

# WEST MARION Messenger

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES & BUSINESSES BETWEEN SR 200 AND US 27



PHOTO BY MARION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

James Edward Bannister, suspect in the murder of four people in the Northwest section on Aug. 5, is led to jail by a Marion County deputy.

## Suspect jailed in four deaths

The boyfriend of one of the four people killed last week in a home on Northwest 5th Street in Ocala has been arrested and charged with four counts of murder and one count of arson.

James Edward Bannister, 31, of Northeast 32nd Place, allegedly shot all four victims and then set the house on fire.

The quadruple homicide at 5366 N.W. 5th St., Ocala, was discovered Friday, August 5, after Marion County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to a house fire involving multiple fatalities. The victims were Jocalyn Gray, age 27; Codarrion Hill, age 9; Coderica Hill, age 7; and Bridget Gray, 52. Bridget Gray was the adult who lived in the house.

According to the arrest affidavit, it was learned "that Bridget Gray lived in this home with the children, and that Jocalyn had been invited over to the home via telephone by her mother, Bridget, because someone was at the home who wanted to see her. Jocalyn then called her sister," who was also asked to come to the house.

Detectives spoke to a child, "who stated that she watched as her mother (Jocalyn) went to the front door, and as the door opened, she saw a yellow and white flash, heard a bang, and watched as her mother

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fell immediately to the ground, half in and half out of the house. Jocalyn's body was then drug into the home and the door closed. The child stated that she soon saw flames coming from the house and stayed in the truck with two other children, until neighbors came and took them."

Detectives spoke with Gray's boyfriend, Bannister, and learned that they lived together and have a child together. In an interview with the detective, when asked where he was, he said he was at Deer Run on Northeast 28th Street and at his home. He said he was in possession of his cell phone at the time of the murder, and deputies said records indicate that during the time of the murder, his phone was in the area of Bridget Gray's residence.

Then, the affidavit states, deputies got help from a witness, who talked with Bannister.

He allegedly admitted the killings, and said "it was like he was playing a video game, but that he could not stop."

Later the witness wore a wire and Bannister allegedly made incriminating statements, according to the affidavit, and he was arrested.

## Back to school

### Monday's the day for 49 public schools

With the sluggish economy, only 90 newly hired teachers started their Marion County teaching careers last week with New Teacher Orientation at Forest High School. Just four years ago, that number topped 400.

This Monday, another 2,900-plus returning teachers headed back to their classrooms in Marion County's 49 public schools.

Meantime, a projected 41,540 students are expected on the first day of school come Monday, Aug. 22. This is 332 fewer students than last year's peak attendance.

The new school year's shaping up for Marion County Public Schools as the district deals with issues like cutting budgets, maintaining class size limits, and meeting higher academic standards and unfunded mandates.

Parents can ease their frustrations and avoid long waiting lines by registering their children before school starts. This includes kindergarten students, who will "stagger start" their first days, meaning they'll attend just one day of class during the first few days of school, lowering the student-teacher ratio dramatically to enhance the transition into school.

Students, especially seventh graders, must have their immunizations up-to-date as required by Florida state statute by Aug. 22. If not, they won't be allowed in

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class on the first day. Last year, 488 seventh graders lacked proper immunizations and were not allowed to attend first-day classes.

School times remain virtually the same as last year. Most elementary schools start at 7:45 a.m. Most middle schools start between 9:10 a.m. and 9:35 a.m. except Liberty (8 a.m.) and Osceola (7:50 a.m.). Finally, high schools start between 8:50 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. with the exception of MTI (7:15 a.m.).

AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) transfer requests total 246 as of last week. All requests were granted, including 181 with district-provided transportation. Approximately 1,121 students could receive Supplementary Education Services (free tutoring) in the first round of enrollment, which means parents have until September 2 to apply for these first-round services through the district's Title One Office (352.620.7652). If funds permit, SES enrollment forms will continue being accepted so additional students can be placed throughout the year.

As well, 130 Dunnellon High students have requested reassignment under the

Please see SCHOOLS, Page 12



### Time for a break

Jerry Volz is shown resting on the bench she donated to the community in Quail Meadow. The story of her donation is in the Quail Meadow column on Page 5.

## Food drive inside Ocala Palms

The Ocala Palms Worship Community is sponsoring a food and clothing drive on Aug. 18.

Residents of Ocala Palms are encouraged to drop by donations of non-perishable food items, personal hygiene items and gently used clothing to the truck in the parking lot of the community center.

Volunteers will be on hand from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to accept the donations.

All items donated during the day will be given to the Interfaith Emergency Services for distribution to those in need.

## Vote for Brick City Park to win national prize

Love your Marion County parks? Then make it known across the United States and help Marion County Parks and Recreation bring home a national prize for one of its parks.

Parks and Recreation is inviting all county residents to vote in the "America is Your Park" national

contest and help Brick City Adventure Park, the only recreational facility from Marion County in the competition, win up to \$100,000 in park improvement grants.

The contest is being held for the second year as part of Coca-Cola Co.'s Live Positively initiative, which encourages people all over

the nation to get active in local parks.

Grants will be awarded to the three parks that accumulate the most votes by Sept. 6. To vote, visit [www.livepositively.com](http://www.livepositively.com) and click on the "Get involved" tab. Citizens may vote multiple times.

Parks and Recreation staff selected Brick City

Adventure Park for the competition because it is slated for future improvements. The park is located at 1211 S.E. 22nd Road, Ocala.

To learn more about this and other Marion County recreation areas, visit [www.marioncountyfl.org/parks.htm](http://www.marioncountyfl.org/parks.htm) or call 352-671-8560.



## Fairfield Village

# Downtown event of interest to Fairfield Village folks



Wonderful 1918 Paige Essex with wooden spoke wheels (owned by Dr. Walt and Wanda Aiken) will be part of the display at VehltorOcala.com on Sat., Aug. 20 at 415 N. Magnolia Ave., Ocala.



Priscilla Geissal

kinds of things going on: Music of the 1950s and 1960s and Doo Wop by Krusin' with the Kid.

Historic mobile Military Museum dedicated to Vietnam vets.

Upwards to 200 classic cars and trucks from local car clubs.

USA's largest touring Monster Fire Truck "Burnt Up."

Refreshments by MoJo Grill & Catering Co and Rick's Cones Ice Cream.

WhatsUpOcala.com Race Car Team with drivers suited up.

On display (inside) will be the documented 1918 Paige Essex 4-Door Convertible Touring Limousine used by President John F. Kennedy in one of his appearances in Harrisburg, Illinois. The car, owned then by Illinois Congressman Ken Gray was kept on display for 20 years in the Congressman's Presidential Museum (wooden spoke wheels and all). It has been in Marion County since January, 2009, and is owned by Dr. Walt and Wanda Aiken.

As part of this event, visitors are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy to help to kick off 2011's Toys for Tots drive. Another favorite charity is Helping Hands Foundation that receives a donation from the sponsoring business with every vehicle consigned.

Our 16-year-old grandson and his father regularly attend car shows in and around the Washington D.C., Virginia, and Pennsylvania areas. Both of them have instructed me to send more photos of the vehicles on display that day. Of special interest to them, so I was told, is a 1931 Ford that I heard would be a "show stopper." I hope to get just the right photo for them since it will be impossible for them to be here because of other obligations in Virginia this coming weekend.

I have it on good authority that quite a number of Fairfield Village's ladies and gentlemen will be attending this event next Saturday. I have not heard for sure if any of our community plan to display classic cars that they own or to be involved with some friend who has this wonderful hobby. I know that my husband and I plan to be there to enjoy the event along with several others of the people of Fairfield Village "...a lively place filled with lovely people."

Coming up this Saturday, Aug. 20, there will be an event to interest any of us who like the "antique, classic, or unusual" world of vehicles. Who among us does not love at least some kind of vehicle whether we can afford the special ones or not?

The event will be one that can/will touch the hearts of young and not so young, rich and not so rich, militarily inclined and/or not so militarily inclined, musically interested and/or not so musically interested, as well as those of us who really enjoy good times and good food at little to no cost to us. That should cover almost anyone in this area and definitely many of us who call Fairfield Village "home."

One of the co-owners and founder of VehltorOcala.com, Tom Burke, told me that those who are interested should be at the 415 N. Magnolia address off the square downtown very early if you do not want to have to walk quite a way. Classic car owners who wish to display their vehicles must be inside the front Magnolia Avenue gate between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. when the "Celebration" opens to the public.

Between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. inside the Showroom, Bob Cabbage will be entertaining on the piano while there will be treats by Ocala La Cuisine French Restaurant.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. outside there will be all



The hood ornament is very detailed and quite ornamental on this classic Ford.



A very impressive and flashy street rod will be one of the cars on display Saturday in downtown Ocala.



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Stone Creek

# Interview with new community manager

## Chris Johnson takes over at Stone Creek



Patricia Gizzi

The search for a new community manager has been completed at Stone Creek. The last few months, Stone Creek had an interim community manager while the search for the best person went on.

Chris Johnson accepted the offer to be the new community association manager at Stone Creek. Chris relocated from Indiana to take the position. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and served two tours in Vietnam.

He taught history at the academy and served the remainder of his Marine Corps career in various positions. Chris was a senior aide to the Vice Chief of Naval Operations in the Pentagon.

He was also a battalion commander and Deputy Base Commander. Chris

retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. Upon retiring from the military, Chris continued to serve his country as Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary of Education in the first Bush administration. He also served as the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation for a town in Virginia and the city of Portage, Indiana.

Chris is married to his wife Ann and they have three children, Christopher, an attorney, Sarah, a vice president for a company in Virginia and Rachel a student at Virginia Tech.

Here are Chris's answers from my interview with him:

**Q. Most jobs have job descriptions. How would you describe your job?**

Chris: I see this job as providing the best customer satisfaction I can.

**Q. What parts of the job description play to your strengths?**

Chris: I have experience in all aspects of this job, just in different settings. This (job) will be a culmination of all my background to be brought to bear into this job.

**Q. What qualifications would like to see in the new Lifestyle Director?**

**How can Stone Creek keep a Lifestyle Director as we have had three in under 5 years?**

Chris: We are actively searching for a new Lifestyle Director, and I am confident that plans and programs are in place covering the period that we will be searching. The Lifestyle Director needs to have both the technical skills required, as well as the people skills which turn the entire process into a wonderful experience for all.

I do not know how to keep someone from wanting to explore new horizons, expand their careers, or take care of family issues ... all of which impact on how long a person stays on a job ... even when they love their job, and are doing it very well.

**Q. Have you had any feedback from the former Community Association Manager? If so, what 'words of wisdom' did she give you?**

Chris: I've met Peggy, but have not had any chance to chat with her at any substantive level.

**Q. What is your vision for Stone Creek?**

Chris: My vision is to provide the best customer satisfaction to the residents of

Stone Creek.

**Q. Why do you think that this job is the perfect fit for you?**

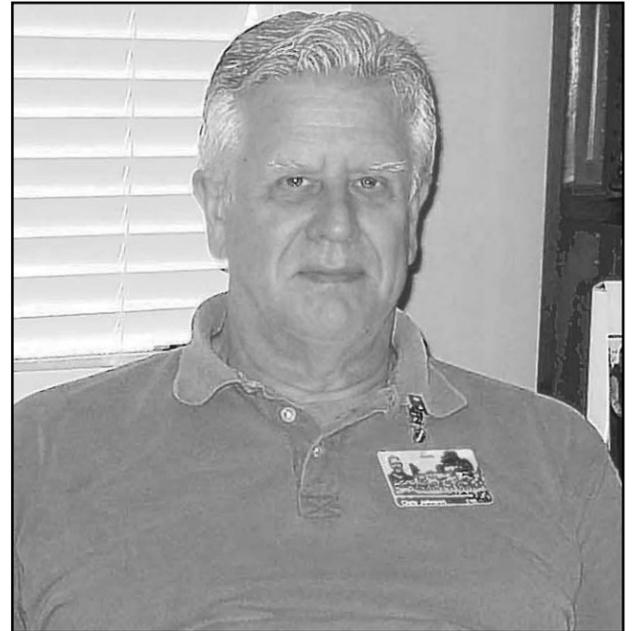
Chris: I think the job is a perfect fit because it represents all the varied skills and experiences

I have had, and I personally represent the demographic for our residents which allows me some insight that may be beneficial to providing the quality of service I expect from myself.

**Q. Please feel free to add any comments about hobbies or other items that you think the residents of Stone Creek would like to know.**

Chris: I think much of my background and experience has already been posted elsewhere, but I do want to emphasize how delighted I am to be here. In the bio on Chris, it was noted that Chris enjoys swimming, reading, and says he is looking forward to getting back out on the golf course.

Many residents got to meet Chris at a meet and greet event. The Stone Creek family welcomes Chris, and looks forward to working with a community manager that wants to provide the best customer satisfaction!



Chris Johnson is new Stone Creek Community Manager.

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## Moose lodge activities

Friday, Aug. 19: Steak night with karaoke by J & S Entertainment beginning at 5 p.m.,

Saturday, Aug. 20: TV sports, Show me the money at 2 p.m., Queen of Hearts, Rita's award, ham dinner and karaoke by Kenny Jackson all begins at 5 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 21: Breakfast Buffet 9 a.m. until noon. TV sports

Monday, Aug. 22: Men's General meeting at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 23: Wings or shrimp with karaoke by David Baldwin starting at 5 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 25: Fun Night, bowling at 5 p.m., shuffleboard and Wii bowling tournaments at 6 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 26: Thanksgiving in August, full turkey dinner at 5 p.m. Followed by Randy Stanley's karaoke

Saturday, Aug. 27: Smoked beef brisket and karaoke by Randy Stanley at 5 p.m.

The lodge is at 10411 S.W. 110th St., north of the SR 200 main entrance of Oak Run. Phone is 352-854-2200.

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# Happenings

## Sunday, Aug. 21

### Free gospel music concert

Christ's Church of Marion County presents Jimmy Strickland, Southern Gospel recording artist, in a night of "Pure Southern Gospel Music." 5 p.m.

Jimmy has performed on stage with well-known recording artists Bill Gather, Dottie Rambo, the Oak Ridge Boys, the Goodman Family and a host of others. Enjoy an evening of great gospel music.

There is no admission charge. A free-will offering will be taken.

Christ's Church of Marion County, 6768 S.W. 80th St. (off SR 200), Ocala. 352-861-6182 or www.ccomc.org.

### Free music from Jazz Society

The Ocala Jazz Society returns to the VFW across from Oak Run on Sunday, Aug. 21, from 2 to 5 p.m.

The group plays a lot more than jazz, featuring standards and music from past years. It's great music, and dancing is encouraged.

For information, call Gladys at 352-854-8930.

## Thursday, Sept. 8

### CERT training available

A new Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training will begin Thursday, Sept. 8 at the Marion County Sheriff's Office, 692 N.W. 30th Ave., Ocala. This is an 8-session training which is available either as an afternoon, from 1 to 3 p.m. class or as an evening, 6:30 to 9 p.m. class. The afternoon and evening classes run con-

currently and attendance can be mixed, depending upon availability. Only one class can be missed in the 8-session series and the CPR and last class is mandatory.

The CERT program is made up of volunteers under the direction of the Division of Emergency Management of the Sheriff's Office. The purpose of CERT is to train and certify volunteers to be first responders in their communities in the event of a disaster such as a hurricane or tornado.

The CERT training includes basic skills in disaster preparedness, fire safety, assessment and treatment of life-threatening conditions, light search of structural and non-structural damage, psychology of the injured and terrorism. Studies of behavior following a disaster have shown that volunteers perform more effectively if they have had prior training and planning in how to function as a team.

Consider this opportunity to learn how to form or join a CERT group in your community by signing up for this no-cost training program. For more information and for an application, contact Bob Conn, Trainer, at 352-812-0853.

## Saturday, Sept. 17

### Golf event to benefit Special Olympics

The inaugural "Be a Fan" benefit golf tournament for Special Olympics Marion County, sponsored by the Ocala Palms Community, will be Saturday, Sept. 17, at Ocala Palms Golf and Country Club.

There will be donuts, juice and coffee at 7:30 a.m. and a four-person best ball shotgun scramble at 8:30 a.m.

Cost is \$75 per player and includes green fees and cart, range balls and buffet lunch. There will be prizes and raffles.

For sponsorship and team registration forms contact Peter Kowal at 352-629-5407 or e-mail peterkowal@embarqmail.com, or Diane Peterson, 352-690-1643 or e-mail dlpdiane@embarqmail.com.

## Saturday, Sept. 24

### Trash to Treasure vendors sought

The Church of the Advent, 11251 S.W. Hwy 484, Dunnellon, is holding its annual Trash to Treasure sale on Saturday Sept 24. (Rain date Oct 1).

This will be an outdoor event. Crafters, Flea Market and Food Vendors are invited to attend. Spaces will be 10 x 10 with many of them being in the shade and rent for \$15 each. Set up will begin at 6 a.m. with the sale beginning at 8 a.m. and ending at 2 p.m.

Call Al Sickle at 352-208-5664 or Maryanne Brennan 352-347-2428 for registration forms and other information.

You must provide your own tables.

## Ongoing

### Live entertainment at evening market

Beat the summer heat and enjoy an evening stroll at the Circle Square Commons Farmer's Market on The Town Square every Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m.

Find fresh seasonal produce, flowers, plants, fresh baked goods, hand-made soaps, delicious pies and much more. Plus, the Market features live entertainment from popular artists.

Circle Square Commons is located adjacent to On Top of the World Communities at 8405 S.W. 80th St. in Ocala.

# The secret to having a great marriage

This week the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and Yours Truly celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary. This week as I pondered our life together it occurred to me, I might be taking some things for granted. Doing this, especially when it involves another person, is dangerous. I decided to take a little stock of myself and my relationship with the Mistress of the parsonage. What makes our marriage so great?

The first thing I had to do was check with her to

make sure our marriage was indeed great. Much to my relief, she too agreed with my conclusion. This borders on the miraculous. Whenever we agree 100 percent on anything, watch out!

A recent Hollywood wedding got me thinking. According to the reports I have seen, that wedding cost more than one million dollars! Only in Hollywood! Given the way such things go in the west coast marital Mecca, it amounts to about \$100,000 a month of married life.

Our wedding, 40 years ago, cost \$97.73. It took us all summer to scrape and save for our nuptial extravaganza.

So far, our marriage has cost us 20 cents per month. The best 20 cents we ever invested. The amazing thing about this is, each month the cost goes down but the value goes up.

The question I wanted to answer, at least in my own mind was what made our marriage so great? What is the secret of our marriage?

As far as I can assess, there are four things about

our marriage that has made it the great success it is today.

The first is FORGIVE AND FORGET. She forgives me my mistakes and I never forget to thank her for it.

Some couples carry grudges for years. Thanks to my memory challenged mind, I cannot remember what I had for lunch yesterday much less a disagreement several years old. It takes an enormous amount of energy to REMEMBER things that happened years ago. I prefer

spending that energy creating new memories.

Another key to our marital bliss is TOSS AND TURN. She tosses everything out and I turn the house upside down trying to find it. This has been the most difficult for me.

I would not admit being a pack rat, but each year they invite me to be their keynote speaker at their convention. I would go but each year my good wife tosses the letter out before I can respond.

My wife believes that tossing away yesterday's



James Snyder

baggage and turning over a new leaf each day is crucial. As my wife is fond of saying, "Today it the first day of the rest of your life." Sometimes she says it with a twinkle of menace in her left eye.

See SNYDER, Page 12



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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, Quail Meadow, 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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">I want to get news in the Messenger.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Call editor Jim Clark at 352-854-3986 or send by e-mail to editor@westmarionmessenger.com</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">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.</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Deadline for Advertising</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Classified Reader Ads 4 pm Friday</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Display Ads 5 pm Thursday</p>
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4	×	4	+	9	25
+		÷		-	
8	÷	2	+	7	11
×		×		×	
1	+	5	+	6	12
12		10		12	

**Super Crossword**

Answers

P	A	L	F	O	G	G	B	A	C	H	S	L	I	M	E				
I	M	A	S	U	R	A	L	E	L	I	A	A	T	O	N	A	L		
N	O	T	H	I	N	G	B	U	T	N	E	A	T	D	E	T	E	C	T
G	R	E	E	N	B	E	A	N	E	R	R	H	O	N					
E	X	A	C	T	L	Y	L	E	A	N	D	E	I	G	H	T	O	N	
G	I	S	F	A	R	E	P	E	T	T	Y	A	F	R	O				
A	C	M	E	M	O	R	N	S	M	E	A	L	V	T	E	A	R	S	
M	E	A	R	A	R	A	C	T	B	A	V	A	R	I	A	N	C	O	
B	E	T	H	E	G	O	A	D	F	A	T	H	E	R	M	E	W		
A	L	S	O	R	R	M	A	I	D	T	H	E	R	A	T	O			
S	W	E	E	T	P	E	A	R	A	M	H	I	N	D	U				
H	E	A	V	E	S	I	T	A	E	G	A	R	P	E	E	R			
S	T	I	N	T	N	I	B	S	I	S	L	E	Y	E	N				
C	H	E	A	T	H	U	N	T	L	E	Y	B	A	R	R	E	N	S	
H	A	R	I	D	A	I	R	A	E	A	V	A	I	L					
E	L	I	C	I	T	D	E	A	N	O	F	I	N	I	Q	U	I	T	Y
A	L	K	A	L	I	E	Y	R	E	A	G	A	R	E	V	A	N		
P	E	A	R	L	R	E	A	M	R	E	E	K	E	R	E				

**Weekly SUDOKU**

Answer

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

**Jerry donates a new bench for 'walkers'**



Carolyn Slocumb

How many of you "walkers" have noticed the new bench at the end of 35th Street? The intersection of 35th and 44th Court is known as the "Quail Meadow Parklet." Jerry Volz graciously donated the lovely park bench to the community. Jerry is a daily walker and said that she gets tired by the time she reaches this intersection, so she decided to do something to help everyone. After Jerry purchased the bench many other residents joined together to see that it was properly installed. This required making a form for the cement, digging footings, mixing and pouring the cement, and also putting together the bench. This was all accomplished by Bud Avery, Bob Marinak, Horst Kelbert, Bill Sjogren, Bob Stafford, and Jerome and Kitty Ware. The next time you are out for a walk, stop and rest on the new bench. We have another



celebrity in our midst – Dave Yoders got his first "hole-in-one" on the #15 hole at Pine Oaks Golf Course. As is the custom, Dave bought beer for everyone. If any golfers are interested in participating in a Couples 9-hole league, please contact Terry McGill (I think Dave and Theresa will be playing).

Our community has always been generous in our donations to Interfaith Services. There is a box for non-perishable donations in the clubhouse. Mary and John Zdarsky deliver the items to Interfaith each week. They also do volunteer work at the center one day a week. Interfaith is in great need of donations of food and money. They have formed the Interfaith High \$5 Club to assist at this time. All that is required is a \$5 donation. The goal is for 100,000 people in Marion County to make this small donation. Donations can be made online (www.iesmarion.org), at any Regions Bank location, any Marion County Tax Collectors Office or stop by

the Interfaith office. As you know, times are hard in Marion County and Interfaith Emergency Services is seeing more and more people who need help with food, shelter, clothing and assistance with medication. Interfaith Services relies 100 percent on donations from the community. Interfaith prides itself on being 100 percent donation based and receives no government funding for day to day operations. During 2010, Interfaith touched the lives of more than 150,000 individuals in Marion County, providing food, clothing, hygiene and other services. In the pursuit to help the homeless in Marion County, a shelter was created to house single women, women with children and families. Residents receive help with services normally provided, and get assistance so that they can transition back into society and a normal life. Contact John or Mary Zdarsky for more information, or go to www.iesmarion.org.

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# Opinion

## Our Message

# Rules for school bus passing

Once again those big yellow buses are ready to travel the highways and byways of Marion County, taking children to and from school.

Classes for public school students begin on Monday, Aug. 22. Some private schools, including big ones such as Trinity Catholic High School and Blessed Trinity Elementary School, have already started.

Therefore, it's time to review some of the most misunderstood traffic rules on the books in Florida.

■ If you are going in the same direction as a school bus, no matter how many lanes the road has, you must stop if the arm is extended and the red lights are on. It is prudent to not pass the bus when the yellow lights come on as the bus slows down, because they could change to red at any moment, and if they're red and you're passing, watch out for the blue lights.

■ If you are going in the opposite direction as a school bus on a two-lane road, and the arm is extended and the red lights come on, you must stop. No exceptions.

■ If you are going in the opposite direction as a school bus on a four-lane road, well, here's where it gets tricky. If the four-lane road has a median more than five feet wide, or a barrier to prevent normal crossing of foot traffic, you do not have to stop.

It must, however, be a median (around here most are grass and/or plants).

However, if the four-lane road has no median or barrier, you must stop if you are going in the opposite direction. Around here, we have a number of "five-lane" roads, roads which have a turn lane in the middle. Those paved turn lanes are not medians, and you must stop.

We see violations all the time on such streets as 27th Avenue West, 14th Street Northeast and roads such as that.

There are even small portions of U.S. 27 that have no divider or median, just a turn lane.

So please, know the law and keep the children who are using the school buses safe.

You can also save yourself some time and money in the process.

## Editorial

## Among Friends

# The stuff TV shows are made of



Jim Clark

The last couple of weeks in Marion County, we had our own little version of CSI, Law and Order, Covert Affairs, NCIS and whatever other cop show you watch all thrown into one.

The occasion was the tragic deaths of four people in one house in the Northwest area. Two women and two children were found in a burning house on Aug. 5, and it was soon discovered that all four had been shot before the fire. After a few days, deputies arrested the boyfriend of one of the victims and accused him of four homicides and one case of arson. He was booked into the county jail.

The arrest affidavit showed some bizarre events, all of which were worthy of a TV plot.

The boyfriend said he was in two other locations about the time of the murder. But he met with a friend and apparently asked him about cell phones being used to trace his whereabouts. That friend eventually went to deputies, and the Sheriff's Office obliged by checking cell phone records, and they allegedly showed that he was in the area of the deaths at the time of the fire. So the next time one of the people on the TV shows gets on a computer and checks cell phone records, guess what? It can be real.

The suspect allegedly told the friend he

was high on pot laced with other drugs, and said it all felt like he "was playing a video game," according to the affidavit. All the TV stations really jumped on that phrase.

The Sheriff's Office got the informant to "wear a wire," and sure enough, the suspect allegedly made more incriminating statements on record, and eventually he was arrested.

There was another little subplot. Anyone who watches these cop shows will tell you that officials always look to family members first in a case like this, but the father of the two little children had a rock solid alibi - he was in jail on a DUI charge.

What made this even worse was that there were witnesses - children in a truck in which one of the victims arrived. One told deputies they saw a flash, heard a bang and saw their mother fall and get dragged inside the house. Can you imagine the trauma those young people went through? Neighbors pulled them out of the truck during the subsequent fire.

The bottom line is that our local Sheriff's Office, confronted with a major crime that can test the emotions as well as the investigative capabilities, made an arrest within a few days. I'm sure it took a lot of man hours to get evidence against a suspect, and it isn't over. As of this writing on Friday, they're still looking for the gun, and a reward has been offered for information leading to the weapon's recovery.

Now comes the long, drawn-out part, as the case works its way through the court system. On TV, it's all done in one or two hours. But in real life, it takes a lot more effort and hard work to prove a case. Law enforcement officials should be praised for what they've done in this crime.

Jim Clark is the editor of the West Marion Messenger. He can be reached at editor@westmarionmessenger.com.

## Guest column



Jim Flynn

# A tip of the hat to the Tea Party

Tea Partiers (TPs) are entitled to a celebration for progress with two important issues in their "Contract from America" agenda - to restore fiscal responsibility and limited government in Washington. Resolution of the debt/deficit deadlock may be one small step for the TPs, but it's a welcome breakthrough to many Americans who are tired of out-of-control government growth and spending.

The Tea Party is a populist uprising which has infuriated the leadership of both major political parties.

Democrats see the TPs as Republican extremists who are causing dysfunctional government. Vice President Biden called them terrorists. Seems like the TPs came along just in time to be blamed by Democrats for their already malfunctioning government, which has spent a bundle and produced a bungle.

Republicans on the other hand have been sandwiched between gratitude to TPs for helping them gain majority control of the House of Representatives and aggravation over the TPs' pushy persistence in asserting their goals. Pressure from the TPs however proved to be the backbone of Republicans who were outnumbered in the debt/deficit debate by the White House and Senate.

Popular uprisings have been frequent throughout American history, triggered most often by public loss of confidence in government, the political system, big business, Wall Street, and bankers.

Uprisings can be healthy. They sometimes morph into significant social changes, such as the civil rights movement. As President Thomas Jefferson observed: "A little rebellion now and then is a good thing. It's a medicine necessary to the sound health of the government."

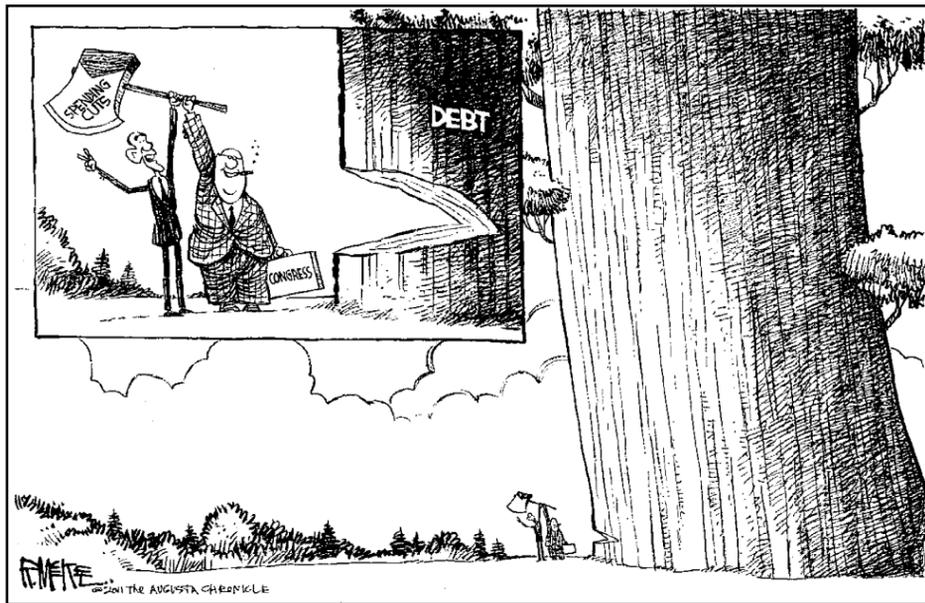
Where to next for the Tea Party? One of their stars, Rep. Michelle Bachmann, is campaigning for the presidency. We doubt there are a sufficient number of TPs and social conservatives to help her capture the nomination, but these are unpredictable times. Who would have thought the tiny Tea Party could have reshaped the U.S. fiscal debate?

There are several years of hard work ahead for the TPs, navigating the traps and triggers of the just passed debt and deficit bill. Despite the debt/deficit deal, Washington will still be spending and borrowing 40 percent more than it receives.

The Tea Party will also be busy trying to add like-minded members to Congress in 2012, in hope of turning their one small step into additional changes to Washington's bad habits.

The dedicated duo of Senate majority leader Harry Reid and House minority leader Nancy Pelosi will exercise their best efforts to block the painful prospect of life without unlimited spending. To liberal Democrats it's the worst imaginable trauma.

Please see FLYNN, Page 12



## 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.

# WEST MARION Messenger

PUBLISHER:

GERRY MULLIGAN

REGIONAL MANAGER:

JOHN PROVOST

EDITOR:

JIM CLARK

# Leisure



**ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** A troubling situation takes a positive turn and moves toward a resolution that should please you and your supporters. Meanwhile, make time to deal with new domestic issues.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** It's a good time to reassess your goals and consider shifting directions. Remember to keep an open mind, and be prepared to make changes as new opportunities arise.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** Rely on your strong Mercury aspect to help you close that communication gap before it becomes too wide to cross. A sibling or other family member has news.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** You're about to get off that emotional roller coaster and start experiencing more stability than you've been used to. This is a good time to let someone new into your life.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)** Good news: A trusted friend comes through for you. But you still need to shed that last scrap of self-doubt and once more become the cool, confident Cat we all know and love.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)** Things should be getting back to a less hectic pace. Enjoy the more peaceful atmosphere. You earned it. But don't forget about those still-unresolved issues.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)** A more positive family relationship develops as misunderstandings are explained away. A job situation appears promising, but check it out before you act on it.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)** Congratulations. That on-the-job situation is working out as you'd hoped. Now's a good time to relax and to enjoy the company of family and close friends.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)** You might feel as if you're caught in an emotional tug-of-war. But don't be rushed into a decision on either side. Wait for more facts before you act.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)** The Goat's usually high level of self-confidence is brimming over these days. This should help you deal with a situation that you've avoided for far too long. Go for it.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)** Relationships become more intense. But be careful not to be pushed into decisions you're not comfortable with. Remember: You're the one in charge of your life.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)** You need to show more confidence in your ability to reach your goals. Make that long-delayed decision, and avoid floundering around in a sea of self doubt.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** Although you appear to be strongly opinionated, you can also be open to other ideas — so long as they are presented with logic and clarity.

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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## HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Man has no tie. 2. Window sign is different. 3. Boy's pants are black. 4. Barber's pole is black-and-white. 5. Man's hat is gone. 6. Bottle is different.

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5	6	3	6	8	7	5	8	2	8	7	6	3
M	B	C	E	G	D	A	I	Y	V	E	A	H
7	5	7	5	4	5	2	7	4	8	2	8	3
M	I	A	N	S	T	O	N	K	E	U	Y	O
2	8	2	5	6	2	3	7	4	6	7	4	8
A	O	R	A	L	E	O	D	I	E	T	P	U
4	3	5	8	4	3	5	8	6	5	6	2	3
N	S	I	R	O	E	N	A	A	B	D	U	W
2	7	2	4	7	4	6	5	2	3	6	5	2
N	H	D	T	E	H	E	A	A	I	R	L	U
4	7	3	4	2	5	7	4	3	5	7	5	8
I	B	S	N	N	A	E	G	E	N	S	C	P
3	7	8	5	8	3	8	2	8	2	8	2	8
L	T	P	E	R	Y	O	T	V	E	A	D	L

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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## Super Crossword

A PLUS

- |                                 |                                      |                               |                            |                                 |                            |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                   | 56 Coarse flour                      | 103 Calligraphy supply        | 5 Part of NATO             | agcy.                           | 96 Cain's victim           |
| 1 Buddy                         | 58 "— on My Pillow" ('58 song)       | 105 Land in the sea           | 6 Hayes of westerns        | 48 Convent wear                 | 98 — breve                 |
| 4 Verne hero                    | 60 Stillier's partner                | 106 Longing                   | 7 Crafter's need           | 50 Dentist's fee?               | 99 Bring up                |
| 8 Cantata composer              | 62 Tread the boards                  | 107 Jets, Mets, or Nets       | 8 Publisher Cerf           | 51 Vestige                      | 102 Gauguin setting        |
| 12 Goo                          | 63 Man from Munich                   | 109 Release                   | 9 Ginger —                 | 53 Geologic division            | 104 Feminist Gloria        |
| 17 "— comy as Kansas ..."       | 65 Ponderosa, for one                | 111 Hideaway                  | 10 Security grp.           | 55 Cook veggies                 | 108 Pie ingredient?        |
| 19 Orenburg's river             | 68 Mrs. Zeus                         | 114 Dishonest anchorman?      | 11 Couldn't stand          | 57 Make chair legs              | 110 Greek sandwich         |
| 20 Literary pseudonym           | 71 Mineral suffix                    | 118 New Jersey's Pine —       | 12 Canonized Mlle.         | 59 Chilly powder?               | 112 Neighbor of Turkey     |
| 21 Like Schoenberg's music      | 72 Sgt., e.g. Gamble                 | 121 Port. abbr.               | 13 King's "Salem's —"      | 61 Social worker?               | 113 Variety show           |
| 22 Like Felix Unger?            | 75 Extremely encouraging individual? | 122 Director Lupino           | 14 Motionless              | 64 Swerve                       | 114 Tight                  |
| 25 Act like Holmes              | 79 Kitten's comment                  | 123 "Dies —"                  | 15 "— Man" ('78 song)      | 66 Word with pork or karate     | 115 Actress Berry          |
| 26 "— Card" ('90 film)          | 80 Sharpton and Yankovic             | 125 Be of use                 | 16 Singer John             | 67 Toast start                  | 116 Slezak or Alexander    |
| 27 Comic Orson                  | 81 Hockey great                      | 127 Bring to light            | 18 Farm sight              | 69 Dietary abbr.                | 117 Consumer advocate      |
| 28 Bungle                       | 82 A sweeping success?               | 130 Corrupt college official? | 21 Directionless           | 70 TV's "Hearts —"              | 118 Stocking shade         |
| 30 Sweater letter               | 83 Calliope's sister                 | 135 Acid's opposite           | 23 Native Peruvian         | 73 Big party                    | 119 Credulous              |
| 31 On the nose                  | 85 '66 Tommy Roe tune                | 136 Bronte heroine            | 24 Yarn                    | 74 Cary of "The Princess Bride" | 120 Indian instrument      |
| 34 Skinny novelist?             | 88 Merino male                       | 137 Ice-cream thickener       | 29 Singer Chris            | 76 Bit of a beach?              | 124 Way over yonder        |
| 39 Get on                       | 90 Shiva worshiper                   | 138 Writer Hunter             | 32 Soho streetcar          | 77 Leisuredly, to Leoncavallo   | 126 Director Adrian        |
| 40 Rocker Tom                   | 93 Throw forcefully                  | 139 June birthstone           | 33 Carson's successor      | 78 Team scream                  | 128 Roller-coaster unit    |
| 41 Curly coif                   | 94 "The Ramayana" heroine            | 140 Paper quantity            | 35 Particle                | 84 Palm oil?                    | 129 Under the weather      |
| 42 "Saving Private Ryan" extras | 97 Actress Samantha                  | 141 Stink                     | 36 AMEX rival              | 86 Lloyd Webber musical         | 131 Hook's mate            |
| 45 Moflo or Magnani             | 100 Jury member                      | 142 Prior to, to Prior        | 37 Scacchi of "The Player" | 87 Principle                    | 132 Southern constellation |
| 47 Reggae's Peter               | 101 Economize                        | <b>DOWN</b>                   | 38 Seascape painter        | 89 Booker T.'s group            | 133 Scottish refusal       |
| 49 Offer an apple?              |                                      | 1 BB-gun sound                | 40 Cisco's chum            | 91 Billy — Williams             | 134 Annoy                  |
| 52 Pinnacle                     |                                      | 2 "That's —"                  | 42 Pin                     | 92 Fancy planter                |                            |
| 54 Dawns, to Donne              |                                      | 3 Paint ingredient            | 43 The — Capades           | 95 Slope                        |                            |
|                                 |                                      | 4 Lots of laughs              | 44 Einstein's chair?       |                                 |                            |
|                                 |                                      |                               | 46 New Deal                |                                 |                            |

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## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	×		+		25
+		÷		-	
	÷		+		11
×		×		×	
	+		+		12
12		10		12	

**DIFFICULTY: ★★★**

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 4 4 5 6 7 8 9

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Black Olive, Red Pepper and Cucumber Salad

# DRESS UP YOUR DISH

## Like a Celebrity Chef

FAMILY FEATURES

A string of pearls. The irresistible matching bag. The gotta-have-'em high heels. So many times the accessory makes the outfit. So goes the way of California Black Ripe Olives.

From Indian to Italian, black olives are a key ingredient that brings flavor and texture to entrees, salads, soups and more. The most popular usage of black olives is jazzing up pizza, but it's a must-have item in Mexican favorites such as enchiladas and burritos as well.

While they've been a longtime pantry staple of home cooks, chefs love the versatility of olives, too. Celebrity chef Claire Robinson has partnered with the California Black Ripe Olive industry to share her tips for dressing up dishes and has developed four knock-out recipes featuring California Black Ripe Olives — every season's and every dish's hottest accessory.

Share how you accessorize your meals with California Black Ripe Olives in the Dress Up Your Dish recipe contest for a chance to score \$2,500 cash and a \$100 gift card to [www.gilt.com](http://www.gilt.com). Go to [www.facebook.com/CaliforniaBlackRipeOlives](http://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaBlackRipeOlives) to learn more and enter.

For recipe inspiration, and other information about California Black Ripe Olives, visit [www.CalOlive.org](http://www.CalOlive.org).



Claire Robinson

### Claire's Tip

Use double-duty ingredients. Stocking your pantry is like stocking your wardrobe — it's smart to have items on hand that serve double duty. California Black Ripe Olives are one of those fabulous multipurpose ingredients. Coarsely chop them with a little garlic, olive oil, and fresh herbs and you have a homemade tapenade. Add them to store-bought hummus and it becomes a delicious dip!



Orzo with Black Olives and Feta



Baked Fresh Ricotta with Black Olives

### Baked Fresh Ricotta with Black Olives

Makes 4 servings  
Prep time: 15 minutes  
Cook time: 35 to 40 minutes

- 1 15-ounce container fresh whole milk ricotta cheese (1 1/2 cups)
- 2 eggs
- Kosher salt, to taste
- Zest of 1 orange, divided
- 1 cup California Black Ripe Olives, strained and cut in wedges
- 1 baguette, cut into 1/4-inch-thick wedges

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Place cheese in medium bowl; add eggs, salt, and half the orange zest and stir until well combined. Transfer to an 8-inch baking dish and place on a baking sheet. Bake in the center of the oven until puffed and beginning to brown, about 35 minutes. Remove from the oven and sprinkle with remaining orange zest. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Serve warm over baguette slices and top with olives.

### Black Olive, Red Pepper and Cucumber Salad

Makes 4 servings  
Prep time: 15 minutes

- 1/2 cup sliced California Black Ripe Olives
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped into 1/4-inch cubes
- 1 English cucumber, seeds removed and cut into 1/4-inch cubes
- 2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1/4 cup garlic-infused olive oil
- Kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper

In medium bowl, toss together olives, red pepper and cucumber. In small bowl, whisk together lemon juice and olive oil. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Right before serving, pour vinaigrette over olive mixture and serve.

### Orzo with Black Olives and Feta

Makes 6 servings  
Prep time: 10 minutes  
Cook time: about 10 minutes

- 1 pound orzo
- 3 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- 1/2 cup lemon-infused olive oil
- 1 cup whole California Black Ripe Olives
- 1 4-ounce container crumbled feta cheese (about 1 cup)
- Kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper, to taste

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil over moderately high heat. Add orzo; cook until al dente, according to package instructions, and drain. Transfer pasta to medium bowl.

Whisk together vinegar and oil and pour over pasta, mixing until well combined. Toss in olives and feta. Season with salt and pepper and serve.

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# SNYDER

continued from Page 4

There is also, GIVE AND TAKE. This has proven beneficial over the years. She gives me a piece of her mind and I usually take it. My concern is, of all the pieces of her mind she has given me throughout the years, how can she have anything left?

Decision-making is not a

one way street in a marriage relationship. Thank God it isn't. In every dilemma at least two sides need considering. When you find yourself in a dilemma, do what my wife does, go for de lemonade.

When only one person makes the decision in the marriage, the whole relationship takes on a lopsided demeanor.

One last thing that makes our marriage great is PROFIT AND LOSS. This has taken a little more time

to take root in my mind. Taking root in a vacuum is hard for anything.

I have discovered that a marriage runs in decades. For instance, the first 10 year period focuses on establishing the relationship. This is discovering who you are as a couple, but by the time this happens, tiny footsteps are heard in the hallway at night coming toward your bedroom.

The second decade centers on trying to raise those children and keep from

going insane in the process.

The third decade is the most important. Not many couples get this far. The third decade is devoted to rediscovering who you are as a couple. No longer are we Rachael's mom or Jason's dad or Sarah's parents. We are discovering our own identity as a couple. And let me say, it sure is the best part of the wedding cake and we are eating it up.

The fourth decade,

where we are right now, is relishing all those memories made in the first three decades.

In this PROFIT AND LOSS stage, I have discovered that I profit greatly if I cause my significant other no loss of face. It is amazing how many single people are married and even live in the same house but go in separate directions and lead separate lives.

My wife and I have found the key to all of this. It is simply SUBMISSION. The

Bible plainly states, "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God" (Ephesians 5:21 KJV).

We can do this because we independently anchor our lives to that "rock that is higher than I" (Psalms 61:2 KJV). As a couple, we build our lives upon a common foundation — Jesus Christ.

*To my wife: A happy anniversary to the best Mistress to adorn my parsonage.*

# SCHOOLS

continued from Page 1

Florida Opportunity Scholarship program.

Here's a look at what's new in Marion County Public Schools this year.

### Principals

Five schools have new principals at the helm this year:

- Anthony Elem. - Ryan Bennett
- E. Marion Elem. - Rusty Corley
- Fort McCoy K-8 - Mike Hearn
- Howard Middle - Rob Hensel
- Wyomina Park Elementary - Melissa Kinard

### Food Services

■ Meal prices remain unchanged: students \$1.60 (elementary), \$1.75 (middle & high), and adults \$2.75.

■ Approximately 64 percent of students were eligible for free and reduced meal plans last school year. Program applications will be sent home the first week of school. Parents may also apply online starting this week.

### Transportation

■ Transportation Hotline - 352-671-7050 (open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

■ Bus stop information is available

on the Transportation Homepage.

■ Students and parents can follow the latest Transportation updates on Facebook (Marion County Public Schools Transportation) and Twitter (MCPSDOT).

■ Nearly 21,500 student riders (52 percent of students)

■ 251 buses on the road daily, all GPS-equipped, 75 percent with seatbelts

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# FLYNN

continued from Page 8

The president and Sen. Chuck Schumer from New York are already exhibiting withdrawal symptoms, still talking monotonously about the need for additional spending and more revenue (meaning taxes) in order to create jobs (meaning votes).

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