4WD, 60,518 MI</p>

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MON - FRI: 8:30 am - 8:00 pm
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What Would We Do without Rain?



Out to Pastor
Rev. James Snyder

Sometimes I cannot help being a grouch. I guess it is what happens to a person when they get older. They get older, grouchier and grumpier. With that in mind, I guess I qualify for being an old geezer.

The past several weeks I was grouchy about the weather. What else is there to grouch about these days? I would grouch about politics, but it is a world of craziness. I suppose good people go to Washington, DC, but they don't stay good for long. Therefore, I have given up grouching about politics and politicians and such.

One of the good things about grouching about the weather is it there is nothing you can do about the weather. You may not like the weather. You may want a different kind of weather. However, there is actually nothing you can do to change the weather on the outside.

Through the years, I have realized that if I wanted to bet on which day it was going to rain, it would be the day I wash my car. When I am out there washing my car, Mother Nature is looking down on me grinning one of her sarcastic grins, knowing that she is going to send rain my way that day.

I still like grouching about the weather. After all, you need to grouch about something and I would rather grouch about something that I had nothing at all to do with then something I could change.

The other day I started downtown

and the sky was bright and sunny. Twenty minutes later, it was raining cats and dogs.

Three weeks ago at the church, we bought a brand-new lawnmower. We have not been able to use it yet so we do not know if it really works or not. The rain has come down for three weeks.

Thinking about the rain condition, we are in I often wonder about how Noah felt about the rain in his day. He built an ark and there was not a drop of rain to be found. He told everybody that it was going to rain; nobody had ever seen rain before and did not know what he was talking about.

For 100 years, Noah was building his ark and telling people that the rain was coming soon. They laughed at him and probably he was the first person called The Rainman. They were not laughing so much when the rain actually did come.

I was sitting in my easy chair, looking out the glass door, watching it rain and rain and rain. Just when I thought it was about over, there was a crackling thunder and the rain came down worse than before.

"When will this rain," I said in a very disgusted attitude, "stop so I can go outside?"

My wife looked at me and said, "What do you want to go outside for?"

Well, she had me there. Because there is nothing for me to do outside and furthermore, I am not permitted to

do any repair work on the outside by decree of the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. No matter how bad something is broken, five minutes with me and it will be worse than before. That is, according to her estimation.

I tried to keep quiet for a few more minutes, but lo and behold, out came more grouchiness. I guess a person my age has a lot of grouchy to come out, but there is never an appropriate time.

"I'm getting so tired," I said, "of this rain coming and not stopping. When will the rain ever stop? I can do without all this rain."

At that moment, my wife came into the room where I was sitting and stared at me for a few moments. She has those stares that penetrate directly to the soul and back out again. I was afraid to say anything at that time.

Then, putting both hands on her hips, she said, "What would we do without rain?"

I did not know if that was a rhetorical question or if she was grilling me about our situation. She then turned around and went back to the kitchen to her work.

It did, however, caused me to think a little bit about that. Where in the world would we be if it did not rain when it was supposed to rain?

If it were not for rain, we would not have the beautiful land we now have. The farmer's fields would not grow. The gardener's vegetables would not grow. The florist's would lose all their

flowers.

Thinking along these lines, I came to a conclusion. It is important in this world for it to rain. Rain has a way of making everything grow and be healthy.

David saw rain in a very different matter: "Sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God: Who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains" (Psalm 147:7-8).

A rainy day is somewhat like life. You cannot make it rain and you cannot make it stop. However, every rain has a positive effect on the world around us.

I cannot control the rain, neither can I control much of the elements in my life but I can have a thankful heart like David, knowing that after the rain the flowers will bloom.

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

County, city holiday schedule

All Marion County government offices will be closed on Monday, May 28, for Memorial Day. Regular business hours will resume on Tuesday, May 29.

- The following are exceptions to the closure on May 28:
 - Animal Control is available 24/7 at 352-731-9111.
 - Fire Rescue and Public Safety Communications, which includes the 911 call center, will be staffed for any emergencies.
 - Parks and Recreation's facilities will remain open as regularly scheduled.
 - Silver Springs Shores Youth and Community Center pool only; open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- For more information, contact Marion County Administration at 352-438-2300.

City of Ocala holiday schedule

City of Ocala business offices will be closed Monday, May 28 in observance of Memorial Day. There will be no residential collection for sanitation, yard waste or recycling routes Monday, May 28.

Residential sanitation collection regularly scheduled for Monday, May 28 through Thursday, May 31 will experience a one-day delay and will be collected Tuesday, May 29 through Friday, June 1.

Waste Pro recycling collection for city of Ocala residents regularly scheduled for Monday, May 28 through Thursday, May 31 will take place Tuesday, May 29 through Friday, June 1.

For more information, please contact the City of Ocala Residential Sanitation Department at 352-351-6697.

Only animals were not expelled from Paradise

— Milan Kundera

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Celebrating 99 years

Dear readers let me start out by trying to explain the last weeks Citizen. I know quite a few folks were upset regarding articles not being published with sale dates, etc. Whenever I made a mistake I always admitted it was my goof but not this time. The paper repeated the column from previous week. The group picture was from a previous week, and not published. The picture of Debbie Bloss, who had a hole in one was excluded and the unidentified man on front page was not from me. The Golf Cart Rodeo winners were in the column that was not published. I have repeated them below. Identifying our community and my name/picture was not included. Please note the Citizen has a new Editor and perhaps he needs a couple weeks to get use to his new job. It is my hope that this is the case.

We also went to a birthday party for the mother of Marion (John) Mowen. Margaret was 99 years young and believe me she looks, feels great. (see her picture). Happy Birthday, Margaret. This past week we went to the O.R. Veteran's meeting and the guest speaker was Senior Master Sgt. Troy Daland, USAF. He is the son of residents



Margaret, mother of Marion (John) Mowen recently celebrated her 99th birthday.

Larry & Jeanne Daland. Troy is presently stationed at MacDill AF base in Tampa. With 22 years of active service he has had some interesting experiences. Thank you, Troy for your continued service, love of country and family. We pray you stay safe.

Monday, May 28 is Memorial Day, our nation's commemoration of the sacrifices made by those whose lives were lost for the freedoms we hold sacred. Whether our veter-

ans survived their military service, or were killed on the field of battle, our country owes each of them, and their families, a debt of gratitude. Peace, joy. Laura

Reminders:

Pancake Breakfast - Saturday, 26 from 8-10. Showcase of Stars - 7 p.m. Palm Grove

First Golf Cart Rodeo a Success

Event Director: Tim Butler announced following winners:
Starter/Timer: Neil Sorenson
Drag race winner: Jim Allen
Autocross winner: Jim

Allen
Blindfold race: Jim Allen and Mike Bendert

A Hole in One

Debbie Bloss made a hole-in-1 on Friday, May 4, on the 3rd hole here at Royal Oaks. Debbie is a member of both the 9-hole women's league (ROLN) and the 18-hole women's league (ROWGO).

Baby Boomers

Baby Boomers Presents "TVLand" Twist Dance Saturday, June 16, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Palm Grove Club, BYO drinks and snacks.

Tickets Sales will be Saturdays June 2, 9 a.m.-11 a.m. & June 9, 8 a.m.-10 a.m. AM at the Orchid Club Lobby. Ticket prices are \$5. per member & \$7. per guest. Although they'll be missed, the snowbird members have flown back north, allowing us to open the dance to everyone. Our events are fun filled with great music and activities. We are the party people. Ticket price is just \$5. for members and \$7. for non-members. Ticket holders will be able to sign up during ticket sales to volunteer for event setup and cleanup. Prospective members move up on the waitlist volunteer!

Ambassadors

A new leadership team was announced at the May 10 Ambassador Workshop: Chairperson - Nancy Prouty; Vice-



Oak Run
Laura Smith

Chair - Maggie Naypaver; Treasurer - Donna Goodrich and Secretary - Carole Heidt. Workshops are held at 9:00am on the second Thursday of each month in the Card Room. Oak Run residents who would like to become involved in planning entertainment events, or provide input, are invited to the monthly workshops. The next workshop will be at 9am on June 14. The next Ambassador event will be a "Celebrate America Dance" to be held at the Palm Grove on June 30 from 7-11 pm. A variety of dance tunes will be provided by popular local talent, Danny and Johnny. Tickets will be on sale at the June 9 Donut Drop-In, June 11 from 8-10am in the Card Room, and at the June 23 Pancake breakfast. Tickets for the event are \$6. per person. Another popular event, the July 4 cart parade and cool down is in the planning stages. Please feel free to decorate your cart or attend the parade to cheer on the participant. Chairperson for the parade is Walt Snyder. If you would like to help Walt out, his number is 315-416-8561. Watch this space in the coming weeks for further information on the parade.

Renaissance Women

Meeting: Sunday, May 27th at 2:00 pm, Island Club.

Revised Renaissance Women Membership Lists for 2018 will be available at the May meeting for purchase. Please bring along 50 cents to cover the cost for a hard copy. A printable PDF file has been sent to those members who provided an email address.

If anyone needs a printed copy before the May Meeting, please contact Patricia (445-7428) or Carol (547-5241).

Dinner at ROGC: Wednesday, June 6 at 5 pm. Call Pat G. 854-7549 or Gerry 873-6868.

Monthly Luncheon: Call Gloria, 570-606-7107.

Lunch at ROGC: Call Ann Marie 237-9838

Movies: Call Peg 274-9640 for details.

Ethnic Luncheon: Thursday, June 28, 12:30 p.m. at Sammy's Italian Restaurant, Jasmine Plaza (200 Ocala). Call Martha 237-9333 or 239-321-4077 for details.

Membership: Call Patricia 445-7428.

There are never any dues! We are open to all ladies of Oak Run!

Say Eng Look," Oak Run's Chinese Mah Jongg Club

A new version of the game is now being taught for those that are interested, bringing to 3 the number of versions of this fun game you can choose from!

We meet in the Orchid Club Card Room Saturdays Noon to 4 p.m. & Thursdays 2 to 5 p.m. Newcomers welcome. No experience necessary - free lessons available. Our goal is to enjoy the game and each other's company. There are no hassles, no dues, no card, no fees, no Charleston's, no wagering and no commitment; come to the sessions you want with a smile. Bring your Mah Jongg set, if you own one. Open to all Oak Run residents and their overnight guests. FMI call Susan at 237-3686.

Travel

Our Gamblers Get-away to Ft Myers is Aug 2-3 and as of the writing of this article there were 2 tickets remaining. You'll visit 2 casinos, Immokalee and Coconut Creek plus enjoy dinner and the show Annie at the Broadway Palm Theater. Accommodations are at Hyatt Place. Call Connie Smith to get these last 2 tickets. Don't forget the following sale date.

On May 26, 2018 we are selling the Danube Discovery River Cruise which departs on September 8, 2019. This sale will be at the Island Club starting at 9:30 a.m. See the flyer at the bulletin board in the Orchid Club or call Bob & Cindy for more details.

If you missed the sale date for the Transatlantic Cruise and Benelux Tour earlier this past week, call Bob and Cindy Kocher to see if any tickets remain. Don't forget our wait list policy, it works.

See OAK, Page Axx

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The South Marion Citizen is a free community newspaper covering news of communities in southwest Marion County including Oak Run, Pine Run, Palm Cay, On Top of the World, Kingsland Country Estates, Countryside Farms, Marion Landing, Majestic Oaks, Hidden Lake, Woods and Meadows Estates, Paddock Farms, Saddle Oak Club, Deer Creek, Cherrywood Estates, Hardwood Trails, Candler Hills, Country Oaks, and Harvest Meadows, Spruce Creek North, among others.

Postmaster: Entered as Third Class Matter at the post office in Ocala, Fla., 34477.

Problems getting the Citizen: If your community is listed above and the Citizen is not delivered to your home and you are having trouble getting the paper from boxes around the S.R. 200 Corridor, call 854-3986

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- Circulation - Barbara Jagers
- Inside Sales/Office Coordinator - Michel Northsea
- Advertising Sales - Steve Luhrman
- General Manager - John Murphy

Deadline for news:

Friday 1 p.m. the week before publication.

Deadline for classified ads: Deadline for display advertising Tuesday 4 p.m. before publication Monday 5 p.m. before publication



Member of the Community Papers of Florida

I want to get news in the Citizen.

Call editor David Davis at 352-854-3986 or send by e-mail to editor@smcitizen.com

Community news and photos must be received by Friday the week before publication. Mail and photos may be left at the Citizen office in Kingsland Plaza. All contributions are subject to editing for clarity, taste, and style.

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Obituary



Mary Louis Swan-Shaffer

Mary Louise Swan-Shaffer passed away Dec. 25, 2017 in Ocala.

She lived in the Pine Run community since moving back to Florida from University Park, Maryland 16 years ago after retirement.

She is survived by her daughter, Deborah; grandchildren, Nicole and Danny; great-grandchildren, Aiden, Aubri, Joseph, Everett, Samantha, Kali, Gabriel; and great great-grandchildren, LeeLee, Livie, and Kali Bre.

Swan-Shaffer retired from the Adelphi Military Facility, attended the Baptist Church, served as president of the UP Women's Club, was past publisher/editor of the Pine Run Newsletter for five years. Service to the less fortunate was her passion and she spent many years serving her community. She was very fond of Samaritan's Purse Organization.

Please visit her memorial page on their website and donate in her memory.

City to break ground on groundwater recharge park

The city of Ocala will host a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Wetland Groundwater Recharge Park Tuesday, June 5 at 9 a.m. at the park site located at 2201 NW 21st St.

According to City staff, the Wetland Groundwater Recharge Park will receive 3 to 5 million gallons of treated wastewater a day, which, after further treatment and nutrient reduction by the wetland plants will recharge the Upper Floridan Aquifer. In addition to the nutrient reduction and aquifer recharge, the park will also include two and a half miles of walking trails, boardwalk, wild-life overlooks and educational kiosks.

"The City of Ocala is excited to break ground for the Wetland Groundwater Recharge Park," said Sean Lannier, City Engineer and Water Resources Department Director.

"This park will provide a positive environmental impact that will assist in ensuring that Silver Springs and the Upper Floridan Aquifer remain a clean and viable resource for generations to come."

This event is free and open to the public. Members of the media are encouraged to attend. Light refreshments will be provided.

To learn more about this project, please visit <http://bit.ly/wgrp19>.

For more information, please contact the City Engineer's Office, Capital Projects Division at 352-629-8419.



PHOTO BY RON RATNER

Crispers is closed. A sign on the door stated "Our last day of business at our Ocala location will be May 18, 2018. Thank you for your patronage over the years and we regret any inconvenience this may cause you. You can still find our delicious food at our other locations throughout Central Florida."

Sisterhood Of Survivors meet the last Tuesday of the month

The Breast Cancer SOS (Sisterhood of Survivors) support group meets at Ocala West Methodist Church, 9330 SW 105th Street, Rm 235 (chapel). We meet the last Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM to offer a caring concern to those involved with the battle of breast cancer. We will share experiences,

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Memorial Day

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Cherrywood is ready for Memorial Day; Trivia ends for the season

On Wednesday evening, May 16, Trivia came to a close for the summer. It will return on September 19 when one of our favorite emcees, Donna James, will be posing the questions. Wednesday evening, we had a fine time with five teams, lots of laughter and some interesting knowledge. Did you know that the first country to allow women the right to vote was New Zealand? And, do you know where 'Old' Zealand is located?

The team of Trude Smith, Peggy Konar, Marion O'Hern and Lynn Boyett were the big winners giving them bragging rights for not just one, but three whole months. If you have any trivial questions between now and September, you know who to go to for answers.

I was honored to be the quizmaster for the festivities. As usual we had a lot of fun and I sincerely appreciate all who came out to spend the night learning and sharing all things trivial. We at Trivia Night are proud supporters of the SOS program here in Cherrywood and as usual, the victorious team donated their winnings. We are grateful to them for that also.

The winners insisted that I be included in the photo of the winning team. I can assure you they were given no answers before or during the quiz; I have not colluded with any Russians regarding questions and the only Stormy in my life is the weather. I hope that puts me in the clear. Thanks to Jay and Fred for another great year of Trivia and we look



Cherrywood
Laura Smith

forward to September when we'll do it all over again.

Clubhouse decorations
Our energizer bunny and her crew were at it again this week. Have you seen the clubhouse? It's red, white and blue will get your heart started in the right direction for Memorial Day. Holly, Fran Hall, and Theresia T, aka "TT" worked hard putting everything in order. The tables, mantle and entire hall looks beautiful. This time around, even the card

See CHERRYWOOD on Page A13

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Opinion

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Your letters

Kim Jong Un, Wins

It's been said that security should be tight for Kim Jong Un, when he meets with Trump. I think just the opposite should be taken. Of course this concern for Un is put forth by the Trump supporters.

In all of this rhetoric one thing has been lost. It's not the South Koreans, or the nuclear missiles he has, it's only one thing he's wanted ever since he's been in power. Un wants to be recognized by the United States, as a world power and to meet with, and be recognized by the president of the United States. He's getting everything he wants, and even though he's promised to dismantle his nuclear arsenal, do you really believe him?

I can tell you one thing, I wouldn't want to be a news reporter flying on air force one out over the pacific with Trump. I served 2 1/2 years aboard an aircraft carrier during the Korean war, and I wouldn't trust the Un family as far as I could throw the Pentagon, where I also served. But of course, Trump isn't too bright. When I was studying business, I was told to always hire up. Trump hires down, and for a guy with a 2.4 GPA, that's a big risk.

Bill Ford
Oak Run

Why fire engines respond with ambulances

After reading the May 10 Star Banner and, as a retired fire chief and paramedic with over 30 years in the profession, I have to comment on a writer's question in Emory Schley's Bits & Pieces column about a fire engine responding with the ambulance.

Ambulances normally have two highly trained medical personnel and what if the incident they respond to requires additional help. It is the ambulance personnel's job to stabilize the patient and with the possible need for CPR, meds, dressings, oxygen and more they have all they can handle at many scenes.

The writer stated she hit her head and was unconscious, so they had no way prior to arrival and examination of knowing the extent of her injuries as is the case with many medical responses. Had her fall been the result of a stroke or heart attack additional equipment or medications might be needed from the ambulance. If not for the second emergency vehicle personnel, many of whom are now also medically trained, who would have known what to get or where it was and gone out to get them if both ambulance personnel were working to stabilize or save the patient? Who would have brought in and helped with the stretcher?

If her condition had required both ambulance personnel to provide continuous medical assistance to her en-route to the hospital who would have driven the

See STORY on Page AXX

South Marion Citizen

Publisher:

GERRY MULLIGAN

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DAVID DAVIS



Has the president ever lied to us?

As White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders wrapped up a press briefing and left the podium a journalist shouted, "Has the president ever lied to us?"

I'm sure the reporter was trying to get her on record for a quote for later use; for what I don't know.

I despise "gotcha" questions because they are unnecessary. If someone lies, then sooner or later the lie surfaces like a cold sore. Cold sores spread from person-to-person through close contact like kissing, much the way lies are spread through interpersonal contact. And just like a cold sore, lies reveal themselves. While there is no known cure for the virus that causes cold sores, there is a cure for lying. However, shouting such a question at a press secretary is not that cure.

I was once told a lie and the reason for it eluded me for several years. In August 1990, with a carrier air wing embarked, USS Independence (CV-62) was sent to deter Iraqi aggression during Operation Desert Shield, arriving on station Aug. 5 in the Gulf of Oman.

My little tale begins the night before we passed through the Strait of Hormuz. It was on a Saturday that CBS anchorman Dan Rather reported from aboard the aircraft carrier earlier in the day that the ship was going to conduct flight operations in the Persian Gulf. That evening, just before lights out, the executive officer's voice came across the General Announcing System and began telling us were were not entering the Persian Gulf.

He said the strait is too narrow and Iran would like nothing more than to

sink or damage a capital-line ship. He went on to say the Persian Gulf was too small, too shallow, too heavily mined, and there were too many derelicts to conduct flight ops.

After the XO finished his speech, the airwing commander said essentially the same thing. The ship's commanding officer followed with pretty much the same verbiage as the other two. It was well-passed 2200 hours (taps, 10 p.m., light out or bedtime), when the carrier group commander took the microphone. He said nothing different except for the promise that we would be the first to know, or words to that affect.

When I woke up Sunday morning, we were in the Persian Gulf.

As I said, it took me years to figure out why the entire chain of command told such a blatant lie.

I was a shipboard sailor and I only looked at it from that perspective. There was only one way I was ever getting off that ship alive and that was to walk off. However, air crews flew continuously on and off the flight deck at all hours. The only explanation that makes sense to me is to give air crewmen plausible deniability.

All of this brings me back to the beginning. Has the president ever lied to us? Of course, they all have, do and will; and sometimes at least, it is a good thing — with the exception of George Washington.

David Davis
Editor



Rich Lowery

Donald Trump's Jerusalem Triumph

In the second century A.D., Jewish rebels who had stunned the Romans and liberated a portion of Judea overstruck imperial coins with images and a message of their own, "Year One of the Redemption of Jerusalem."

The leader of the Jewish rebellion, Bar Kokhba, was fired by a vision of a united Israel with Jerusalem as its capital, which had been the exception during the prior millennium, thanks to the depredations of the Assyrians and Babylonians, among others. But such was the power of the national idea — and his messianic zeal — that Bar Kokhba ventured all on regaining it.

And lost. Not for nearly another 2,000 years would the vision come to fruition. At a ceremony in 1982 burying bones of some of those long-ago rebels with military honors, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin declared: "Israel and Judea are reborn. We have redeemed Jerusalem."

King David conquered the city in 1000 B.C. and made it the capital of the kingdom of Israel. His son Solomon built the First Temple. But Jerusalem would repeatedly be captured and the Temple destroyed (first by the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar and then by the Roman Emperor Titus).

The Jewish people never forgot. In one of the miracles of our age, after long centuries of exile punctuated by genocide at the hands of the Nazis, they re-established Israel in 1948, and then gained control of all of Jerusalem in 1967 (prior to that, when Jordan held East Jerusalem, Jews couldn't visit the Western Wall).

The notion that the City of David isn't the capital of Israel was an impolite fiction, honored by the U.S. and the West for fear of provoking Arabs hostile to the very idea of the Jewish state. Its prime minister, parliament and highest court are based there, and it's unimaginable that Israel would ever agree to any peace deal that didn't recognize it as the capital.

The tired, conventional arguments against it haven't held up well in the wake of President Donald Trump's decision to move our embassy. The Arab street hasn't exploded. The West Bank has been relatively quiet. Arab capitals haven't erupted in outrage. The flashpoint has been in Gaza, the terror statelet ruled by Hamas. Israel pulled out of Gaza more than a decade ago and has been rewarded with constant attacks emanating from a territory where the infrastructure of mayhem and destruction — rockets, tunnels and the like — is the only growth industry.

Hamas has goaded rioters to storm the Israeli border, defended by Israeli soldiers who fire on them if necessary to protect local communities (more than 50 were killed on a recent Monday). This isn't "the caravan" that arrived at the U.S. border with peaceful migrants seeking asylum, but a violent provocation that is a function of Hamas' commitment to Israel's destruction.

In the second century A.D., Jewish

See LOWERY on Page A10

Reader Opinions Invited

~ The opinions expressed in West Marion Messenger editorials are the opinions of the editorial board of the newspaper.

~ Viewpoints depicted in political cartoons, columns or letters do not necessarily represent the opinion of the editorial board.

~ Groups or individuals are invited to express their opinions in letters to the editor and guest columns.

~ Persons wishing to contact the editor should call 352-854-3986.

~ All letters must be signed and include a phone number and community name, including letters sent via e-mail. Names and communities will be printed; phone numbers will not be published or given out.

~ We reserve the right to edit letters for length, libel, fairness and good taste. Not all contributions are printed.

~ Letters longer than 350 words may be regarded as columns and printed on a space-available basis, and writers will be limited to one contribution per month. The deadline is one week prior to each Wednesday's issue.

~ Send letters by e-mail to editor@westmarionmessenger.com.

'Deadpool 2' deserves success



At the Movies

Bob Garver

It has been two years since "Deadpool" turned the superhero movie genre on its head with its excessively crude fourth-wall-breaking humor. There had been R-rated comic book movies before, but none had achieved its level of success. Not only was it a huge hit financially (it is the second biggest R-rated movie of all time at the domestic box office and technically the biggest worldwide), but it scored major points in its acclaim, earning a Golden Globe nomination for Best Picture - Comedy or Musical, where it lost to "La La Land" in a ceremony where both that movie and "Moonlight" could win Best Picture in harmony. There was no way that kind of success

would go unexploited, so here we have the first of what is sure to be many sequels in "Deadpool 2". Ryan Reynolds is back as Wade "Deadpool" Wilson, the mercenary-turned-mutant with regenerative powers. At the start of the film, he and his girlfriend Vanessa (Morena Baccarin) are extremely happy and thinking about having children. Since superheroes are never allowed to be happy for long in these movies, she is quickly eliminated from the story. Wade turns suicidal and blows himself to smithereens, but succeeds only in blowing off his body and having to regrow it in the X-Men mansion under the disapproving eye of Colossus (Stefan Kapicic). By the way, that's another

box office record "Deadpool" holds - it's the biggest of all the "X-Men" movies, and it barely counts as one. Wade soon finds a new reason to live in the form of troubled teenage mutant Russell (Julian Dennison). Russell's fiery temper, along with actual fire powers, have set him on a path of vengeance against his school's abusive headmaster (Eddie Marsan), and a public outburst gets both him and Wade thrown in a mutant prison, where collars conveniently exist that deactivate all powers. The prison is attacked by Cable (Josh Brolin), a coldhearted killer intent on assassinating Russell. Wade doesn't know why Cable is targeting a child, but his instinct is to protect

the young mutant, which makes him an enemy of Cable as well. The two get into a fight and are flung from the prison, which protects Russell for the time being, but he's scheduled to be transferred the next day. Wade knows that he can't defeat Cable and rescue Russell all by himself, so he gets help from other superheroes. He manages to mismanage the team so badly that only the lucky Domino (Zazie Beetz) remains. The two stave off Cable long enough for Russell to escape with a huge mystery mutant. It is only after the special guest star breaks Wade in half that Cable comes forward to explain himself. He's a time-traveler from a future where Russell has turned into a mass murderer. He needs to kill the kid now for the sake of humanity.

Wade sees Cable's dilemma, but he thinks he can stop Russell from becoming a murderer without killing him, which is better for everybody. Cable isn't so sure, but he promises to give Wade a chance to convince Russell to turn his life around. As with its predecessor, "Deadpool 2" is an entertaining mix of an emotional story, interesting characters, creative action, and irreverent humor. Deadpool as a character is still as engaging as ever thanks to Reynolds' charismatic performance. My only real problem with the film is that it drags in a few places and there's an inevitability that certain things are going to be undone. The good news is that while that other

Marvel franchise with Josh Brolin is going to make us wait a whole year to set things right, this one fixes everything (plus a few bonus things, one of which I really can't wrap my head around) in a glorious mid-credits sequence. "Deadpool 2" deserves to be just as successful as the first one and it's going to be a real shame when its box office gets pulverized by "Solo" next weekend. **Grade: B**

"Deadpool 2" is rated R for strong violence and language throughout, sexual references, and brief drug material. Its running time is 119 minutes.

Contact Bob Garver at rrg251@nyu.edu.

Fourth horse tests positive for mosquito-borne virus

The Florida Department of Health in Marion County today advised residents there has been an increase in mosquito-borne disease activity in areas of Marion County. A horse tested positive for eastern equine encephalitis virus infection on May 17. This marks four total animal cases of eastern equine encephalitis in Marion County this year: three horses and one emu. The risk of transmission to humans has increased. The department continues surveillance and prevention efforts. The department reminds residents and visitors to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes and to take basic precautions to help limit exposure. To protect yourself from mosquitoes, you should remember to "Drain and Cover": DRAIN standing water to stop mosquitoes from

multiplying. Drain water from garbage cans, house gutters, buckets, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots or any other containers where sprinkler or rain water has collected. Discard old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that aren't being used. Empty and clean birdbaths and pet's water bowls at least once or twice a week.

Protect boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water. Maintain swimming pools in good condition and appropriately chlorinated. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use. COVER skin with clothing or repellent. For more information, visit DOH's website at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/%5C/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/index.html>.

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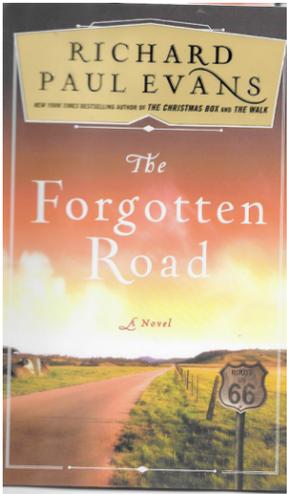
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'The Forgotten Road: a message of second chances'



THE FORGOTTEN ROAD: inspires with its message of second chances
By Richard Paul Evans

The forgotten road of the title is the legendary Route 66 extending from Chicago, Illinois to Santa Monica, California. Before Charles James begins walking its length, there's a jaw-dropping backstory to his odyssey.

James is a famous spokesman for his own company — Charles James Wealth Manage-

ment Seminars. On May 4, 2016 he is slated for a business trip via United Airlines. But just before embarking, he realizes that he's left his laptop in the waiting area. As he hurries to retrieve it, the flight takes off without him.

The next morning he reads his own obituary in the newspaper but rather than calling near and dear to say he is very much alive, he decides instead to stay dead for a while. In fact, in a heavy disguise he

attends his own memorial service where his assistant, anticipating a crowd of mourners, has leased a large hall that she's staffed and lavishly catered. To his surprise only a handful of people have shown up.

In "Broken Road," the first novel in this trilogy, James pondered the source of his unhappiness despite achieving everything he set out to do. It is largely an internal examination with little action. But in "For-



Bookmark
Pat Wellington

gotten" he reacts to his situation aggressively. In discovering America's forgotten road, he also discovers the man inside him who got lost over the years.

At the end of Route 66 is the love of his life, his ex-wife Monica and their son. He is hoping that along his journey he'll redeem himself and she'll take him

back.

Evans pays homage throughout his trip to real-life cities, shops, and landmarks. He meets charming, quirky characters, many of them down and out but generous to their core.

This is a story that keeps moving and inspires with its message of second chances.

'Medieval to Metal' guitar exhibition at the Appleton Museum

The Appleton Museum of Art, College of Central Florida, presents "Medieval to Metal: The Art & Evolution Of The GUITAR," a touring exhibition that celebrates the artistic development of the guitar, on view from May 19-Sept. 2.

This exhibition was developed by The National GUITAR Museum and

features 40 objects, ranging from the intricately inlaid Moorish oud and 6-foot-long Renaissance theorbo, to the modern Italian design of the Eko and transparent acrylic body of California's B.C. Rich guitars. Spanning centuries of design and craftsmanship, the exhibition takes visitors through the history of an object that is one of the most

recognizable items on the planet.

"Over the past several years, interest in the guitar as an icon has grown significantly," says HP Newquist, executive director of the National GUITAR Museum. "The guitar has been a signature element of world culture for more than 500 years; now visitors can explore the design history and artistry

that has played a major role in the guitar's evolution."

The guitar pervades culture beyond music. It was an integral element of the work of both Vermeer and Picasso, and today it is incorporated into advertising everything from clothes and cars

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Springtime up north was miserable

This year springtime up north was miserable with cold weather and snow, keeping the snowbirds here for a lone time. They have finally left and Easter visits by children and grandchildren are over. Swimming pools in the retirement communities have returned to normal where we natives can relax around the pools and contemplate life. I wound up thinking about the departed snowbirds and a few other things.

A singing storm

A snowbird returning home stopped for lunch at a family restaurant in Florence, South Carolina. During his meal a storm suddenly arose. The lights flickered, the rain beat against the windows, the wind howled, and thunder and lightning was violent. The snowbird asked the waitress if this was normal for this locale. She replied, "Of course. You've never heard of Florence lightning-gale?"

It's no more

In New Hampshire the last thing to melt this spring was the hardy snowman Bob built in December. There it was, a solitary hunk of ice in a sea of

green, proving once again the old adage that snow man is an island.

Rich solution

After years of working, Jim and Mary retired to a home overlooking a private beach on the gulf. During the winter they were deluged with relatives who would stay for several weeks at a time, interrupting the quiet life they wanted.

Finally Jim discovered a foolproof system for keeping the relatives away. He explained, "I borrow money from the rich ones and lend it to the poor ones. None of them come back."

Spring Happenings

After a hard winter, relief comes to the trees in the spring.

With the beginning of baseball season the umpires don't have it easy. The first time they go out on the field the band strikes up "Oh, say, can you see."

Yesterday I saw a guy spill all his Scrabble letters on the road. I asked him, "What's the word on the street?"

A dry cleaner was indicted for money laundering. A deal is being ironed out.

I find myself compelled to learn everything about both penguins and white bears. My psychiatrist tells me I

have a bi-polar disorder.

On the highway a small automobile being pulled by a motor home, displayed a sign in its rear window reading, "I go where I'm towed."

A local minister lamented that it was difficult to get his message across to his congregation: "It's so beautiful here in the winter," he said, "that heaven doesn't interest them. And it's so hot here in the summer that hell doesn't scare them."

See here!

During the snowbird exodus a policeman pulled a driver over for speeding and asked to see his license. After looking it over, he said to the driver, "Sir, it stipulates here on your license that you should be wearing glasses."

"Well, I have contacts," the man replied.

"Look sir, I don't care who you know," snapped the officer. "You're getting a ticket."

Say it s-l-o-w-l-y

Snowbirds who had always driven directly home via 195 decided to take an inland route. Nearing Kissimmee they noted the strange spelling and



Pun Alley
Dick Frank

tried to determine how to pronounce it -- KISS-a-me; kis-A-me; kis-a-ME?

They grew more perplexed as they drove into the town. Since they were hungry, they stopped at a fast food restaurant. At the counter, the man said to the clerk, "My wife and I can't seem to be able to figure out how to pronounce this place. Will you tell me where we are and say it very slowly so that I can understand?"

The clerk looked at him and said; "Buuurrrgerrr Kiiinnng."

The end

The same snowbirds decided to relax at a fancy Orlando hotel before continuing their drive home. The lady spent some time sunbathing on the hotel roof. She wore a bathing suit for a while then decided that no one could see her way up there, so she slipped out of it for an overall tan. She'd hardly begun when she heard someone running up the stairs. She was

See PUN on Page A20



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