

WEST MARION Messenger

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES & BUSINESSES BETWEEN SR 200 AND US 27

Citrus may link plans to Northwest Ocala project

By Chris Van Ormer

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

'Inland port' to be east of I-75 and north of U.S. 27

Marion County's plan for an inland port would work well with Citrus County's project for Port Citrus, the Citrus County Port Authority Board heard last Tuesday.

"Yesterday, Nov. 28, we went to Wildwood with Commissioner (Rebecca) Bays, and we spoke to the Ocala 489 Inland Port Project," said Port Director Brad Thorpe, county administrator.

Thorpe said Stonecrest Management was the developer of the inland port, and its president, Hall Robertson, was present.

Thorpe presented an aerial map of the proposed inland port, which is composed of 489 acres of land near Ocala north of U.S. 27 and east of I-75.

"The inland port is almost to the phase of construction," Thorpe said. "Marion County and the city of Ocala are infusing about \$25 million in roads and infrastructure into this port."

Stella Heath, manager of business development for Florida Central Railroad, also was present to explain how the Florida Central Railroad's parent company, the Pinsly Railroad, could service the inland port.

"They're putting a rail spur into this inland port that will connect to the Pinsly Line, which eventually connects to CSX Railroad that goes up to Jacksonville and eventually to Waycross, Georgia," Thorpe said.

Within the Pinsly Railroad, the Florida Central Railroad operates 68 miles of track, the Florida Midland Railroad operates 28 miles of track and the Florida Northern Railroad operates 104 miles of track.

"We found out from Pinsly Line, one railroad car equals four semi trucks," Thorpe said. "So you can see why railroad for long haul is very important to the

economy."

Pinsly operates within Citrus County.

"The Pinsly Railroad line is the current short line that runs into the Progress Energy plant right now," Thorpe said. "They have a long-term lease with CSX Railroad. They are interconnected to the CSX system throughout the state of Florida."

"That's why that is such a vital component of the viability of this port."

Companies that used Ocala's inland port for transportation also would want the option of transporting products by water, which would take business to Port Citrus.

"This is a way for them to get water access for this inland port," Thorpe said. "This is a huge project. They will work with us to help us develop our port."

Thorpe reported the presentations he and port authority members have given in surrounding counties.

On Oct. 11, Thorpe and Port Authority Chairman Dennis Damato gave a presentation to Yankeetown and Inglis, the towns north of Crystal River that are in Levy County.

"They were excited about the possibility of what the port could do to that community as far as infrastructure is concerned and job creation," Thorpe said.

On Oct. 18, Damato and Thorpe went before the Levy County Board of County Commissioners.

"They as a group said they would help in any way they could," Thorpe said.

On Oct. 29, Port Authority Board Member Joe Meek, Port Attorney Richard Wesch and Thorpe made a presentation to the Marion County Manufacturers Association.

"As manufacturers, they are always interested in transportation modes," Thorpe said. On Nov. 22, Thorpe and

Please see PROJECT, Page 3



PHOTO BY PRISCILLA GEISSAL

Stan and Shelia Cohen show some of the latest of the items donated for a "Happy Holiday" for the foster children that the Cohens are hoping to help this season.

Fairfield Village couple special to many children

Editor's Note: This article serves as this week's Fairfield Village column.

By Priscilla Geissal
CORRESPONDENT

'Tis the season to be jolly and the Cohens are just that. Shelia and Stan Cohen are two of the most special people in our community here in Fairfield Village...but they are very special to lots of youngsters in Central Florida as well. Oh, if there were just more people with so much love in their hearts as these two people have for some of the most deserving children! What a fabulous place this world could be — not just at the holiday season but year round.

For some eight years, Shelia and Stan have been extremely involved in the Guardian ad Litem Program for the Fifth Judicial Circuit Court of the State of Florida. This area includes Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion and Sumter counties. At the present time it is estimated that some 500 to 700 youngsters from birth to 18 years are involved in foster care for varying amounts of time right here in our area. Some are involved only temporarily; however, sadly many more spend years in the "system" with only those people who volunteer to help them.

Please see FAIRFIELD, Page 3

Woman hurt in accident

A 26-year-old Ocala woman was seriously injured in a one-vehicle accident on U.S. 27 on Dec. 2.

Lori Soud Morton, 26, was driving her GMC Sierra southbound on U.S. 27. She drove off the road on the right shoulder, then over-corrected, crossing the traffic lanes and the median and then entering the grassy shoulder on the other side of the road, overturning several times.

Morton, who was not wearing a seat belt, was thrown from the vehicle, which came to rest on the passenger side.

She was flown to Shands Hospital with serious injuries, according to a news release from the Florida Highway Patrol.

Charges are pending.



PHOTO BY BARB DEDICS

These are the golfers who took part in a Veterans Day tournament at Ocala Palms. More pictures from the event may be found on Pages 2 and 12.

Third annual Veterans Day charity tournament raises \$28,000

By Pat DeJesus

SPECIAL TO THE MESSENGER

On a cool and sunny Nov. 11 (11/11/11), 136 golfers came out to play in and support The Florida Military Family Assistance Fund's Third Annual Charity Golf Tournament held at Ocala Palms Golf and Country Club. The organization is headed by Ocala Palms residents, John and Pat DeJesus along with resident volunteers who contribute many hours in order to raise monies and donations for this event.

This year's tournament was in memory of fallen soldier, Sgt. Robert Allen Wise of Tallahassee, KIA, Nov. 12, 2003. Present were four retired Brigadier Generals, Donald Barnhart, Richard Capps, Wally Green and Royce Smith along with several soldiers from the Orlando Army and National Guard Headquarters in St. Augustine.

Through the generosity of local businesses and a large number of Ocala Palms residents, the event raised over \$28,000 for the Florida National Guard Foundation's Emergency Relief Fund which benefits active duty soldiers and their families in financial need. Title sponsors for this year's event were Wise Way Auto Sales and Dr. Asad Qamar, Institute of Cardiovascular Excellence.

Plans are already in the works for next year's Fourth Annual Tournament to be held on 11/11/12.

John and Pat DeJesus would like to thank the many volunteers and businesses that helped to make this event a huge success again this year.



Dan Karvonen, Hal Nichols, Brian VanFleet, Bill Davis



Retired Brig. Generals Don Barnhart, Richard Capps, Wally Green, Royce Smith.



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PHOTOS BY PRISCILLA GEISSAL

Stan and Shelia also have two "rescue" Chihuahuas — Tessa and Ginger. Tessa is one really special love of their lives who lives quite normally and gets around well with only 3 feet. Ginger has the normal 4 feet, but Tessa keeps up well.



The Angel Tree in the Fairfield Clubhouse is a yearly reminder of our special project to help the Cohens bring happiness to local foster children.

FAIRFIELD

continued from Page 1

Much of what is needed for these children are advocates which is what the Cohens focus on being for these unfortunate young people. Shelia and Stan appear in court and make sure that the best interest of the child is foremost in the minds of those involved in their care. They visit with the children and let them know that there are those who are there to help them — they are not alone.

I can hardly bear to think of the loneliness and bewilderment faced by children who cannot possibly understand why their lives are as they are. It is just too heartbreaking for me — as a grandparent of some 27 grand and great grandchildren to even imagine a day in the life of a child without someone "permanent" to be there for them. It is just unthinkable, but it is the daily life of far too many young people living right here in our area.

But ...then there are people like Stan and Shelia who make such a difference.

Sadly, part of this past year of 2011 has not seen Stan and Shelia appearing and helping these children so much as they usually have done.

Earlier this year, their daughter, Debby Dulong, in Fort Lauderdale was diagnosed with very serious cancer issues. Immediately, Stan and Shelia were at her side to do all they could for her. For some time, the prognosis was guarded, but thankfully a new examination gave a wonderful report that treatments have been successful and the cancer is gone.

After much time away in Fort Lauderdale, the Cohens are back home and doing what they love to do each year at the

holiday time.

They are assembling clothing, personal items, and some toys for these children who sometimes literally have only the "clothes on their back" when they are taken into foster care.

Each year the Cohens put one or two Angel Trees in the Clubhouse here in Fairfield Village. This year they opted for only one because they just recently returned home and are trying to get the things together for the youngsters they have identified. Some of these in need are teens as is Stan's newest "special interest." For this young man, gift cards would, no doubt, be the best choice since he has much need for clothing and has very few personal possessions.

If there are more kind and generous people who would be willing to help the Cohens, it would be wonderful if these people would contact Shelia Cohen at 352-861-3003.

All gifts are tax-deductible and the warm feelings coming from knowing for sure that your gifts are going where they should go will more than add to the joy of the season.

From the Cohens and all of us in Fairfield Village who know and appreciate what these generous and loving people do, we hope that you will see fit to join us in making this holiday season one of extra special joy for these exceptionally worthy children.

As for us in Fairfield Village, we intend to help as much as possible because we know that a "...lively place filled with lovely people" can make a big difference in the lives of these children. Hopefully, some new people will join those of us who find this such a joy to be a part of. May you have a wonderfully joyous, safe, and generous holiday season!

PROJECT

continued from Page 1

Meek did a presentation before the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce Crystal River Area Council. "This was in response to getting the word out in a better way," Thorpe said.

Upcoming presentations will be given to Marion County Board of County Commissioners and the City of Ocala on Dec. 9, to the Citrus, Marion and Levy Workforce Connection on Jan. 3, and to the Marion County Economic Development Council on Jan. 18.

Cathy Taylor, management and budget director for the county, presented a budget for Port Citrus. The Citrus County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) would transfer \$28,510 from contingency funds to the Port Citrus account. Including all contributions to fund the feasibility study, the total budget would be \$120,510.

Thorpe presented board members the request for

qualifications (RFQ) form to send out to consultant firms who would want to conduct the Port Citrus feasibility study. Thorpe said more than 10 interested firms already have contacted him. The board accepted the RFQ. The deadline is Jan. 20.

Chris Lloyd, a Lecanto resident representing the Citrus County Council, a consortium of homeowner associations, civic clubs, environmental groups and interested citizens, asked about the use of the BOCC's general fund for advancing the Port Citrus project, which would be developed on private property.

Thorpe said the port authority has no public property on the site around the barge canal, but would lease it from private ownership to make it public as all Florida ports must be in public ownership.

The feasibility study would determine which

property the port authority should lease. The port authority would then lease the property to commercial interests.

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Happenings

Wednesday, Dec. 7

Bingo at the Moose

Bingo at the Moose, open to the public, on Wednesday at 1 p.m.

Big winnings are possible. Variety of lunch specialties. Join us for fun and friendship while supporting the lodge and its charitable endeavors.

Located just one mile north of the State Road 200 main entrance of Oak Run, 10411 S.W. 110th St.

Phone is 352-854-2200.

Thursday, Dec. 8

Get on board with literacy

United Way invites families for a fun evening of reading and crafts, Thursday, Dec. 8 at the Marion County Public Library Headquarters on Silver Springs Boulevard from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. United Way invites the community to "ride the polar express" in support of the organization's education work.

Join us for a free family event. Crafts, light refreshments and the reading of the Polar Express will take place.

For more information, contact Chris Cotter at 352-732-9696.

Friday, Dec. 9

Youth Symphony concert set

The Ocala Youth Symphony is excited to announce the beginning of its 13th year. The first concert will be on Friday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. on the downtown Ocala square, where the group will be playing Christmas music with the Ocala Symphony Orchestra.

The Ocala Youth Symphony is composed of amazing musicians ranging in age from 8 to 18, and serves the education and professional development of young musicians from the Ocala/Marion County and surrounding areas.

The works selected range from the classics to contemporary, something for everyone's musical taste.

All concerts are free and open to the public. For information, call 352-873-6738.

Saturday, Dec. 10

Vendors wanted for yard sale

The Crossroads Community Church is hosting a large yard sale Dec. 10, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Spaces are \$10 with tables available for an additional \$5.

The church is at 8070 S.W. 60th Ave. Call Ron, 352-598-2878, to save your space.

Sunday, Dec. 11

Mega book sale set

A mega book sale to benefit Sheltering Hands Rescue, featuring used books, CDs, videos and crafts, will be Sunday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at

Kiefer Realty, Dillen Plaza at 8720 S.W. Hwy. 200, Ocala. For information, call 352-291-1962.

Thursday, Dec. 15

Red Tail chapter to meet

The December meeting of the Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 of the Air Force Association (AFA) will be Thursday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Ocala Regional Airport Administration Building 750 S.W. 60th Ave., Ocala.

This is our annual food drive in conjunction with Marion County Vets Helping Vets. Please bring your donation of non-perishable food to this meeting.

Any questions call Mike Emig at 352-854-8328

Mandatory orientation United Way meeting

United Way of Marion County invites 501 © (3) non-profit human social service agencies serving Marion County, to apply for a two-year funding cycle that goes from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014.

Applications will be available on-line beginning on Monday, Dec. 12 at www.uwmc.org. Organizations interested in applying must attend the mandatory orientation session taking place on Thursday, Dec. 15 from 10 a.m. to noon at the United Way of Marion County's Bonnie Health Community Room, at 1401 N.E. 2nd St., Ocala.

Currently, United Way of Marion County partners with 21 local programs that assist in supporting the needs of the residents of Marion County.

Due to limited seating RSVPs are encouraged. RSVP to Barbara Bombara at bbombara@uwmc.org or at 732-9696 ext. 204.

Friday, Dec. 16

Pro-am golf to benefit Hospice

The 19th annual Hospice of Marion County, Inc. Pro-am tournament is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 16 at Golden Hills Country Club just off Highway 27, 4.3 miles west of I-75.

Don't miss an opportunity to play this fantastic course, which was the home of the 2009 USGA Women's Mid-Amateur Championship. All teams consist of four amateurs and one golf professional.

The cost is \$150/amateur and \$100/pro, which includes a buffet breakfast, greens fees,

cart and awards dinner.

Proceeds from this tournament help to provide care and support to patients and families of Hospice of Marion County who are facing a most difficult and challenging time in their lives.

For more information and registration, please call the Pro Shop at 352-629-7980.

Sunday, Dec. 18

Breakfast at the Moose

From 9 to 11 a.m., a full individual menu will be offered, including eggs any style, potatoes, juice, coffee, choices of meats, at a great price. Come before or after church.

The lodge is at 10411 S.W. 110th St. Phone is 352-854-2200.

Monday, Dec. 19

Retired Nurses to hold party

The RNR Christmas party will be on Dec. 19 at the Inverness Golf & Country Club. The entertainment will be a barbershop group called, "The Young & the Rest of Us" and the charity unwrapped toys for the Salvation Army.

Cost for the luncheon is \$15. Call Gladys at 352-861-0261 or Mary Jane at 352-726-6882 for reservations before Dec. 15.

Friday, Dec. 31

United Way Day of Caring deadline

United Way of Marion County will hold the 19th annual Day of Caring on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012.

Day of Caring offers businesses, individuals, organizations and civic clubs the opportunity to help local nonprofit human service agencies accomplish much-needed projects during one day of organized volunteerism.

Volunteer work teams who are interested in participating or community organizations that have projects that need to be completed can fill out an application at www.uwmc.org. The deadline for team and project applications is Friday, Dec. 31.

For more information, contact Tina Banner at 352-732-9696 or tbanner@uwmc.org.

Saturday, Jan. 7

Gentle chair yoga planned

Gentle chair yoga at the Freedom Library will be from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. and continuing on Jan. 14, Feb. 4 and Feb. 11.

For information, contact Ingrid Crane at 352-854-7950.

WEST MARION Messenger
SERVING THE COMMUNITIES & BUSINESSES BETWEEN SR 200 AND US 27

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.

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Stone Creek

New Lifestyle Director welcomed at Stone Creek



Patricia Gizzi

Stone Creek welcomes Kathy Wortham as its new Lifestyle Director! Kathy started after the fall festival and she has been very busy getting to know the residents and working with her able assistant, Joyce Greco and her social committee to learn this new job.

Kathy comes to Stone Creek from Valdosta/Lowndes Parks and Recreation in Georgia where she was an assistant director. She was directly responsible for the day to day operation of all divisions and services. Her responsibilities included the planning and development of all budgets. She also was responsible for recruitment, training and supervision of the full time staff.

Kathy is a graduate of the University of Georgia in Athens, Ga., where she received a BS in Education, Recreation Administration. She is also a therapeutic recreation specialist and a nationally certified recreation professional. She began her career in the therapeutic field and worked in a psychiatric rehabilitation facility. She then moved to a community-based therapeutic recreation position with Parks and Recreation Department in Georgia. She worked with mentally and physically disabled children and adults for 10 years. Some of her duties included Special Olympics training and services, adaptive PE classes. She was instrumental in developing a young adult club and a travel club. She became a recreation manager where she was in charge of all programs and services including such events as 4th of July celebration, Fall Festival, Easter Egg Hunt, Movies in the Park and spring concert series to name a few of the many year events. She worked closely with the Tourism Department and brought large tournaments into the community. The facility hosted the National Amateur Softball Association Tournaments for eight years. Each tournament had over 100 teams from across the country.

Kathy loves to run in 5k races, even though she says she is a very slow runner. "I am more like a slogger,

slow jogger! I also enjoy kickboxing and Zumba is my new thing." Kathy is a single mom but says, "My ex-husband is still my best friend. We get along better now than ever and I feel very blessed to have such a wonderful relationship with him." She has a 16-year-old son David who attends school in Georgia where he is an A student and plays varsity baseball. He plays shortstop, second, third and pitches. She adds, "I am very proud of him."

She has two sisters that she is very close to and she is the middle child which according to Kathy, explains a lot about her. Her mother is her role model. She is 72 years old and looks and acts 40. She is very involved in the community, she line dances, and is a member of about three different line dancing groups. She is on a bowling league, she also runs in 5k races and Kathy says, "usually does better than me."

Here is my interview with Kathy.

What motivated you to apply for the Lifestyle Director at Stone Creek? "I found the job advertisement on the Florida Parks and Recreation Associations career page. This job was interesting to me because I was familiar with Del Web communities and I love the concept. I also

love to program and event plan so the two seemed to be a natural fit for me."

What are your first impressions of Stone Creek? "So far, I love it! The people are very friendly and the property is beautiful. I enjoy my ride to work every morning. Liz and I have already become good friends. (Ha!) She is very nice."

What do you see as the role of the Lifestyle Director? "The role of the Lifestyle Director is to plan fun and exciting activities for the residents to participate in throughout the year. I also see my role as being very in tune with what the residents want to see planned. I believe it is very important to keep in touch with all groups to meet the needs of individual, small group and large group interests. I also believe it is very important to run a very organized and structured office and keep communication flowing on a regular basis."

What will you do to entice new Social Committee volunteers so the current workers don't get burned out? "I have met all the Social Committee volunteers and they are a great group of people and I have learned a lot from them already. I believe this group has had to work harder than normal the past few months because the Lifestyle position was

open. I think that with a strong Lifestyle Office with dedicated staff and organized meetings, event and schedules, this volunteer committee can work in an enjoyable atmosphere without getting burned out. The burden should fall on the Lifestyle Office and the rest should come from creative ideas and talents from the Social Committee. It should always be fun for them. I think other people will be interested in volunteering if they can contribute positively and it is an organized and fun committee."

What types of activities and events do you plan for Stone Creek? "Currently I am working off the past years' schedule. Many events were already planned through early next year before I arrived. I also have met with the Social Committee and we have put together the 2012 master calendar for next year. We have at least secured all the dates for the major



Kathy Wortham

Please see KATHY, Page 10

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Sunday Fellowship Breakfast
9:30 a.m.

Sunday Celebration Service
10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Covered Dish 6:30 p.m.
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Friday 12 Step Life Recovery Group
6:30 p.m.

Pastor Scott Wilson
12210 NW Highway 27
12 Min. South of Williston
352-528-3444
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Christ's Church
Marion County An Independent Christian Church

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday School.....9:30 am
Worship Service.....10:30 am

Weekly Activities
Wednesday Bible Study..7:00 pm

SENIOR PASTOR
DAVID BELLOWS

6768 SW 80th Street
Ocala 34476
352-861-6182
www.ccomc.org

Christ the King Anglican Church

The Rev. Donald J. Curran, Rector
Rev. Matthew Walter Asst. Rector

Services:
Rite I - 7:30 am
Rite II - 8:50 & 11:15 am
Children's Church - 8:50 am

3801 US N. Hwy 441
in Living Waters
Worship Center's
South Sanctuary

West Marion Messenger
8810 W. State Road 200, suite 104,
Ocala, FL 34481; or e-mail
editor@westmarionmessenger.com

Opinion

Our Message

Recalling the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor

Prior to Sept. 11, 2001, it was the worst sneak attack against the U.S. in history. It was 70 years ago today that the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, providing the impetus for the entrance of the United States into World War II.

The war didn't end until nearly four years later, when atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, bringing Japan to its knees while the U.S. was also winning in Europe.

Pearl Harbor is gradually fading into history. The youngest

Editorial

people who were in the military then are about 88 years old today, meaning that there are fewer and fewer people left who remember that fateful "date in infamy."

Most of us are now conditioned to remember Sept. 11, because it occurred in the lifetime of many of us. But to those who still are alive who were in Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941, it probably doesn't fade from their memories at all.

So if you know any of these people, let them know you care on this 70th anniversary.

Recently there was a "Peace Pole" dedication at a local church on State Road 200. The project was started by someone from Japan, recalling Hiroshima and Nagasaki

They obviously haven't forgotten how that war ended. We have to make sure we remember how it began.

**Plan ahead!
Deadlines will be
early for editions
of Dec. 28
and Jan. 4**

WEST MARION
Messenger

PUBLISHER:
GERRY MULLIGAN
REGIONAL MANAGER:
JOHN PROVOST
EDITOR:
JIM CLARK

Among Friends

Neither snow nor rain ... oh, forget it

The U.S. Postal Service is announcing all sorts of cutbacks designed to keep it from bankruptcy. But instead of making delivery better, it's making it worse.

Expected to be gone are next-day delivery of first-class mail, some processing centers, possibly Gainesville, and maybe even Saturday delivery.

The money being saved is hoped to be enough to keep the service afloat.

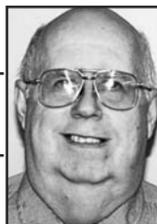
You have to doubt that. The move will probably drive more and more people to the Internet and e-mail.

You can also almost hear services such as UPS and Federal Express licking their chops in anticipation of more business coming their way.

So what can the public do? Pretty much nothing. We just have to grin and bear it and hope that things get better, which is not likely.

Take a look around you, and see how much you'll really miss getting more mail. During the past week, I think I got about five or six bills in the mail, an auto tag renewal form for a tag I've already renewed, one note from a relative who doesn't have e-mail, a cute envelope with a couple of coins inside from a grandson who wanted to add the money to what we were getting him for Christmas (he's 6), and here's where I have to give credit to the postal people. The letter was addressed "Grandma," and then had our address ...

Jim Clark
Editor



that's it ... and it got here.

But aside from that, the rest was junk, most of which we threw away.

We can live without that junk. But since those mailers pay the postal service, I guess we have to put up with that, too.

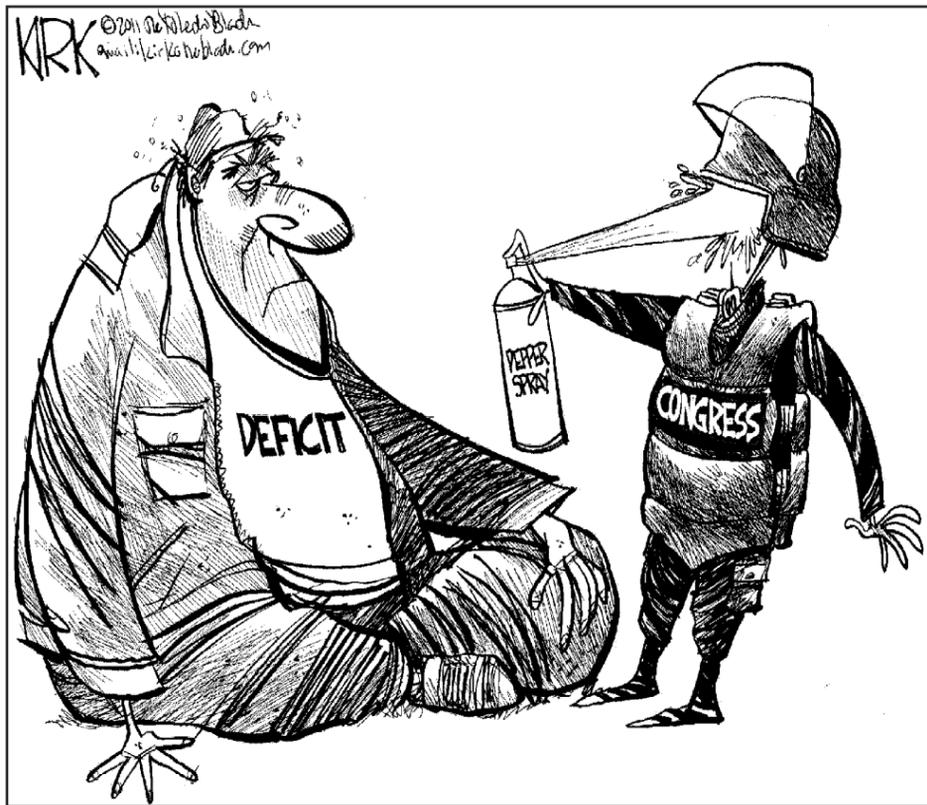
Among those to be affected by the loss of next-day delivery are newspapers. Not too far back, I worked for two weekly newspapers that were primarily delivered by mail. If the bundles were at the post office by 5 o'clock in the afternoon, they were delivered the next day. If that option is gone, it will be a disservice to the readers, who will be getting their news a day later.

People who pay bills by mail won't be able to cut it close. That extra day delivery time could mean some late fees.

So if you're a regular user of the mail, get ready for some changes. It will make planning ahead much more important.

Jim Clark is the editor of the West Marion Messenger. He can be reached at editor@westmarionmessenger.com or at 352-854-3986.

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.

Your Letters

Combine dispatch offices

In the Oct. 26 issue of the West Marion Messenger, one of the front page articles was "Joint Emergency Dispatch Rejected."

After reading that article I was angry and disappointed. Angry because the city of Ocala and our county commissioners let us down again and disappointed because they are so out of touch.

The agreement to combine the dispatch service of the county and city makes perfect sense. Not only will it cut down on multiple units showing up at the same scene it will save the taxpayers a huge amount of money.

The city sent a letter to the commissioners backing out of a previous agreement. Was the reason because one of their own was going to lose his or her job? If so, shame on you for giving priority to one of your own and totally disregarding the rest of the community.

I was not aware of the fact that working for the city guaranteed you permanent employment. If that is the case, where do I go to sign up for that deal?

Three years ago the company that I work for cut my hours from full-time (40 hours) to part-time (20 hours) per week. I didn't complain. I felt blessed to still have a job. My husband and I adjusted our spending accordingly and learned to live with our smaller income.

My situation has improved and I am now working 25-30 hours per week. My point is that things happen. No one can guarantee that I will always have my job. "That's life!" Why should a city employee receive preferential treatment?

I hope that the city will reconsider its position on this matter and honor its original agreement. It's the right thing to do for the community as a whole.

Kathy J. Hall
Oak Creek Village

Loss of a candidate

Today a good man gave in. I don't care whether or not you supported Herman Cain but you should be upset over the fact that he has been forced from running for president.

Why? Because it's been proven that any good man or woman who wishes to run for public office in this country today can be taken out of the running simply by means of accusation. Not proof ... just accusation. It reminds me of when George W. Bush was running for president and CBS came out with damaging documents regarding his National Guard service. The documents were proven to be forgeries but I can remember Dan Rather saying that it didn't matter if the documents were forged, it was the seriousness of the charge that mattered.

Although those false charges did not keep him from his campaign, others have not been so lucky. Case in point - Herman Cain.

This is a man whom the opposition could not squelch when it came to his record, his ideas, his abilities, or his views. Therefore the only option open to them was character assassination.

If this is how our system of government is now conducted, this current elections cycle will be one of the dirtiest and corrupt in our nation's history. These ruthless individuals may have won this battle - we must not let them win the war. I urge you to stand up and be counted. Confront your local officials, visit your national representatives, join a Tea Party, write letters to the editor, talk to your children and friends, and above all else, vote. Stop being part of the problem and start being part of the solution.

Elaine Maiellaro
Ocala,

Holiday Glazed Ham

Serves 10 to 12

- 1/3 cup reduced fat raspberry vinaigrette salad dressing
- 1 cup firmly packed dark brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons Better Than Bouillon Vegetable Base
- 2 teaspoons Better Than Bouillon Chili Base
- 1 7 to 10-pound thawed, smoked, bone-in, spiral sliced, fully cooked ham
- 1/2 cup water

Preheat oven to 350°F.

In large saucepan over medium-low heat, whisk to combine vinaigrette, brown sugar, vegetable and chili bases. Whisk continuously until glaze begins to boil. Remove from heat; reheat glaze if needed.

Coat large rack and roasting pan with cooking spray. Place ham on prepared rack in roasting pan, add water to pan bottom. Generously brush ham with glaze. Lightly cover ham with foil if ham starts to over brown. Bake until done, about 2 hours.

Use remaining glaze to baste ham every 30 minutes; discard left over glaze.

An additional glaze recipe may be prepared and served warm tableside, to accompany sliced ham.

Sautéed Green Beans

Serves 6 to 8

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons Better Than Bouillon Chili Base
- 2 large garlic cloves, peeled and minced
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 1/2 pounds frozen whole green beans
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt (optional)
- Parmesan cheese, for garnish

Heat oil in a large skillet, heat over medium-high heat. Add chili base, garlic and salt; cook and stir for about 1 minute.

Reduce heat to medium, add butter and stir until melted. Add green beans, stir to coat and sauté until crisp-tender.

Before serving, garnish with freshly shaved Parmesan cheese.

**A HOME-COOKED***Holiday Feast*

One simple trick can add a lot of great flavor

FAMILY FEATURES

There's something to be said about gathering friends and family around the table for a traditional holiday dinner. Familiar faces, good conversation, favorite foods — it's a classic recipe for a good time.

What if you could take some of those favorite recipes and make them even better? These recipes use a simple ingredient to enhance the holiday flavors your family loves. Each one uses a touch of Better Than Bouillon food base, adding richer, more natural flavor than bouillon cubes, which are salt-heavy. Each flavor is made from real meat, seafood or vegetables and can be used in a variety of delicious ways:

- To make richer soups, sauces and gravies.
- As savory additions to pasta, potato or vegetable side dishes.
- In flavorful party dips for veggies, chips or bread.

It's easy to make an impressive holiday feast with these delicious recipes. For even more recipes, visit www.superiortouch.com.

**Delicious Twice-Baked Potatoes**

Serves 6 to 8

- 6 medium russet potatoes (about 2 pounds)
- 2 teaspoons vegetable oil (for potato skins)
- 2 teaspoons Better Than Bouillon Ham Base
- 1/4 cup (4 tablespoons) butter cut into pieces, set aside
- 1 1/2 cups shredded Colby-Jack cheese
- 1 green onion rinsed and thinly sliced, set aside
- 1/4 cup whole milk
- 1 tablespoon dried parsley
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/3 cup pre-grated Parmesan cheese

Spray 13 x 9 x 2-inch baking dish with cooking spray, set aside. Scrub and pat dry potatoes; prick potatoes with fork 2 to 3 times per side. Lightly oil skins with vegetable oil; place potatoes on a microwave safe dish. Microwave according to microwave directions.

Remove hot potatoes from microwave when done, set aside for 5 minutes to cool.

Cut potatoes in half lengthwise with a serrated knife. Fold a sheet of paper towel to hold hot potato half, use a spoon to scoop out potato flesh into a large mixing bowl, leaving about a 1/4-inch-thick shell. Place skins in prepared dish, set aside.

Add ham base and butter to mixing bowl with potatoes; beat with electric mixer on medium for about 1 minute. Add cheese, onion, milk, parsley, garlic powder and pepper; beat just until blended. Be careful not to over-beat potatoes.

Evenly spoon potato mixture into skins; shake pre-grated Parmesan cheese over tops.

Warm potatoes in microwave or place in a 350°F oven and heat through. To brown tops, place warmed potatoes under broiler for 2 to 3 minutes.

Twice baked potatoes can be made a day ahead. Stuff the potatoes, then cover and refrigerate them; then, on serving day, warm as instructed above.

Cream of Mushroom Soup

Serves 6

- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 16-ounce package button mushrooms, rinsed, stems trimmed and sliced
- 1/2 cup chopped yellow onion (1 small onion)
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon dried tarragon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon white pepper
- 2 teaspoons Better Than Bouillon Organic Mushroom Base
- 1 tablespoon Better Than Bouillon Organic Chicken Base
- 4 cups water
- 2 cups heavy cream
- Salt and pepper to taste

In soup pot, melt butter over medium-high heat.

Add mushrooms and onion; cook and stir until liquid evaporates, about 15 to 20 minutes.

Add flour, dry seasonings, mushroom and chicken bases; stir to combine.

Add water and bring to boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer uncovered for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Remove soup from heat and puree with a hand held immersion blender, or in batches in the blender.

Return blended soup to medium-low heat and add cream. Cook and stir until soup is thoroughly heated, about 5 to 8 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Leisure



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Make your holiday preparations one step at a time in order to avoid being overwhelmed and leaving things undone. That confusing family situation continues to work itself out.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Ease this year's holiday money pressures by letting your thrifty side guide you as you look for those perfect gifts that typically reflect your good taste and love of beauty.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You'll have a good handle on potential holiday problems if you delegate tasks to family members, friends or co-workers — most of whom will be more than happy to help out.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Right now you are especially vulnerable to holiday scams that seek to take advantage of your generosity. Best advice: Check them out before you send out your checks.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) The upcoming holiday season gives the Big Cat much to purr about. Relationships grow stronger, and new opportunities loom on the horizon, just waiting to be pounced on.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) A changing situation brings conflicting advice about how to go forward with your holiday plans. Your best bet: Make the decision you feel most comfortable with.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Holiday plans get back on track after some confusion about the direction you expected to take. A potentially troublesome money matter needs your immediate attention.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your holiday preparations are on track. But you need to confront a personal situation while you can still keep it from overwhelming everything else.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Tight financial matters ease a bit during this holiday season. But the sagacious Sagittarian is well advised to keep a tight hold on the reins while shopping for gifts.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Don't put off making decisions about this year's holiday celebrations, despite the negative comments you've been getting from several quarters. Do it NOW!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) The holidays will bring new friends and new opportunities. Meanwhile, be careful to use your energy wisely as you go about making holiday preparations.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) There's good news coming from a most unlikely source. And it could turn out to be one of the best holiday gifts you have had in years. Remember to stay positive.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are respected for your honesty and loyalty. You make friends slowly — but with rare exceptions, they're in your life forever.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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 BOLTIKOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Banner is different. 2. Bowtie is missing. 3. "Cup cakes" is reversed. 4. Bottle has been added. 5. Tie is black. 6. Register is missing.

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Wishing Well®

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N	I	E	I	T	S	E	H	S	O	C	A	N
5	4	6	4	8	4	6	5	6	5	8	5	5
L	E	K	R	R	S	A	O	Y	S	S	E	R

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

WAIST OF MONEY

- | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 50 New York university | 96 "Salome" character | DOWN | 41 Remote | 83 "Thanks, Robes-pierre!" |
| 1 Meat cut | 52 "Butterfield 8" author | 97 Like some paper | 1 Speech problem | 43 Nick of "I Love Trouble" | 84 Idolize |
| 5 "— You Babe" ('65 song) | 54 Rouse | 98 Covenant | 2 Neighbor of Molokai | 44 Strauss aristocrat | 85 Surrenders |
| 9 Skimmer material | 56 Singer Payne | 100 Opie's aunt | 3 Violinist Oistrakh | 45 Common contraction | 88 In-your-face item |
| 14 Chauvinist | 58 Plant disease | 102 Archaic preposition | 4 Playwright Coward | 46 Chutney ingredient | 89 Guinness or Baldwin |
| 19 Othello's ensign | 59 Pontifical partner | 103 Conductor Queler | 5 Spectrum shade | 49 Minuscule | 91 Sport |
| 20 — con-tendere | 60 Become a prune | 105 Snake sound | 6 Discuss | 51 Reindeer name | 93 Does Little work |
| 21 What the nose knows | 61 Islands instrument | 107 Part 4 of remark | 7 Auto pioneer | 53 Israeli dance | 95 Preoccupy |
| 22 Greene or Michaels | 62 Baby — | 111 Sialom curve | 8 Petite pooch | 55 Tolkien creation | 99 Most methodical |
| 23 Be a black-smith | 64 Like Hercules | 113 Ruby of "A Raisin in the Sun" | 9 Prepares onions | 56 Japanese volcano | 104 Jacket feature |
| 24 Start of a remark by James Dent | 65 "Malcolm X" director | 114 Limit | 10 "... baby on the —" | 57 Rubbed the wrong way | 106 Hardly hyper |
| 27 Appropriates | 66 — Mahal | 115 Sink | 11 Emulate Sinbad | 63 Garage supply | 108 Small shrub |
| 29 Dutch artist Jan | 68 Widespread | 119 Dust busters | 12 Improve | 64 Runners carry it | 109 Foam |
| 30 Let up | 69 Shed | 121 — squash man | 13 Violent card game? | 67 Crooked | 110 Choose, with "for" |
| 31 Rep. | 70 Part 3 of remark | 122 End of remark | 14 Hunk of gunk | 71 Bara of the silents | 112 Face lift? |
| 32 Speakeasy patron | 75 Ambush | 129 Peace of mind | 15 Pindaric character | 72 Judd of "George & Leo" | 115 Wet blanket |
| 33 Hoover, for one | 80 Ripped | 130 Soviet cooperative | 16 Pluck | 73 "— a Rebel" ('62 hit) | 116 Concerning |
| 35 Part 2 of remark | 81 Periodontists' org. | 131 "He's making — ..." | 17 Fairy-tale start | 74 Unclear | 117 WWII gun |
| 40 Beginning on | 83 Bud | 132 Buffalo waterfront | 18 Golfer's gadget | 75 It'll give you a weigh | 118 Tropical spot |
| 42 '72 Michael Jackson smash | 86 Tweety Pie, e.g. | 133 Jocular Johnson | 25 Disney rabbit | 76 Lowest point | 120 Handel's "— and Galatea" |
| 44 Impact sound | 87 Highlands tongue | 134 Director Sergio | 26 Tom, Dick, or Harry | 77 Absurd | 121 Spotless |
| 47 Downey of "Touched by an Angel" | 88 Nobelist Octavio | 135 "Beau —" ('39 film) | 28 No Einstein | 78 Sheet of stamps | 122 "— of the Cat" ('77 hit) |
| 48 Woodworking tool | 90 Man from Malmo | 136 Equipment | 34 Encourage a culprit | 79 Carve a canyon | 123 Reduce, with "down" |
| | 92 Hersey setting | 137 Actor Wallace | 35 Go fishing | 80 Furniture wood | 124 — Spumante |
| | 93 They may be personal | | 36 Long of football | | 125 Poverty |
| | 94 Ornamental mat | | 37 Stun | | 126 Baseball's Ripken |
| | | | 38 Daily receipts | | 127 Witty one |
| | | | 39 TV's "— Shadows" | | 128 Foster or Tilly |

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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.

	+		×		17
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	+		+		16
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DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 3 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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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.

	+		x		17
x		÷		+	
	-		x		5
-		+		x	
	+		+		16
26		10			18

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 3 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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Super Crossword

Answers

L	O	I	N	I	G	O	T	S	T	R	A	W	B	I	G	O	T				
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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



Quail Meadow

It's the 70th anniversary of Pearl Harbor



Carolyn Slocumb

December 7, 1941 – seventy years ago today! Do you remember where you were on that eventful morning? I do – we were living in Goldsboro, N.C., my dad and I were at home waiting to hear my mother on the local radio station (she was to give the Bible school lesson that day).

Life, as we knew it, would never be the same. We had to learn to live with “rationing” of food and gasoline. Do you remember the “red and blue” stamps used for groceries and the A or C sticker on the car windshield which indicated how much gas you were allotted for the month? One of my more vivid memories of that time was the requirement to be quiet during the news every night when Gabriel Heater was on the radio.

For those of you who are too young to remember Dec. 7, 1941, this was the day the Japanese shocked the world by bombing the American naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Hawaii wasn't even a state. On Dec. 8, the nation was gathered around its radios to hear President Roosevelt deliver his “Day of Infamy” speech. That same day, Congress declared war on Japan.

On Dec. 11, Congress declared war on Germany. This is when the slogan “Remember Pearl Harbor” was heard across the country. More than 3,500 Americans were killed or wounded in two waves of terror lasting two long hours; 350 aircraft were destroyed or damaged; all eight battleships of the U.S. Pacific Fleet were sunk or badly damaged — including the U.S.S. Arizona. With all of this, all of America's carriers were unharmed.

The sinking of the USS Arizona ended the story of the invincible battleship and began a new story about the superiority of the mighty aircraft carrier. Construction of the Arizona (it was known as Number 39) began on March 16, 1914, in the New York Navy Yard. The ship was launched and christened on June 19, 1915. The ship was commissioned Oct. 17, 1916. Construction continued on the floating hull and Arizona experienced considerable problems with her engines, requiring months in dry dock. The work was finished in March 1917, and the Arizona served with the Atlantic Fleet as a gunnery training ship during

World War I.

In November 1918 the Arizona sailed for Europe to join Battleship Division Six serving with the British Grand Fleet. In 1920 the Arizona began to carry scout airplanes. Between 1929 and March 1931, The Arizona was modernized. The entire superstructure was replaced. In October, 1941, the Arizona was struck by the Oklahoma while conducting exercises at Pearl Harbor. This required the Arizona to be in dry dock for a few weeks. Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese aircraft appeared in the air

over Pearl Harbor; the Arizona came under attack almost immediately; 1,177 of the crew members were either killed by the explosion and fire or were trapped by the rapid sinking of the ship. The destruction of the Arizona came to symbolize the reason the U.S. was fighting in World War II. So, on today, Dec. 7, 2011, let's all “Remember Pearl Harbor.”

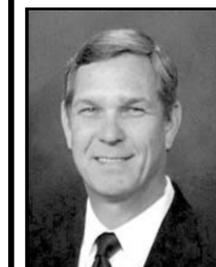
Attention all ladies: The December luncheon is Friday, the 9th, at Ruby Tuesday's – call Kathy Voss or Maryanne Ellner for reservations.

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This is why I love December



James Snyder

It was a wise person who divided the year into 12 months. I really do not know who came up with this idea but let me go on record in saying that it was a good one. Each month seems to have its own peculiar value. Some months are better than others.

For example, I am not a member of January's fan club. I am not sure if it is the longest month of the year but at times, it sure seems to be. I mean, after all of the excitement typically leading up to the month of January, is it any

wonder it seems to be such a dull month.

I could say many things about some of the other months of the year but I really have to say that my favorite month of the year has to be December. Maybe this goes back to when I was a youngster and looked forward to the Christmas holiday. I am not sure because the Christmas holiday does not hold that much of a fascination for me. I think it began to wane when I had to foot the bill for all of the Christmas activity.

I do not love December because of the shopping. Right after Thanksgiving the shopping frenzy begins and this year several people lost their lives. Is it crazy to go out shopping like this when everybody else is out there with the fierce intent of buying something and you had better not get in his or her way? On the other hand, do all the crazy people go shopping?

Well, I am one crazy person that does not go out and join the rest. I just do not like shopping. The month of December is one of the high shopping months of the year. It did not get the reputation because of my shopping activity.

This past week the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage asked me if I wanted to join her in a shopping spree. Without thinking, which is my normal modus operandi, I said, "I'd rather be punched in the nose."

Whack! When I came to, I pondered the fact that my wife is so literal when I am trying to be metaphorical. My nose is doing nicely, thank you.

Therefore, I do not like shopping. The month of December is more than extravagant shopping with crazy people.

One of my favorite songs of the season is, "Tis the season to be jolly." I like

jolly. During the Christmas season, everybody enjoys seeing jolly people. I like to exploit the jolliness of my nature. I may not be Santa, but I sure could pass as his twin brother. Do not think I have not exploited that part of my character.

During the holiday season in the month of December, nobody bothers about your weight. In fact, everybody seems to enjoy seeing the jolly old man who is slightly overweight. I cannot tell you how many times when out in public during the month of December the people come up to me and said, "Here's my list. Don't forget me." At first, I did not quite understand what they were doing. Now as they place that sacred list in my hand I look at them and say, "Ho, ho, ho." Everybody seems to enjoy that.

Of course, it can go too far. One time after my Santa impression, I happened to sit down and before long, there was a line of youngsters wanting to sit on my lap. I have since retired my Santa impression, especially when in public.

What I like about December is that nobody, and when I say nobody I am referencing my wife, worries about diets. All year long, my wife is faithful in reminding me, "That's not on your diet. Put it down." I would say it is like a broken record but nobody knows what a record is anymore let alone a broken one.

During the holiday in December she is too busy baking pies and cookies for relatives and friends to think about my diet. Oh, how I love December.

Perchance somebody in the course of a conversation brings up the subject of diets; the month of December is a great ready-made excuse for me.

"I start my diet," I say with the upmost confidence to anybody inquiring, "next month."

It is amazing to me that "next month" is never December. And so, during the month of December I only look forward to my diet. It would be wrong, absolutely wrong, to begin a diet in December. If a person would do that, what do they

do for a New Year's resolution?

The month of December is a time to relax and just enjoy the season. By enjoying the season, I am thinking of those delicious Christmas cookies baking in the oven, in the kitchen, in my presence. It would be a shame not to taste one. After all, what if they were no good? What if this batch of cookies, baking in the oven right now, turned out to be bad? It is my patriotic duty to ensure that those Christmas cookies are delicious.

For me, December is a very sacred purpose. Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, said, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1 KJV).

My purpose is to exploit the entire month of December.

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, Ocala. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net.

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KATHY

continued from Page 5

events. We will meet again to discuss the minor events. It is my goal to always have input from the residents. I don't believe it

is my job just to plan what I think is good. I do not live here, I work for the residents, they need to tell me what they want to see and I

will make it happen."

If you have not met Kathy, stop by and say hello. She welcomes residents. Kathy ended the in-

terview by saying, "I am very excited about my new venture here at Stone Creek and will be very glad when I am over the learn-

ing curve and training sessions. I have met so many nice people. This is really a wonderful place to work." Kathy, welcome!

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Emergency Services Manager

The Centers is seeking an Emergency Service Manager to oversee the ES dept. and conduct ES & lethality assessments in our Ocala crisis unit for mentally ill & substance abuse populations. Must be available for 24/7 on-call to provide shift coverage and be familiar with FS 394 & 397, have 3 yrs exp including 1 yr. supervisory, ES, & problem resolution exp. Bachelor's degree in a human service related field reqd. Full benefits pkg DFWP/EOE/We E-Verify Fax or e-mail resume to HR, the Centers, Inc., (352) 291-5580, jobs@thecenters.us For more info visit www.thecenters.us

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General

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Look Back and Smile is a website of nostalgic photographs of places, things and events from Marion County.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Marion County is asking for community help and involvement in building this new community resource.

Do you have photos or a photo history of Ocala or Marion County that trigger fond memories of days gone by? Imagine seeing a photo of "the old swimmin' hole", or your favorite burger joint just as you remembered it years ago! We want to hear from you.

Please inform your membership and anyone else who may have a photo archive of Marion County or Ocala from "Back in the Day".

To share your pictures and stories please call NAMI at 352-368-2405. Your pictures will live forever on Look-BackAndSmile.com.

Furniture collection dates announced

Marion County Solid Waste's monthly furniture collection events are held at varying recycling centers throughout the county to provide more convenient locations for citizens to bring their old furniture. Solid Waste then transports the furniture to the landfill.

December and January furniture collection events are as follows:

- Jan. 7 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Forest Corner recycling center (950 S. Highway 314A, Ocklawaha.
- Jan. 21 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Blitchton recycling center (13247 N. Highway 27, Ocala)
- Jan. 28 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Hog Valley recycling center (23621 NE 160 Ave. Road, Fort McCoy.



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