

WEST MARION Messenger

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Anniversary bouquet

Ward and Nancy Anderson of Ocala Palms, whose wedding picture is at the right, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Dec. 1 at La Cuisine restaurant with many of their friends from the community. For more photos of those who attended the celebration, see Page 5.

Voters league slates programs for all in county

The League of Women (and Men) Voters, in cooperation with the On Top of the World's Master the Possibilities Adult Education Program, presents the following:

Jan. 11, 2:30 p.m. Movie: *Iron Jawed Angels* tells the true story of how activists helped win women the right to vote.

Following the movie members from the Marion County League of Women (and Men) Voters will be available to provide information about the local League.

Jan. 18, 2:30 p.m. Movie: *Not for Ourselves Alone, the story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony.* Following the movie members from the Marion County League of Women (and Men) Voters will be available to provide information about the local League.

Jan. 18, 7 p.m. Health Care Reform: What Does It Mean for You and Your Family. The League of Women (and Men) Voters is presenting an overview of the Patient Protection and Affordable Health care Act.

Jan. 25, 2:30 p.m. Marion County's Local Government: Why Do We Do The Things We Do?

Presentation by League of Women (and Men) Voters member, attorney and former commissioner Judy Johnson.

Events will take place at On Top of the World, Live Oak Hall, 8415 S.W. 80th St., Ocala.

Please register at: lwvocala@gmail.com or 352-861-9751.

A special holiday gift, coming straight from the heart

By Priscilla Geissal
CORRESPONDENT

We often see the "Big Red Bus" or other mobile units parked in various locations; and, if you are like me, we say to ourselves, "I ought to stop and give blood today." Maybe we do—maybe we cannot at that particular time, but that big bus reminds us that some things can only come from one person to another.

Recently, I made one of my trips to the bus when it was parked at Walgreens at the corner of Southwest 60th Avenue and State Road 200. It is my most familiar lo-

cation since I pass there at least once nearly every day. This time was not very different from other times, but it was still special to me.

Slightly over a year ago, my husband had 18 transfusions in a 12-day period. I still am amazed that he lived through that particular ordeal; but thanks to the generosity of kind people who donate blood on a regular basis, he is still "alive and kickin'" as he likes to say.

This time there were three guys working in the bus, and they were all amazing. The one who worked with me is Greg Gallagher, who is a retired U.S. Navy corps-

man whose wife told him that being in his 50s is just too young not to be still working. So, he now is working with those who are willing to give a very personal gift to an anonymous person who will need their help.

As the New Year of 2012 begins, I would personally like to encourage those who can to do this very simple act that could well be the life or death difference for another person. It does not take long..it is (relatively) painless..you get juice and cookies..and often there are other perks like movie tickets and gift cards. The latter is the least important, but it does show

how the local businesses participate by sponsoring this special need that we all have in our community.

When you see the "Big Red Bus" or any of the other locations where you can be of help to another human being, please think about how valuable your contribution is to others who have no way of thanking you.

So..on behalf of my family and many others who still have a loved one because of the generosity of those who give ..thank you! Your gift from your heart is appreciated from the bottom of our hearts. Happy New Year!



PHOTOS BY PRISCILLA GEISSAL

The Big Red Bus parked in Walgreens parking lot on Dec. 27 and attracted a number of donors. At the right, Retired U. S. Navy Corpsman Greg Gallagher has a big smile for those he helps to donate "the gift of life" from one person to another.



Fairfield Village

The secret treasure



Priscilla Geissal

It is really amazing how many fascinating people live right here in our immediate neighborhood called "Fairfield"... and it is truly a "field of fair (using the Shakespearean meaning — very good) people."

Louise (nee Archambault), who is by background French with her mom being Canadian, grew up in West Warwick, Rhode Island. One of 12 children, she grew up equally fluent in both French and English as both were spoken regularly in the Archambault

home. All of the children of the family became accomplished in their professions, but Louise was the only girl in her family to attend and graduate from college.

Soon after we moved to Ocala, I met Louise; but, as is often the case, very interesting people stay "under the radar" and usually are very low key. Therefore, it was only recently that I found out how unique this lovely lady is. She has either lived in or visited so many of the world's most fascinating places, and she has treasures that she has accumulated from many of those exotic locations.

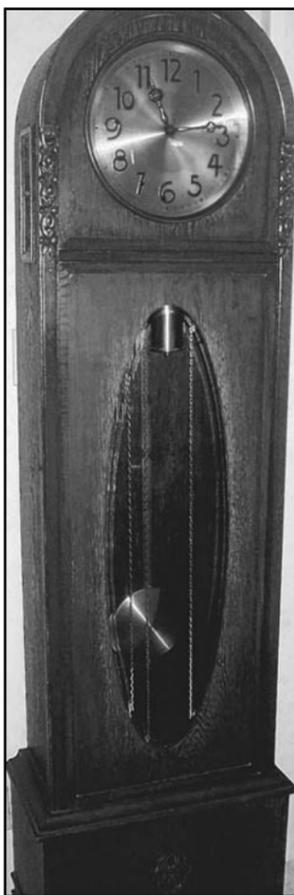
This article is going to have to be a "two-parter" because I cannot include in one writing all of the things I learned when I visited with Louise at her charming home here in Fairfield Village. This time, I want to tell you about some of the "secret

treasures" that I saw in her home. They are beyond my limited vocabulary to describe, but I will try to do them justice.

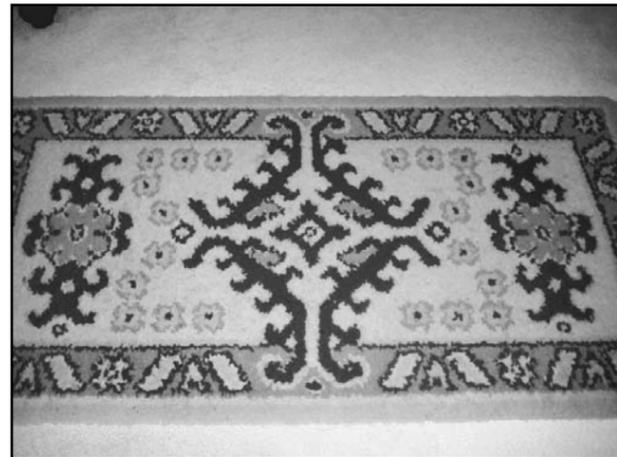
Louise was a teacher and her husband was in the Air Force — they married in Germany. The first treasure I noticed immediately upon entering her home is the gorgeous grandfather clock which she gave her husband as a wedding gift. The clock (of course German craftsmen made) is nearly 150 years old and is unbelievably striking in its classic simplicity. At the foot of the clock is the hand-hooked rug that her husband made himself as a gift to her. Both are incredible!

The dining room furniture is from Denmark and the leaded glass doors on the corner cabinet are just beautiful. On the wall in the dining room were collections of framed Hum-

Please see FAIRFIELD, Page 3



Stately "Grandfather Clock" made in Germany and given by Louise to her husband as a wedding gift.



Hand-hooked rug made for Louise by her husband.



Hand carved chair from the Black Forest in Germany. The cushion is llama skin.

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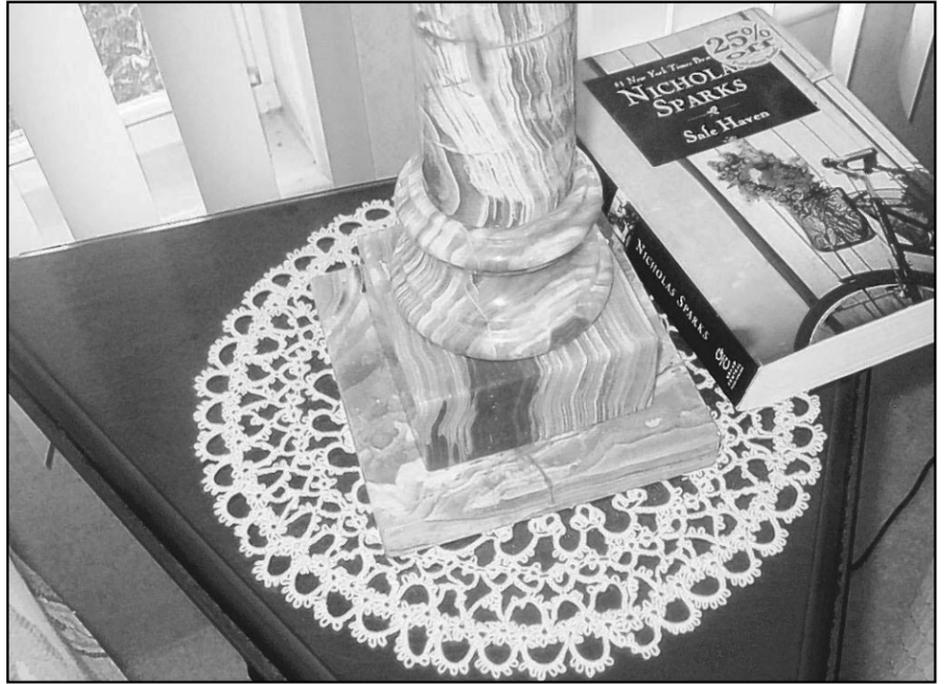
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Metal work "The Lord's Supper" enhances the dining room.



Alabaster lamp and Ginger jar lamps softly light the beautiful home.

FAIRFIELD

continued from Page 2

mels which I found extremely interesting as well. An Italian metalwork of The Lord's Supper seems to be offering a special blessing to those who enjoy a meal in the inviting dining room.

In one of Louise's bedrooms was a most interesting Chinese carved wood chest from which the scent of camphor soon filled the room when the top was open. Inside were many delicate pieces of needlework ...some done by foreign crafters and some made by Louise herself. It was impossible to tell which ones were made by professionals because Louise's work is of that professional level.

There was an alabaster lamp and a ginger jar lamp that were so understatedly beautiful that I was capti-

vated. The set of Chinese tables were breathtaking as well as was the hand-carved desk chair from the Black Forest in Germany.

The list of gorgeous items could go on and on because she has these treasures all over her home and lives with them lovingly every day. I was struck by the fact that these lovely items are put to use—not hidden away as often some of us tend to do with the things that mean the most to us. Louise is acutely aware of how to use her treasures while caring for them so that they retain their beauty and value.

As we enjoyed coffee and some holiday treats, Louise and I discussed the upcoming New Year and all that we hoped would be true for our families and

friends. She and I, together, want to extend that "Happy New Year" wish to all of our friends here in Fairfield Village and the entire Ocala area.

I hope you enjoy the photos that cannot do justice to the beauty of the exquisite pieces that grace the home of one of Fairfield's secret treasures — a true representative of what I mean when I say that Fairfield Village is "...a lively place filled with lovely people."



The Chinese carved wooden chest holds many handmade treasures.

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Happenings

Thursday, Jan. 6

Golden Hills MSTU to meet

The Golden Hills MSTU for Road Improvements advisory board will meet at 10 a.m. at the MSTU department (2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala). For more information, contact Myra Tedder at 352-438-2650.

Saturday, Jan. 7

Chess Club to meet

The chess club that formed at the Freedom Public Library meets the first Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Grab your board and chess pieces and come on down. Interested persons are invited to attend for a rousing game of chess.
It's your move! For more information, call Ron at 352-873-2276.

Gospel music at Joy Lutheran

The Jacob Brothers Gospel Music Trio will perform at Joy Lutheran Church on Saturday, Jan. 7 at 6 p.m. in the church sanctuary.
The Jacob Brothers, Bob and Mike Jacobs and Mike Lawyer, are gospel veterans and have been dedicated to the ministry spreading the Gospel through music since 1962.
They have traveled extensively and produced more than 50 albums.
For an unforgettable experience, with a program of versatility in gospel music, do not miss this event. A free-will offering will be asked at this program.
Joy Lutheran Church is on Southwest State Road 200 at 83rd Place, Ocala.
For further information, call 352-854-4509 ext 221.

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.

Sunday, Jan. 8

Concert at Countryside Presbyterian

Ray Cooper presents "From Vaudeville to Broadway" on Sunday, Jan. 8 at 3 p.m.
If you enjoyed "Southern Express" you will love this concert as Ray Cooper was their drummer extraordinaire.

Ray is a complete one-man show, in addition to the drums he plays the trumpet and ukulele-banjo, he sings, tap dances and is a very funny comedian.

He is a lifelong professional entertainer having performed on cruise ships, the Queen Mary, Long Beach, CA, Virgin Airways, Disney World and has played drums for many Hollywood stars when he was in California.

He also appeared on film and television when his mentor was Jimmy Durante.

Cooper will be performing such old favorites as "Singing in the Rain," "Oh you Beautiful Doll," "It's a Wonderful World" and "Drummin' Man."

Thursday, Jan. 12

Lunch kicks off NARFE meeting

The National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Chapter 2279 of Ocala, and their spouses, will meet at the Olive Garden Restaurant, Jan. 12, at 1 p.m. A meeting will follow the lunch.

Thursday, Jan. 19

Air Force group to meet

The Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 of the Air Force Association (AFA) will hold its January meeting on Thursday, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m. at the Ocala Airport Administration Building 750 SW 60th Ave., Ocala FL 34474.

Joe Lacey will present his power point on Lockheed L-1011.
Everyone is welcome.

Saturday, Jan. 21

Scandinavian Club of Marion County

The Scandinavian Club of Marion County invites people of Danish, Finish, Icelandic, Norwegian and Swedish decent to join us at our next meeting on Jan. 21 at 11:30 a.m. in the ballroom at the Ocala Hilton, 3600 S.W. 36th Ave., in Ocala. The menu will be apple stuffed pork loin with mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, salad and desert.

The entertainment by Honey's School of Dance. The cost is \$16 per person. Reservations and payment must be made in advance. Payment must be received by Tuesday, Jan. 17. Checks to be made out to Don Clauson and mailed to Don Clauson, 5901 S.W. 86th Place Ocala, FL 34476. For further details call Don Clauson 352 861-1235 or Terry Rasmussen 352 347-8362.

Saturday, Jan. 28

Moose Golf Tournament

Teams are being organized for a golf tournament on Saturday, Jan. 28, to raise money for the Moose Lodge and its charitable endeavors.

A shotgun start begins at 8 a.m. Prizes and awards for all participants followed by a chicken feast.

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

Deadline for news:
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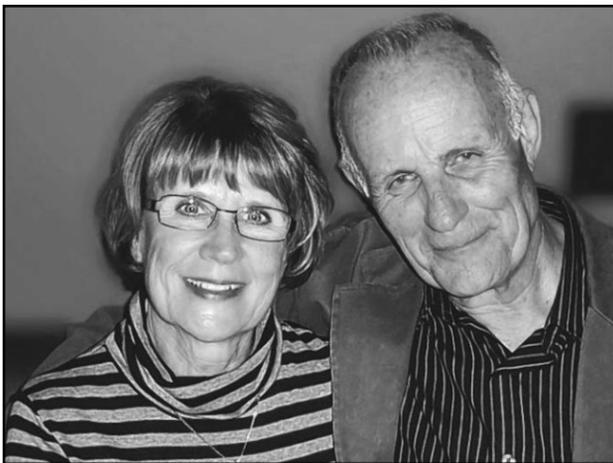
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<p>I want to get news in the Messenger. Call editor Jim Clark at 352-854-3986 or send by e-mail to editor@westmarionmessenger.com</p> <p><small>Community news and photos must be received by Friday the week before publication. Mail and photos may be left at the Messenger office in Kingsland Plaza. All contributions are subject to editing for clarity, taste, and style.</small></p>	<p>Deadline for Advertising</p> <p>Classified Reader Ads 4 pm Friday</p> <p>Display Ads 5 pm Thursday</p>
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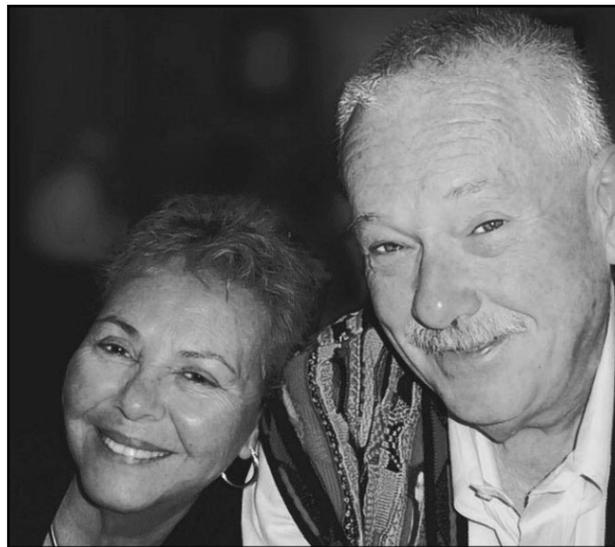
Ward and Nancy Anderson of Ocala Palms mark 60th anniversary



Nancy and Ward Anderson were honored.



Joan and Garrett Cox joined in the celebration.



Rosemary and Phil Reilly attended.



Karen and Rick Braun attended.



Gigi and Al Nolan visited.



Jerry and Laurie Wieland were at the event.

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Opinion

Our Message

Here come the politicians

In last week's paper we covered the story of a Tea Party Solutions meeting in which a candidate for the U.S. Senate, Ron McNeil, paid a visit and spoke.

McNeil is one of about a dozen Republicans trying to unseat Democrat Bill Nelson.

This was the major beginning of what will undoubtedly be a number of political gatherings and rallies as we prepare for the 2012 elections. We've already had some events concerning the sheriff's race, but now things are starting to expand.

McNeil's visit was interesting. He brought along a band, which featured an impersonator who was very good and very entertaining. If you closed your eyes, you would think you were listening to Elvis, Johnny Cash, Roy Orbison, a tipsy Dean Martin, and Neil Diamond.

McNeil was also entertaining, with his down home humor and folksy sayings. One of his comments that we highlighted was that politicians in Washington should have two terms – one in Congress and one in prison. That drew a laugh from the crowd.

As we said, though, this was just the first of what should be many visits from candidates, and most of them will be just as unknown as McNeil, who has never run for public office before.

The field will take time to develop and thin out. There will be those who will be serious and others who will quickly fade away.

This, of course, isn't the only race. State representative and state Senate races are also going to impact Marion County, as well as the local choices for sheriff, school superintendent, School Board and County Commission.

It will be an active political season, and unlike the presidential race, where your candidate could be eliminated by the good folks in Iowa and New Hampshire, all county residents will have a say in the local elections.

So keep informed. We'll try to keep tabs on all the local events that are open to the public.

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JOHN PROVOST

EDITOR:

JIM CLARK

Among Friends

Even kids know where the Southeast is



Jim Clark

When it comes to college football, some people need a geography lesson. Those kids on the show "Are you Smarter than a Fifth Grader?" would put some of them to shame.

In college sports, SEC stands for the Southeastern Conference, not the Securities and Exchange Commission (although an antitrust investigation might be nice). The sports SEC released its schedule last week for this year's football season.

There are two new SEC members, and the University of Florida plays them both, traveling to Texas A&M and hosting Missouri.

Missouri and Texas in the Southeast? Quick, grab a map and see what happened.

The expansion is part of the recent expansion of major college conferences in a power grab by those leagues, much to the dismay of the smaller leagues, and leading to an even bigger mess in the Bowl Championship Series (the hated BCS).

The SEC is not alone in the geography problem. The ACC, which stands for Atlantic Coast Conference, recently added Syracuse and Pittsburgh. To my knowledge, neither of those fine communities

has a beach on the Atlantic.

The Pac-12 (Pac standing for Pacific) added Utah and Colorado, and for a while considered Texas, Texas Tech, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State. I didn't know those six schools were on the Pacific Ocean.

Then there's the Big 10, which doesn't have a geographic name, but has had 11 teams for years. Recently it added a 12th team, Nebraska, but it can't call itself the Big 12...there's already a conference with that name, although the Big 12 is down a couple of teams after some split for other conferences.

All this math is making me dizzy.

We won't even get into the Big East, which in basketball includes Notre Dame from Indiana.

Anyhow, back to the Southeast. I personally don't consider anyplace where it snows regularly as part of the South. Tennessee is borderline, but Kentucky, regardless of its SEC ties, to me is "up North." As for Missouri, I went there twice in the winter, and it was brutally cold. That's not my idea of an SEC area.

For those who care, here's Florida's 2012 schedule: Sept. 1, Bowling Green; Sept. 8, at Texas A&M; Sept. 15, at Tennessee; Sept. 22, Kentucky; Sept. 29, open; Oct. 6, LSU; Oct. 13, at Vanderbilt; Oct. 20, South Carolina; Oct. 27, vs. Georgia in Jacksonville; Nov. 3, Missouri; Nov. 10, Louisiana-Lafayette; Nov. 17, Jacksonville State; Nov. 24, at Florida State.

Bowling Green, Louisiana-Lafayette and Jacksonville State? Wow! I could really go off my diet just thinking about those three cupcakes.

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

Guest column

Campaign begins when it ends

By Jim Flynn

SPECIAL TO THE MESSENGER

Welcome to the next 11 months of the permanent campaign for the presidency. In between elections this political circus never leaves town.

It was rumored, though we've never found confirmation, that President Richard Nixon whispered to his wife after the swearing-in ceremony: Keep waving! The re-election campaign begins on the way to the White House.

Pollster Pat Caddell is credited with the concept of permanent campaigning for public approval. Caddell advised president Jimmy Carter to become a full-time, every-day salesman for his own re-election – including weekends, holidays, and vacations. The theory became a 1980 instruction book – *The Permanent Campaign* – written by Sidney Blumenthal, an adviser to President Bill Clinton. The George W. Bush presidency was the first two-term example of a skillfully managed permanent campaign. President Obama has demonstrated full mastery of the permanent campaign re-election strategy. Upon arrival at the White House he appointed 38 so-called czars to handle presidential responsibilities, the largest number of in-house advisers, directors, and special assistants in history. Unlike cabinet members, the "czars" don't undergo Senate confirmation. They come aboard as instant experts and directors of a wide range of national concerns – financial stability, economic recovery, energy, climate change, weatherization, cyber security, domestic violence, health technology, green jobs, ethics, etc., etc.

The czars' marching instructions are: The president selects policies and you guys do the work. While the president and his campaign advisers are on the road massaging voters and romancing financial supporters, czars should remain anonymous, avoid members of the press, and resist invitations to appear before congressional committees.

Other aspects of the Obama permanent campaign included having Congress write the controversial Obamacare health legislation, while the president cleverly stayed out of sight. The president also gives speeches regularly about national problems which ought to be fixed, without presenting plans, programs, or solutions.

Mr. Obama's image may not be as tarnished as pollsters and Republicans think it is. He has mastered the art of sales pitching his agenda and expecting his czars and congressional Democrats to produce political results, with minimal presidential appearances. History may remember him as the passive president.

The end of the primary season can't come too soon for Republican contenders. Their well-dressed herd of presidential wannabes has created obvious confusion in their own party and with undecided voters. At the same time, House and Senate GOP leaders can't seem to get their signals straight. They have become adept at letting seeming victories shrink into obvious defeats. Until the primaries have sorted out the peripheral players, Republicans will lack focus on the major issues of the 2012 campaign – unemployment and the economy; deficit spending and national debt; Medicare, Medicaid, and universal health care; size of government, and energy independence. Republicans will not win the White House if their platform is focused on social issues and the fate of the postal service.



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.



Quail Meadow

Start the new year activities in busy Quail Meadow



Carolyn Slocumb

By now you probably have all the decorations packed away for another year. There were some beautiful decorations here in Quail Meadow. Now it's time to get our calendars marked up for January, 2012.

First on the list is the "First Friday" gathering at the clubhouse on the 6th. We will use part of our time together taking down the Clubhouse Christmas tree

and packing it away for another year. Come join us for an enjoyable evening. We meet at 7 p.m. and stay until you are ready to leave.

One of the most popular New Year's resolutions is that we are going to diet and exercise — well, we can help with the exercise part. Indoor exercise classes are held at the Clubhouse Monday through Saturday. Check

the QM Reporter for more information.

If you are looking for something to do, I'm sure you can find something of interest in our community activities. Bingo is held twice each month, Bunco is played the 2nd Wednesday, ceramics class is each Wednesday, Mah Jongg is played each Monday evening and also on Thursday afternoon, Barbara Fife has a water color class

twice each month, poker is played several afternoons, and we have a Red Hat Society that is open to all women. In addition to all of this, the women of Quail Meadow have a luncheon each month. If none of this is of interest and you enjoy reading, then take advantage of our library. Jack and Margene Sheidler do a fabulous job maintaining our library. Attention Red Hatters:

Our organizational meeting is Friday, Jan. 6, at 1 p.m. We will meet at the Clubhouse and make plans for the year. Also, dues for the year will be collected. All women from Quail Meadow are invited to join our group.

Looking ahead in January, mark your calendars for the next "pot luck" dinner. This will be on Monday, Jan. 16 at the Clubhouse.

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Stone Creek

Vets go to the Ritz



Patricia Gizzi

Recently, some of the Stone Creek veterans became elves and visited the Ocala Ritz Hotel. They visited the new Veterans Village, in the former old Ocala Ritz hotel on Silver Springs Boulevard. This hotel is a work in progress. A government grant is being used to convert the old Ritz into 36 apartments for 50 homeless veterans enabling them to begin life anew with a place to call home on a temporary basis.

According to Al Morrison, resident manager, the new Veterans Village will begin accepting homeless vets, selected through a tough screening process by the VA beginning this month. These vets will receive temporary housing and subsistence (food stamps), attend required lifestyle meetings (budgetary, AA, etc), be responsible for grounds/apartment cleanup, meet with counselors and generally get their lives back. With assistance through the VA, homeless vets will obtain a full-time job. This is a requirement of their stay at the Ritz. There will also be a "one-strike and you're out" policy that Al will enforce. He will welcome the initial group of about 15 residents around mid-January and then become their mentor.

After discussing with Al Morrison how our Stone



Preparing the gifts for the Ritz, from the left, Fred Schnuerle, Bob Romiti, Charles Raiford and Lynn Cooper.

Creek Veterans Association could help launch their effort, a volunteer committee consisting of Bob Romiti, Charles Raiford, Lynn Cooper and Fred Schnuerle got into the act. The group went Christmas shopping and purchased toiletries for each of 36 apartments. They bought tooth brushes, toothpaste, shaving cream, razors, mouthwash, combs, soap, etc and packaged them nicely into Christmas bags. They attached a card to each bag... "Compli-

ments of Stone Creek Veterans Association." The group accompanied by Dave Fitch, Barry Browne, and Larry Singer delivered everything to Al on Wednesday, Dec. 22. Along with the gift bags, the vets also delivered 10 wall hangings and other items generously donated by other Stone Creek vets. The experience made the group all feel like Santa and his elves.

The vets have committed to assisting this worthwhile local veterans organization

during the new year. Fred will act as liaison to the Veterans Village organization.

Don Hunt wants the Stone Creek Community to know that the veterans will conduct another food drive.

It will run from Jan. 9 to 16. The list of needed foods can be found on the portal under the Veterans Club. Let's make this event more successful than the last one! Thank you Stone Creek veterans for continuing to serve.

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