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School's back ...



It was the first day of school for Marion County public schools Monday morning. Ashanti Holder, center, is one of 710 students attending Saddlewood Elementary School. She and her mother, Esperanza Cubero, right, checks the schedule with the help of Janet Dudley.

Resident mailed bogus sweepstakes check

Marion County Sheriff's Office detectives are warning residents of a sweepstakes scheme.

It's the Mega Million Sweepstakes from Holden Financial Services.

A letter and check, in the amount of \$4,450, were recently received by a Marion County resident.

The check was from the Philip Morris Management Corp. The concerned person turned the letter over to investigators.

It was quickly determined the letter was bait and the check was fake. "It's important, you don't

A letter and check, in the amount of \$4,450, were recently received by a Marion County resident.

send money," said Judge Cochran, Marion County Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer.

"The scammers usually ask you for a small fee, so they can release the rest of the money. You figure, no big deal, I've got a check from them already...but then after you send your

money, you find out that their check is bogus," said Cochran.

Also, the scammers may ask for personal identifiers such as Social Security numbers, bank account numbers, and other similar data.

Don't give out this information to anyone.

"We say it all the time. If it looks and sounds too good to be true, it's a scam," Cochran said.

Protect family and friends by sharing information about scams, so no one in Marion County becomes a victim.

Anticipated flight to honor veterans

**Michel Northsea
EDITOR**

Mike Emig may be officially retired but that doesn't mean he's slowed down any.

He's one of many working to make the next Honor Flight a reality.

Those goals, although lofty, are almost met, if some expected donations come through, Emig said.

The group needs about \$40,000 to charter a plane, pay for buses to transport

veterans while in Washington, D.C., and provide meals for the one-day trip.

Emig, a Fairfield Village resident, is working with the Honor Flight Committee of Ocala with the aim of taking another plane full of World War II veterans to Washington, D.C., to their memorial.

Last October, the first Honor Flight from Ocala took 100 veterans — many for the first and only time — to see their memorial.

Now the same commit-

tee is working to raise the necessary funds so that another 100 veterans can make the same trip — free of charge.

The concept of the Honor Flight program was the brainchild of Earl Morse, a retired Air Force captain and physician's assistant.

Morse and five other pilots flew 12 veterans in May 2005 as an inaugural trip to

Please see HONOR, Page 2

Ascending after starting work underground

**Michel Northsea
EDITOR**

Wanting to make more money, Charles "Chuck" Crawford went to work underground.

After 10 years underground he went to work above ground until he retired at 55 years old.

Crawford was young, only 20 years old, when he went into the Peabody Company Coal Mine #10 in Illinois. He started with Peabody when he was 19, he had already served four years with the Navy.

Not wanting to move one more time, he had been in seven different schools in six years — he convinced his parents he should join the service.

"This way, they would have one less mouth to feed," Crawford said about his childhood. He grew up in a home without running water or electricity in Illinois.

So at age 15, with the help of his parents, "we sat around and lied like heathens," the underage youngster joined the Navy with the help of a forged birth certificate.

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Charles Crawford

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The plan was for three years but then the Korean War broke out and another year was added to his hitch.

During those four years, his mother and stepdad moved to California — so Crawford followed when he got out of the service.

He didn't like it so he returned to Illinois.

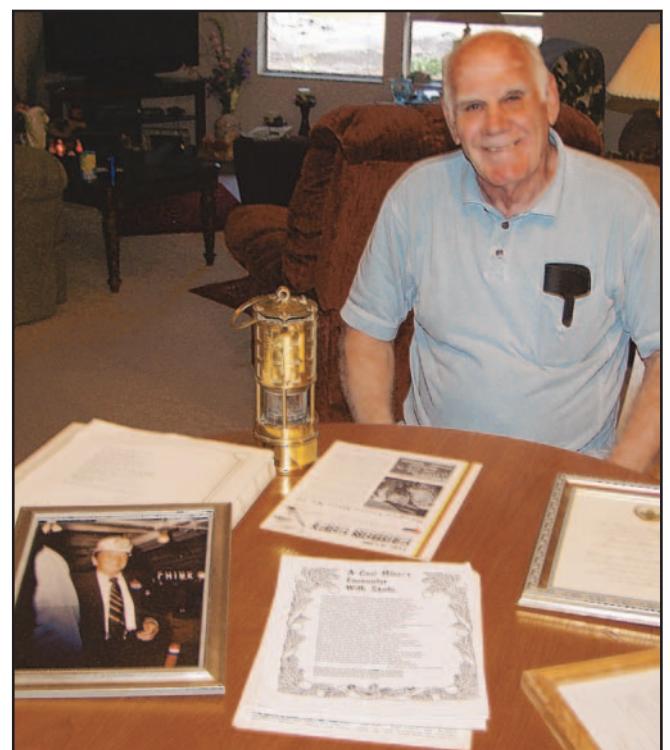
Promotion came his way and within 10 years he was asked to be the mine manager or "face boss." Along with the promotions came tests to show that he was proficient enough to pass the State Miners Examine Board and main manager's exams. "There were tests

they would run smoothly. Learning that he could make in three days what he was making in a week underground, Crawford became a miner on the third shift.

"I took to mining like a duck to water. I learned all I could. It seemed that I couldn't do anything wrong," he said of the early days in the mine. As a mine worker he was also a member of the union.

"When you reach up and touch that coal you're the first person that has touched it — ever in millions and millions of years," Crawford said.

As coal is broken off the face — methane gas is



Items in the scrapbook of Charles Crawford show the poems he wrote with references to his day in the coal mines, a photo of Gov. Ronald Reagan at the coal mine he worked and many certifications he earned in 36 years in coal mining.

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HONOR

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the nation's capitol. That trip was made one year after the World II Memorial was completed.

Knowing that many more veterans wanted to make the trip, they looked for ways to expand the program, creating the Honor Flight Network.

Now the program is available in 30 states throughout 71 different hubs — including Ocala.

To help achieve their goal for the next Ocala Flight, Emig has spoken to many area veterans associations, sought donations with Morrey Deen and Jim Hiltz at recent events and is willing to speak to other interested organizations.

But those efforts have paid off enough for the

Donations for the Honor Flight are tax deductible. Donations may also be mailed to "Honor Flight Marion County," c/o Florida Department of VFW P.O. Box 1630 Ocala, FL, 34478.

next flight to be set for Oct. 28, Emig said.

Additional donations are still very much appreciated. Donations may be made through the group's website at ocalahonor-flight.org

Donations for the Honor Flight are tax deductible. Donations may also be mailed to "Honor Flight Marion County," c/o Florida Department of VFW P.O. Box 1630 Ocala, FL, 34478.



JEFF BRYAN

Lt. Robert Graff, center, of the Marion County Fire Rescue Technical Rescue Team gives instructions at the unit's recent water-rescue training session in Rainbow River. Lt. Graf said the team has 40 members. About half of the unit was at the river for training. The Technical Rescue team is at Station 20.

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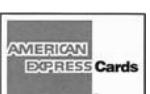
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MINE

continued from Page 1

thrown off and is a threat to miners underground because of its potential for explosions.

Fresh air is pulled through the different work areas in the mining operation to reduce the chances of a methane-induced explosion.

Each group of men working in the area has their own air source so as not to have "exhausted" air, he said.

As the "face boss" no longer was he underground in the coal mine all the time, much of his time was spent above ground.

After 10 years in Illinois pulling coal from mines 365 feet below the surface, Crawford was asked to be the day shift manager of the Deer Creek Mines in Utah. In Utah, coal was in the mountains 7,000 feet above the surface. So, Crawford and his wife June moved to Utah.

Coal from the mines Crawford and his crews were working went straight to a nearby power plant.

"The day shift manager rules the roost," Crawford said. Although each shift has their own manager, it is the day shift manager, or superintendent, that tells the engineers where they will mine next, deals with complaints and union concerns.

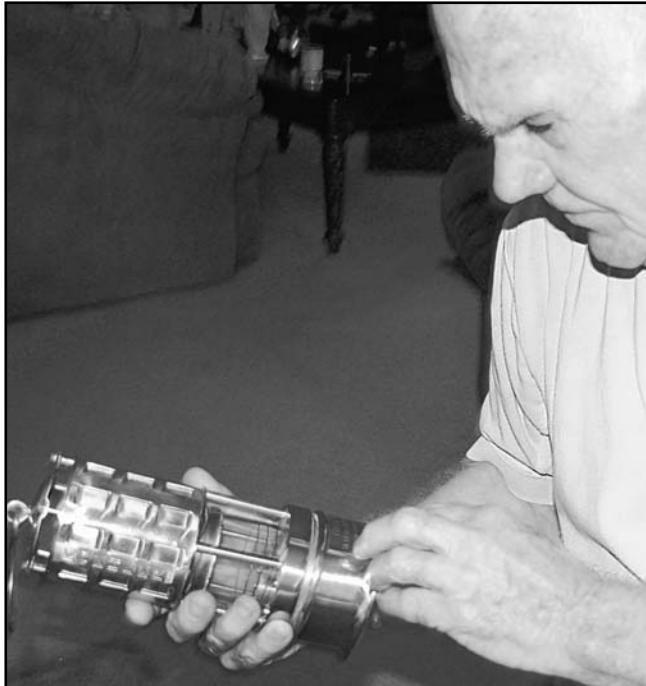
"The engineers with their degrees draw up the plans when we tell them too," he said.

From Utah, the "big boss" sent Crawford to Kentucky where he was in charge of the six different mines owned by Peabody. In Kentucky, coal was mined from the surface of the ground.

Two years later, he and June were transferred back to Mine number 10 in Taylorsville, Ill., for a few more years. With the transfer came additional responsibilities.

Sometimes those duties meant being a tour guide for important visitors.

While on the campaign trail, President Ronald Reagan was one of those visitors. Pages in Craw-



On his retirement, after 23 years, Charles Crawford was presented a safety lamp. The lamp was used to detect methane in the mine four hours prior to the beginning of each shift.

ford's scrapbook have photos of him with Reagan, a thank-you note from Reagan including a "hello" from Nancy and an invitation to his inauguration.

"I didn't go to the inauguration, I think it was more an honorary invitation," Crawford said.

Hearing of rumblings of the company being sold and many changes coming down the chute, Crawford decided to retire at 55 years old.

Because he had rarely taken time off, he ended up with 36 years with the Peabody Company.

Although he didn't take much vacation time, Crawford enjoyed boating when he had the chance, smoking cigarettes and drinking. While working, he had always promised himself he would give up drinking and smoking the minute he retired.

He took his last drink and smoked his last cigarette during his retirement bash some 23 years ago.

"I stopped cold turkey," he said.

Health problems often associated with coal miners were never a problem for him. The worst he suffered were two broken feet and mental anguish when two men were killed in one of the mines when he was s u p e r i n t e n d e n t .

Now, safety measures are in place that would have prevented those accidental deaths.

After retiring, the couple stayed in Illinois for several years but did some traveling. On one trip, Crawford made headlines when he found a plastic bag with \$3 million of cocaine on the beach near St. Augustine. He turned it over to law enforcement.

Eventually they moved to Florida, first living in Naples enjoying fishing and boating on the Caloosahatchee River until Hurricane Wilma came along and they decided to live elsewhere.

They settled in Foxwood Farms, the same year four hurricanes came through. They found the community on the way home from a trip to Georgia to visit June's family.

Flipping through the pages of his scrapbook gives Crawford the opportunity to reflect on the past.

"I started out as a repairman's helper and I went to highest, general superintendent, with just one year of high school. You can't do that anymore," he said.

Closing the scrapbooks, with its pages of certifications, Crawford says "let's go outside so I can show you the prayer bench I made for Junie."

"I like to do woodworking," he adds.



Headed for his first day of school in kindergarten at Saddlewood Elementary School dad's hand was a comfort for Dustin Poyer, with his father, Heath Poyer. His mother, Cheryl and older brother were also with him.

Clean water agency honors county's efforts

Award mailed

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies, or NACWA, awarded Marion County Utilities six Gold Peak Performance Awards recently. NACWA Executive Director Ken Kirk commended the department for consistently meeting federal compliance standards and ensuring that Marion County citizens receive the best possible water quality.

The six Marion County facilities that received awards include Loch Harbor Wastewater Treatment Facility, Northwest Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility at Golden Ocala, Oak Run Wastewater Treatment Plant, Salt Springs Wastewater Treatment Facility, Spruce Creek Preserve Wastewater Treatment Facility and Stonecrest Wastewater

Treatment Facility

To operate a public utility, agencies must meet between 230 and 600 federal compliance points (depending on the type of system) to keep its federally required National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. Winners of the Gold Peak Performance award met those federal standards 100 percent of the time.

"Achieving 100 percent compliance is not easy," Utilities Department Director Flip Mellinger said. "On any given day, a rain

storm, equipment failure or power outage could disrupt the system. Even if the disruption was a minor problem that lasted only 15 minutes, that system would not qualify for the gold standard. This means that six of our facilities operated perfectly all 365 days in 2009."

Kirk recognized Marion County Utilities at the association's 2010 summer conference in San Francisco, California in late July. However, due to budget constraints, Utilities staff could not attend the event.



The West Marion Messenger is a free community newspaper covering news of communities west of Ocala including Fore Ranch, Stone Creek, Fairfield Village, Ocala Palms, Timberwood, Falls of Ocala, Foxwood Farms and Golden Hills.

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

Problems getting the Messenger: If your community is listed above and the Messenger is not delivered to you or you are having trouble getting the paper from boxes around the S.R. 40 and SR 27 areas, call 854-3986.

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- Editor - Michel Northsea
- Circulation - Barbara Jagers
- Inside Sales/Office Coordinator - Pauline Moore
- Advertising Sales - Tom Rapplean and Susie Mirabile
- Regional Manager - John Provost

Deadline for news:

Friday 1 p.m. the week before publication.

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I want to get news in the Messenger.

Call editor Michel Northsea at 352-854-3986 or send by e-mail to editor@westmarionmessenger.com

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

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Stone Creek

Passing the talent on to keep the art form going



Patricia
Gizzi

Friendship Library recently had a month long exhibit of Seymour Roseman's stained glass objects. Mr. Roseman is a resident of Stone Creek and has shared his 30 year expertise in making stained glass with others. Recently, four of his students went to the library to see his work and share some of their work.

In the picture you can see Nancy Ko, Ann Cesarek, Mr. Roseman, Pat Piper and Sharon Tyler holding one of the four pieces they made with Mr. Roseman. Nancy and Ann are holding stained glass trays, Pat is holding a clock and Sharon is holding a window display piece. Over the course of many weeks, these students met with Mr. Roseman in the craft room at the Reunion Center and learned the art of making stained glass objects.

I had the honor to visit Mr. Roseman and his lovely wife in their home to see the many pieces he has created. He is presently working on a large mural. He explained to me how he draws the picture he will create and then makes many more copies with the colors he will use. When asked about the colors he uses, Seymour told me he is color blind but that has never hindered his work.

Seymour works in his air-conditioned garage, and his home is filled with many pieces of stained glass. He has beautiful panels on the side of his door that he told me came from another home but he had to lengthen them to fit this door. On the wall outside the door is a large circular piece. Inside are many more window pieces. Mr. Roseman not only does stained glass but makes clocks and he sculptures. His sculptures are exquisite and many are made from one piece of stone.

When I asked him what he did before he retired, he told me, "I was a sex therapist." His wife said he was a milk man. Whatever his occupation, Mr. Roseman is a Renaissance man. He feels it's necessary to



Many areas of the home of Seymour Roseman's are decorated with the stained glass pieces he makes.

teach the art of stained glass so that this art will continue. He also said someone taught him how to make clocks and so he feels the need to continue to teach and give back. He said he can tell that some of his students will be better makers of stained glass than he is if they continue to work at the art.

The picture of him next

to a large synagogue is one of his favorite pieces. It is a replica of a synagogue that was destroyed in 1948 in Jerusalem. There are 3,000 pieces of glass in this replica.

As you have seen from previous articles on the residents of Stone Creek, talent comes in all forms. I will continue to highlight the talents of others in future articles.



Seymour Roseman is pictured with one of his favorite pieces. It is a replica of a synagogue that was destroyed in 1948 in Jerusalem.



Nancy Ko, Ann Cesarek, Mr. Roseman, Pat Piper and Sharon Tyler holding one of the four pieces they made under the direction of Mr. Roseman.

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Fried Shrimp and Fish Platter

Panko crusted pangasius fish, popcorn shrimp, French fries, coleslaw and tartar sauce

All prices are plus tax and gratuity

7/10

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Opinion

Our Message

A sad but necessary step

Anyone who lives next to a home in foreclosure can appreciate the recent efforts of the Marion County commissioners.

Seeing an unoccupied home means that somewhere along the way someone's dream was shattered and that's sad.

But it doesn't take long for an unoccupied home to fall into a look of neglect. The grass becomes overgrown and if there's a pool, a green slime can start to grow on top.

A neglected pool is health hazard and no one knows what snake or rat may be hiding out in the tall grasses.

At times, there are concerns that squatters may take up residence in an unoccupied home.

Editorial

A new ordinance requires the mortgage holder to register a property considered vacate within 10 days after the property is vacated. That registration costs \$100 and requires that contact information be given to code enforcement. Knowing who to contact when the yard isn't being maintained makes it easier to enforce maintenance.

Until the foreclosure is resolved, mortgagees or owners are required to maintain the property by keeping the yard mowed, the bushes trimmed and the area clear of debris and litter. They are also required to secure the property and maintain pools and spas.

If, during an inspection, code enforcement finds that the mortgagees or owners have not maintained the property, they will receive a "Notice of Violation" and be asked to stand in front of the Marion County Enforcement Board where they could be fined for non-maintenance on the property.

This ordinance is set to sunset in 2013.

Prior to the passage of this ordinance, there was no recourse for those not maintaining their properties.

Code enforcement officers used to have to wait until the foreclosure was completely resolved before they could require the mortgage holder to maintain the property.

Time may show there really aren't enough teeth in the ordinance to keep yards as tidy as everyone may want – but it is a step in the right direction.

WEST MARION
Messenger
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Among Friends Please hold the appreciation



Michel
Northsea

Getting packages around a newspaper office isn't that unusual, especially when you mix in the recent election. So us editorial types don't think much of the Fed Ex truck stopping at the office – we just go on about our work.

But this time, the package was for the editorial department – another package from the U.S. Census Bureau.

It seems they, the Census Bureau from the Atlanta bureau needed to thank us for encouraging you to actually respond to this year questionnaires. And thank us they did. Not only did they send us a nice thank you letter, they sent us a pretty 8x10 plaque suitable for display in our office.

Overkill – when we remind our readers to send in their responses to the Census bureau, give blood and vote we're doing our job. Because we do our job we get a paycheck every two weeks whether we need it or not.

Being only human, we do appreciate a note of thanks from time to time from our readers but it isn't necessary.

Neither was it necessary to Fed Ex the package to us. The U.S. Postal Service would have been fine. You would think a federal agency would use another federal

agency, although quasi, to deliver the goods. The struggling postal agency could have used a boost in revenue, maybe that would save our Saturday mail delivery service.

Let's look at some figures. In the year 2000, the mail back response rate was 72 percent. It wasn't any different in the year 2010 at the national level – still 72 percent answered the mailed-out questions.

In Marion County, our mail back rate was 75 percent which was 13 percent more than the year 2000.

Even wasting money by Fed Exing us our appreciation plaque and the cost of the plaque, the Census Bureau still returned \$1.6 billion, yes a cool billion, to the coffers. At least that's the plan as of Aug. 12, according to a press release found on the Census' bureau website.

Some of that saving was based on the lack of acts of God. In case of some sort of natural disaster during the throes of collecting the data, the agency had earmarked \$800 million as a contingency fund.

Other savings, \$650 million, were realized because so many households were kind enough to return their questionnaire by mail. Those returned by mail saved the 565,000 census workers employed for the cause from knocking on a bunch of extra doors.

In addition, those temporary employers were more effective in getting the job done than in past decades. Did I just hear a sign of relief escape your lips?

Don't breathe easy the job still isn't completed until all the reports are compiled.

As required by law, the census bureau must report the nation's population and the apportionments of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives by the end of the year.

Those reports are bound to bring more column fodder.

Out to Pastor

For whom the school bells toll



James
Snyder

On Monday last there was a confusing cacophony swirling all around me. Usually, I'm not one to give vent to the noises around me but this was a little different. I like to pick sides but this time I'm not sure who to

root for. Perhaps you can understand the confusion I am facing.

It is like being a Gator fan in Bulldog territory.

This uncertain sound has confused the dickens out of me, and it isn't even Christmas time.

Looking out our living room window, I spotted the source of all this commotion. It was a yellow school bus filled with children on their way to their first day of school. As I watched the bus turn left and disappear out of sight, I thought about how the same incident can have completely opposite reactions.

First, there was the loud "hurrahs" of parents all through the community rejoicing in the commencement of school. Either, my hearing is getting better or the sound is getting louder, almost deafening. Up and down our street parents were high-fiving each other and smiling like they won the lottery. Even the lady across the street who has no children was out in her bathrobe joining in the celebration.

Then, second, there was the equally loud sound of groaning children commencing their formal education. After about three months of absolute freedom and fun, it was all behind them now and they were walking to their school classroom to set and set and set for the entire day.

The people I pity the most are the teachers who are the recipients of this horde of students who have not yet finished enjoying the fullness of their summer vacation. It seems that summer concludes rather quicker than the young people desire. Why is it good times go so fast and bad times seemed to drag on and on and on.

I am not sure which side of the fence I'm on with this one. I feel deeply towards these young people who after several months of freedom and absolute cavalier activity are now headed back to classrooms and discipline and cafeteria food. The fact that any kid survives cafeteria cuisine is a tribute to the constitutional strength of their stomach and digestive system.

But then I can understand the cheering on the side of the parents. I remember those days when my wife and I loaded up the children onto the bus for the first day of school. We stood together holding hands watching the bus drive out of sight and then we turned and slowly walked back into the house and sat down for a quiet cup of coffee. Let me underscore that word "quiet."

Don't get me wrong here, I love children, especially my children but I sure do love a quiet cup of coffee.

That seems to be the story of life. What makes one person happy is a burden to somebody else. What one person looks

On Point



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 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 week. The deadline is one week prior to each Wednesday's issue.
- ~ Send letters to: The West Marion Messenger Editor, 8810 S.W. State Road 200, suite 104, Ocala, FL 34481; or e-mail editor@westmarionmessenger.com.

Please see PASTOR, Page 8



Fairfield Village

Much more fun on the horizon



Priscilla
Geissal

With the children returning to school in neighborhoods around us and some of our "snow birds" beginning to return from "Up North," those of us who live year-round in Fairfield are anxious to see what the days around Labor Day and thereafter have in store for us. From the looks of things, we can expect lots more fun activities in FFV.

The new SAC (Social Activities Committee) made up of Charlene Jarvis, Ann Bruno, and Dee McNeill hosted the Potluck Dinner on Saturday, Aug. 21 at the Clubhouse. Sadly, Dee was not able to attend due to illness. The number attending was not so large as we will see later in the fall; however, everyone seemed to enjoy the evening immensely. Sloppy Joes were complemented by lots of side dishes and delicious desserts. Following the meal, neighbors were treated to entertainment provided by the gospel group, MERCY.

Earlier in the week, on Thursday, Aug. 19, the HOA held its regular monthly meeting. Again, the attendance was much smaller than will be the case when the next meeting is held on Thursday, Sept. 16, at 7 p.m. in the Fairfield Village Clubhouse. At that time, the HOA Board will be naming a nominating committee to seek interested and concerned residents to fill three positions which will be filled by the end of the year.

President Phil Geissal encouraged all residents to consider being a part of the Nominating Committee or, more importantly, to consider being a nominee to serve on the HOA Board. He jokingly added,

"It is the best non-paying job in our community if you are tough enough to take on the many challenges. I really had no idea how important time on the HOA Board was going to be when I got 'talked into this job' last fall. I am very glad that I did, but it can be very challenging while it is rewarding too. We want to convince some of our residents that serving on the HOA Board is an opportunity to be a part of some important things going on here in Fairfield Village. New ideas and new opinions are always being sought. Please let me or any of the Board members know if you are interested."

The combined efforts of

See FAIRFIELD, Page 9



Charlene Jarvis and Ann Bruno (far right) welcome the gospel group MERCY and their guests prior to their performance at the Fairfield Village Clubhouse on Sat., August 19.



Al Pitts and Barbara Skalka, HOA Board members, enjoy their meal that Al Pitts has described as a show of the success of the new collaboration between the HOA and the SAC.



Ann and Pam Bruno serve up luscious helpings of "Sloppy Joes" that were enjoyed at the Pot Luck Dinner on Saturday, Aug. 21 in the FFV Clubhouse

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A group of Fairfield Village neighbors enjoy dining together at the Potluck Dinner. (L to R) Roz Martin, Alex Martin, Don Ouellette, Carol Ouellette, and Kathy Nowak.

FAIRFIELD

continued from Page 7

the HOA/SAC are showing positive results with the renewed interest in social activities in the commu-

nity. Al Pitts, HOA Social Activities chair, pointed out that there are many interesting activities, day trips, and gatherings coming up that should be lots of fun for everyone to enjoy. Something for Everyone seems to be the motto for the upcoming

season. Beginning with the big Labor Day celebration on Monday, Sept. 6, there will be all kinds of social activities which will again emphasize the fact that Fairfield Village is a lively place filled with lovely people.

Recareering seminar for seniors at CF

Pathways Life Services at the College of Central Florida invites seniors to a free Recareering Seminar and Job Club on Friday, Aug. 27.

The Recareering Seminar will help seniors who are starting a new career, considering a change in career, or who want to improve in their current

career. Instructor Jennifer Zamecki will focus on resumes, applications, job development and interviewing. The seminar will be held from 9 a.m. to noon in the Ewers Century Center, Room 107, at the Ocala Campus, 3001 S.W. College Road.

The Job Club will meet from noon to 1 p.m. and

See SEMINAR, Page 11



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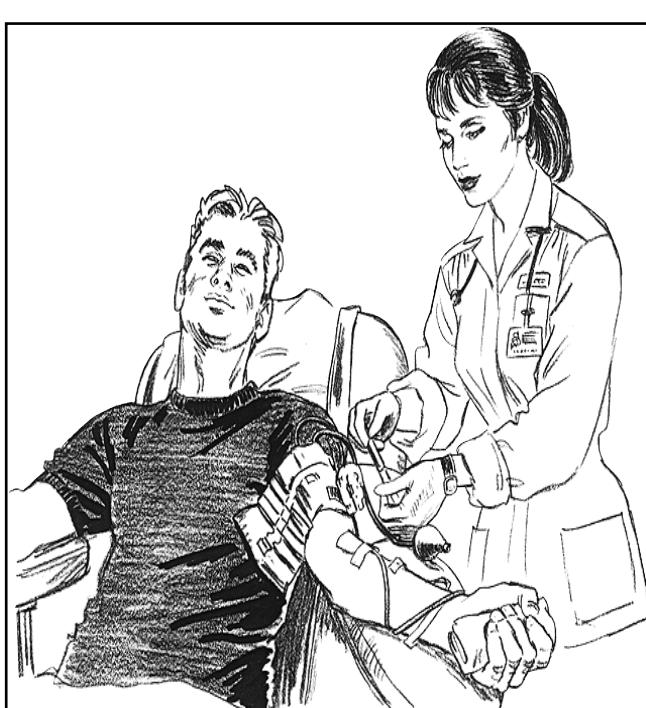
by M. E. Hampton, D.D.S.

STRINGING ALONG

The reason that dentists insist that their patients floss (as well as brush) their teeth is because flossing does nearly half the work necessary to remove "plaque." Unless this sticky bacteria-laden substance is removed from between teeth, where toothbrush bristles may not reach, tooth decay and gum disease will result. Patients with receding gums or large spaces between their teeth are advised to use a flat, wide dental tape. If teeth are closely spaced, thin floss is best, especially non-shredding floss. Patients with bridges and braces are likely to find it necessary to use a floss thresher to get underneath restorations or wires between teeth. There is also floss with a stiff end that does the job equally well.

By brushing and flossing we help to eliminate the bacteria, which can lead to bad breath, gingivitis, and periodontal disease thus creating smiles which last a lifetime. Always feel free to discuss your dental concerns with us at the office of **MARK E. HAMPTON, D.D.S.** We're located at **11902 Illinois Street**, where we practice an unparalleled level of dentistry. You can trust the health of your teeth to our extensive training and experience. Our concern is your comfort and confidence - our goal is to help you preserve your natural teeth for a lifetime. Please call 352.489.5071 to schedule an appointment. We're **"Dedicated to Excellent Dentistry."**

P.S. Patients who do not have the dexterity needed to use dental floss may want to try soft wooden plaque removers.



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Be wary of scams of all sorts

These days, everyone needs to be cautious of scams—Internet, mail, and even phone scams—which can damage your credit score and pocketbook. Any time someone asks for your personal information, you should be wary. Particularly cruel are scams that

target Social Security beneficiaries.

Recently, Social Security became aware of a scam targeting beneficiaries in the Southern California area. Scammers telephoned beneficiaries to tell them they were due a "stimulus payment." The scammer offered to de-

posit the payment to each beneficiary's account once the personal and bank account information was provided. The scammer then contacted Social Security by telephone to request the benefits be deposited into a new account—the scammer's account, to steal the payments. In a

similar version of this criminal ploy, the scammer calls the beneficiary to "confirm" the beneficiary's personal and financial information.

As a rule of thumb, Social Security will not call you for your personal information such as your Social Security number or banking information. If someone contacts you and asks for this kind of information, do not give it.

You should never provide your Social Security number or other personal information over the telephone unless you initiated the contact, or are confident of the person to whom you are speaking. If in doubt, do not release information without first verifying the validity of the call by contacting the local Social Security office or Social Security's toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Another way to protect yourself is to keep your Social Security card and

other important documents locked away in a safe place. Do not give personal information to just anyone. Also, check your Social Security earnings record. You can request a Social Security Statement online at www.socialsecurity.gov/statement. When you receive your Statement in the mail, you can verify the accuracy of the reported earnings and request correction if necessary.

If you've fallen victim to fraud or identity theft, be sure to file a report with the local police or the police department where the identity theft took place, and keep a copy of the police report as proof of the crime. Information on how to prevent scams and protect yourself can be found at www.ftc.gov/idtheft. You can also read Social Security's publication, Identify Theft and Your Social Security Number, available online at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10002.html.

Be alert when dealing with people who want your personal information, such as your bank account number, date of birth, and Social Security number. By using a little caution, you can protect yourself from scams.

Learn more about Social Security at www.socialsecurity.gov.



Adon
Williams

www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10064.html and Your Social Security Number and Card, available at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10002.html.

Adon Williams is the Social Security District Manager in Ocala, FL.

Ocala Health Presents Summer Seminar Series

As a partner in helping you live a life of good health, Ocala Health System offers a variety of free classes addressing your health needs and concerns. At Ocala Health, we are not just focused on your health, we are focused on you.



When to Call 911: Facts that Could Save Your Life!

August 20 - 2:00pm

Do you know when to call 911 for a medical condition? Some people delay calling 911 because they are unsure whether their medical condition or complaint is an emergency. There are specific conditions that should not wait. Presented by Arthur Osberg, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Ocala Health System.



Understanding Behaviors

August 27 - 2:00pm

An interactive program that gives insight into some reasons for certain behavioral issues, along with tips on dealing with them. You may be surprised about what you learn. Presented by Terrie Hardison, Executive Director, Alzheimer's and Dementia Alliance.



Acid-Alkaline Balance and Its Implications on Your Health

September 17 - 2:00pm

A surprising number of physical symptoms and diseases may be caused by the foods you eat. People who consume more "acidic" type foods than "alkaline" type foods may see more weight gain, premature aging, osteoporosis, bladder and kidney conditions, heart disease, low energy and chronic fatigue. Come learn how what you eat can affect your health. Presented by Dinah Donaldson RD, LD.



Benefits for Veterans & Their Family

September 10 - 2:00pm

There have been many recent changes to VA Healthcare, presumptive service connected conditions for veterans, and state laws that affect veterans. Age, physical condition, or income level may now qualify him or her for financial help. Come learn the facts from Steve Jacobs, Marion County Veterans Services.

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The Friendship Commons

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0005SKD



Francisco walks his daughters, Carolina, Danyna and Ameritzn to class on Monday, the first day of the new school year. They are students at Saddlewood Elementary School.

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SEMINAR

continued from Page 9

Attendees can participate in the seminar, Job Club or both. Refreshments will be served.

Reservations are required and can be obtained by calling 352-873-5804. This program is offered as part of the Plus 50 Initiative of CF, the American Association of Community Colleges and The Atlantic Philanthropies and is open to area residents 50 and better.

VETERANS

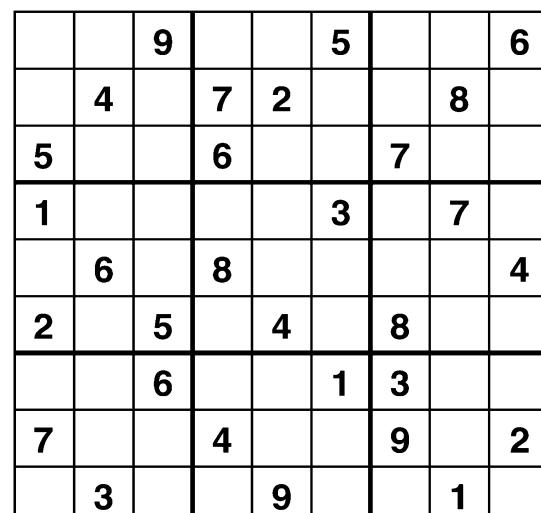
continued from Page 8

tion that in less than 10 years, I could have entered all the information into a computer; even with my two-finger hunt-and-peck method of typing. Additionally, with a handful of likeminded veterans, I could have walked every square inch of Arlington, noted what graves were where, and found graves without headstones by using those index cards and hand-drawn maps.

Why couldn't they?

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Answers to puzzles on page 12

King Crossword

ACROSS

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
					18				19	20		
21	22	23				24				28	29	
25					26	27						
30					31				32			
33				34					35			
				36				37				
38	39				40	41				45	46	47
42				43	44				50			
48				49								
51				52					53			

1 Antelope's playmate
5 Stinging insect
9 Police officer
12 Leer at
13 Cake topper
14 Sapporo sash
15 Group with a job
17 Swab the decks
18 Picnic Invaders
19 Hamstrings
21 Doesn't have
24 Staffer
25 Lotion additive
26 Non-noble
30 Doctrine
31 Lions' prides
32 Spy novel org.
33 Subway patron
35 Actress Gilpin
36 Lhasa —
37 Burdened
38 Mold and mildew
40 Yoked team
42 Moreover
43 Town
48 Altar affirmative
49 Neighborhood
50 A Great Lake

10 Reed Instrument
51 Angeles preceder
52 Eye part
53 Lairs

creation
34 Gasoline stat
35 Gave a bad review to
37 Romanian money
38 Go belly up
39 Destroy
40 Portent
41 Opening day?
44 Raw rock
45 Anger
46 Sardine container
47 "Absolutely"

DOWN

1	"What's up, —?"	16	— and outs
20	Commotion	20	Commotion
21	Secular	22	As well
22	Shock troops	23	U.S.
23	Skater Katarina	24	Censor of old Rome
24	Performances	25	Inseparable
25	Witness	26	Green land
26	Rodgers & Hammerstein	27	Reason for a tarp
27	Began	28	"Absolutely"
28		29	
29		30	
31		32	
32		33	
33		34	
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35		36	
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DEADLINES

Friday at 4:00 pm is the deadline for classified reader ads.

CANCELLATIONS

Advertisements may be canceled as soon as results are obtained. You will be billed only for the dates the ad actually appears in the paper. Deadlines for cancellations are the same as the deadlines for placing ads, except for specials.

Beware: Publication of any classified advertisement does not constitute endorsement by the West Marion Messenger. We make every effort to screen out advertising that may not be legitimate.

However, since we can not guarantee the legitimacy of our advertisers, you are advised to be careful of misleading ads and take caution when giving out personal information.

**TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD, CALL Toll Free 1-877-676-1403
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Medical

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Real Estate For Sale

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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About 43 residents of Sweetwater Oaks gathered in the community's clubhouse for a fish fry last week. Besides chowing down on good fish it was also an opportunity to visit with neighbors.

Among Friends

Bible study class to resume

The Tuesday afternoon Bible Study classes will resume on Sept. 7, at 2 p.m. at Countryside Presbyterian Church, 7768 S.W. Hwy. 200, Ocala.

The discussion on The Gospel According to John will be led by the Rev. Herb McGrath. The public is invited.

For further information, please call the church office at 237-4633.

FairTax meeting

Supporters of the FairTax will hold an information meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 25 at the Marion County Library (2720 Silver Springs Blvd) at 6 p.m.

Come and learn why supporters believe at FairTax is a simple, transparent, and fair system of taxation that will help both your country and you.

Please join us and bring a friend. To RSVP or for further information, contact Ron and Elaine Maiellaro at ocalafairtax@cfl.rr.com or 352-671-6724.

United Way needs tax volunteers

United Way of Marion County is looking for volunteers who are interested in providing certified Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) to Marion County residents. VITA sites will be located in surrounding areas in Marion County and at the United Way office to offer free tax-preparation services for Marion County residents.

Orientation will be Thursday, August 26th at 1 p.m. at the United Way located at 1401 N.E. 2nd St., Ocala.

For more information or to register, contact Krista Martin at 732-9696 ext. 215 or kmartin@uwmc.org.

Blood drive set for Sept. 4

What's the perfect song for a blood donation soundtrack? Maybe something by Blood, Sweat and Tears or the classic "Young Blood."

Donors will have their say at a special Sept. 4 blood drive at the Paddock Mall in Ocala.

LifeSouth will be teaming with WITG Real Oldies 104.7 for a "Play for Pints" blood drive at the mall. Donors will be able to request a song that will play while they donate from noon to 2 p.m.

LifeSouth's bloodmobile will be parked just outside of the mall's food court Friday-Monday of Labor Day weekend, and each day donors will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 mall gift certificate. They'll also get cookies and thank you T-shirts for their efforts.

Donors must be 17 or older, or 16 with written parental consent, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in good health. A photo ID is also required.

Vendors wanted for history festival

The Fort King Festival, an annual event for the Marion County Museum of History, will be held Saturday, Sept. 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., featuring living history interpretations with various time periods represented, demonstrations of weaving, spinning, cooing, blacksmithing, and many other skills of early settlers.

Old fashioned children's activities will be included. Free admission to the festival but museum admission is \$2.

A chicken dinner will be available for \$8. Non-food vendors are welcome with a small fee to participate. Located in the McPherson Gov't Complex, between Ft. King St. and SE 25th Ave. Call (352) 629-2773 or (352) 694-2529.

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BOARDING
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Pet photos wanted

Readers of the West Marion Messenger are invited to send in photos of their pets for publication. The photos can include people too. Photos can be emailed in a digital format to editor@westmarion-messenger.com. Please include pertinent information of pet's name, how old the pet is, where it lives and who the proud pet owner is.

Photos may also be mailed to the West Marion Messenger, 8810 S.W. Hwy. 200, Suite 104, Ocala, FL 34481. Questions? Call 854-3986, ask for Michel Northsea.

Answers to puzzles on page 11

DEER	WASP	COP
OGLE	ICER	OBI
COMMITTEE	MOP	
ANTS	LAMES	
LACKS	AIDE	
ALOE	COMMONER	
ISM	MANES CIA	
COMMUTER	PERI	
APSO	LADEN	
FUNGI	OXEN	
AND	COMMUNITY	
IDO	AREA ERIE	
LOS	LENS DENS	

8	7	9	3	1	5	4	2	6
6	4	3	7	2	9	5	8	1
5	2	1	6	8	4	7	3	9
1	8	4	9	6	3	2	7	5
3	6	7	8	5	2	1	9	4
2	9	5	1	4	7	8	6	3
9	5	6	2	7	1	3	4	8
7	1	8	4	3	6	9	5	2
4	3	2	5	9	8	6	1	7