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Car show
County official George Albright put on his annual car show Saturday at the county complex. Above, Connor Henderson, 4, whose mother works at the tax collector's office, enjoys a ride down the slide. At left, Albright's 1931 Miller Ford race car is shown. More photos available on our website at www.westmarionmessenger.com (no hyphens in address).



PHOTOS BY JIM CLARK

McClain speaks to Tea Party

By Jim Clark
EDITOR

It was supposed to be a District 3 County Commission candidate debate, but since one of the hopefuls didn't attend, Stan McClain had to answer all the questions himself.

The Tea Party Solutions meeting Monday night featured McClain, the Republican incumbent who is being opposed by Democrat Patricia Reed, who was invited but did not attend.

McClain is also expected to receive opposition from Jeff Gold, a Republican.

In his opening remarks, McClain commented, "The oppression from the top is unbelievable. It has become painful to see how many rules and regulations are pushed down to us."

McClain noted that government at the local level "is very important, and we



McClain

have to continue to say no."

With the county's large population, McClain noted, "I probably face more voters (than state representatives)."

He drew a reaction from the crowd when he said he and his wife had 11 children and four grandchildren.

He praised earlier commissions for their fiscal responsibility, and said, "We're reaping some of the benefits now." As a result, he said, he didn't have a "sky is falling" mentality.

He said he stands on his record, a conservative record, and added, "We've taken a view that our government needs to be smaller." He said that he continues to look for ways for the private sector to take over some responsibilities.

Asked about impact fees and the county's moratorium, he said that "eliminating them was fine with me." McClain said he didn't know if the decision has spurred growth, and as for the loss of funds, noted "the government didn't take money out of someone's pocket."

Please see McClain, Page 5

Airport passes inspection

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has notified city officials that it has found no deficiencies during its annual inspection of the Ocala International Airport.

City officials were notified of the positive inspection results through a letter from Jim Price, certification safety inspector, FAA Southern Region, Airports Division.

This inspection, which is conducted annually, is designed to ensure that the airport is meeting stringent FAA standards. It covers all aspects of airport operations, including self-inspection programs, pavement management for runways and taxiways, airfield markings and lighting,

training and inspection records, fuel inspection records, wildlife mitigation, airport certification manuals and emergency preparedness.

As part of the inspection, Ocala Fire Rescue personnel had to demonstrate that they meet FAA standards related to airport familiarization, airport communications, aircraft familiarization, aircraft emergency evacuation and firefighting operations.

"We commend you for the procedures you are using in the day-to-day operation of the airport. The appearance of the airport indicates they are effective," Price wrote in the letter.

The inspection was conducted Feb. 1.

County wants to add opportunities to work with local businesses

Beverages, fencing services, junk/litter removal, medical supplies and tire sales/disposal. At first glance, this seems like a disparate mix of services to group together. What they have in common, however, is that they're each one of the 116 commodity/service areas for which Marion County Procurement Services (and other county departments) solicit quotes and proposals.

At a recent Board of County Commissioners meeting, Procurement Services launched a monthlong campaign geared toward increasing awareness of the county's need for these types of wide-ranging services and for encouraging our local businesses to participate in the bidding and quote processes that are part of obtaining those services. The ultimate goal - keep tax dollars circulating locally when possible.

"Our community's economic success depends on local businesses," said Commission Chairman Charlie Stone. "Through this campaign, we will raise awareness of additional revenue possibilities for Marion County businesses."

An area that Procurement Services staff is particularly focused on through its campaign is increasing the number of

businesses registered in its local business directory. The directory is one of the biggest perks the county offers to local businesses according to Procurement Services Director Susan Olsen.

"By signing up with the local business directory, vendors are automatically notified about quotes and bids specific to the commodity or service the vendor has chosen on the application," Olsen said. "This is a free service the county offers to local vendors only." Businesses can complete and submit the local business directory application online at www.marioncountyfl.org/procurement.htm.

Procurement Services will host a vendor open house at its office (2511 S.E. Third St., Ocala) as part of its campaign on Tuesday, March 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; at the event businesses can learn more about how to work with Marion County. Staff members are also scheduling presentations with local business groups to discuss the basics of working with the county. To pre-register for the vendor open house (walk-ins are also welcome) or see about scheduling a presentation for your business group, contact Procurement Services at 352-671-8444 or purchasing@marioncountyfl.org.



Relax

Amberly L. Snapp gives a massage to an unidentified visitor at the Health and Wellness Expo at the Paddock Mall last Saturday.

PHOTO BY
JIM CLARK



Quail Meadow

Special flag was donated

This flag recently flew over a military installation in the Middle East (actually a secret location). The Hutchison family would like to donate it to Quail Meadow with thanks and appreciation for a wonderful community.

Karen Hutchison's Family
2011



The flag display at the Quail Meadow Clubhouse contains a flag that was flown over a secret military installation in the Middle East. It was donated by Karen Hutchison after it was given to her daughter-in-law.



Carolyn Slocumb

Have you noticed the flag in the Clubhouse library? This is a very special flag that was given to us by Karen Hutchison. The framed flag and the description letter are displayed on a shelf in the library. This flag was given to Karen's daughter-in-law, Becky Hutchison, and it was requested that it be donated to a community where veterans were among the res-

idents. Since Quail Meadow has many veterans, Becky asked Karen if it could be donated to us. The letter reads: "This flag recently flew over a military installation in the Middle East (actually a secret location). The Hutchison family would like to donate it to Quail Meadow with thanks and appreciation for a wonderful community." We are very grateful to Karen and her family for their generosity in giving the flag to Quail Meadow. Take a few minutes and stop by the library and look at this flag. While there, remember all of our men and women who serve in the armed services protecting our freedom.

A group of the Red Hot Fillies enjoyed lunch at the Ocean Buffet last week. The food there is delicious! The next outing scheduled for April 11 will be a boat trip on the Withlacoochee River with Captain Mike. Contact Carolyn if you would like to make this trip (we are limited to 18).

The Social Committee is busy making plans for events for the upcoming months. The New Pretenders will entertain us on April 16. Tickets (for a donation of \$3) are available from Charlotte Payne and Theresa Yoders.

Don't forget that Saturday, the 17th, the Irish Derby/Ascot races will take place at the Clubhouse at 7 p.m. Ladies, are your hats ready for the contest?

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Happenings

Thursday, March 15

Genealogical Society meeting

The Marion County Genealogical Society will meet on Thursday, March 15 at 2 p.m. at the Marion County Library, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala. This month's program will feature Paul Enchelmeyer, whose topic will be Ten Ways to be a Perfect Ancestor. The public is cordially invited and there is no cost involved.

For further information, please contact Barbara Jones at 352-897-0840, MarionGenealogy@gmail.com, or http://MarionGenealogy.tripod.com.

Air Force Group meets

The Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 of the Air Force Association will hold our monthly meeting on Thursday evening, March 15 at 7 p.m. at the Ocala Regional Airport Administration Building, 750 S.W. 60th Ave., Ocala.

Fellow AFA and Red Tail Chapter member Rob Thomas, Iraqi war veteran, will brief us on his experiences in Iraq.

Everyone is welcome.

For more information call Mike Emig at 352-854-8328.

Saturday, March 17

Green Thumb plant show, sale set

Spring is around the corner and plans for the 5th annual Green Thumb Plant Show and Sale are under way for the event that's a local favorite which happens to fall on St. Patrick's Day this year, Saturday, March 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Dunnellon.

Vendors selling orchids, trees, shrubs, native plants, soil enhancers, yard art, woody ornamentals, palms, roses and a variety of flowering plants will line the lawns of the historic village of Dunnellon, home of the shopping district known for its festivals and events.

For booth space or more information, please contact Nancy at 352-208-6789.

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 March 17. We will meet at 11:30 a.m. at the Ocala Hilton, 3600 S.W. 36th Ave. in Ocala. The menu will be corned beef and cabbage, boiled potatoes, vegetables, salad, coffee and dessert. The entertainment will be Harry Chambers on the keyboard. The cost is \$16 per person. Reservations and payment must be made in advance. Payment must be received by Wednesday the 14th of March. 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.

Sunday, March 18

Jazz Society offers free music

The Ocala Jazz Society returns to the VFW Post 4781, across from Oak Run, on the third Sunday of each month, 2 to 5 p.m.

This month, March 18, is the date.

The group plays more than jazz including favorite songs from past year. Dancing is encouraged.

For more info call Gladys at 352-854-8930.

Monday, March 19

Legion post to meet

The Ralph J. Green American Legion Post 354 will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, March 19 at 1 p.m. in the community room of the Sheriff's Brian Litz Building, 9048 S.W. State Road 200. Try to arrive early to enjoy light refreshments and comradeship with fellow veterans. For more information, call Commander Fred Pulis at 352-854-9976.

More on Pages 4-5

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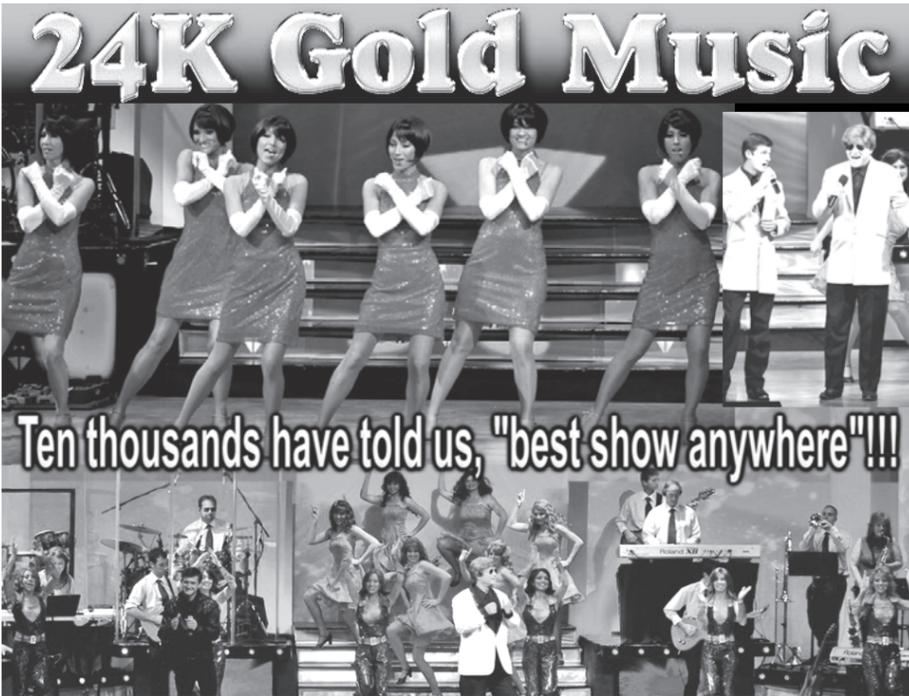
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Wednesday, March 21

Former Vermont residents to gather

Vermonters will be gathering at Rainbow Springs Park for a day of fun on Wednesday, March 21, beginning at 11 a.m.

Hamburgers and hotdogs will be served and you are asked to bring a salad, dessert, casserole, etc. to share. The state park fee is \$2 and if you wish to enter for door prizes at the gathering, \$1 will be charged.

The park is on U.S. Highway 41, north of Dunnellon. For information, call 352-854-4527.

Thursday, March 22

Food for Thought at Our Redeemer

A "Food for Thought Luncheon" will take place at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 5200 S.W. State Road 200, on Thursday, March 22 at 11:30 a.m.

The Speaker will be Joyce Semelka MS, RD. She will speak on medical nutrition self management. RSVP to reserve a seat to 352-368-4028.

Saturday, March 24

Ocala Lions to collect items for Fisher House

On Saturday, March 24, the Ocala Lions Club will collect donations and personal care items to be given to the Fisher House Foundation in Tampa, Florida for families of veterans or military personnel who are being treated at a nearby military or VA medical facility. The event will be at the Big Lots store, 8600 S.W. State Road 200 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Fisher House, founded in 1990 by Zachary Fisher, provides a home-like facility for families to stay for brief periods of time in order to be near their loved ones undergoing medical treatment.

Personal care items, such as shampoo or tooth paste/brushes, tissues, paper plates, paper cups and plastic food storage containers or bags are needed to help families needing to stay at Fisher House during this difficult time.

Items may be purchased at Big Lots and monetary donations will be accepted.

For further information about Fisher House, call (813) 910-3000 or contact Bill Thomas at 352-291-2600 about the event.

Real men, real life, real impact

A "Rough Cut Men" free seminar will take place on Saturday, March 24 at 7 p.m.

Guest speaker at Christ's Church of Marion County will be David Dusek.

Breakfast will be at 7 a.m. and the session at 8 a.m. A free will offering will be received.

For additional information, call 352-861-6182, www.ccomc.org.

Please use our e-mail editor@westmarionmessenger.com



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

(352) 854-3986 Fax (352) 854-9277
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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:
 Friday 1 p.m. the week before publication.

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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>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>Deadline for Advertising</p> <p>Classified Reader Ads 4 pm Friday</p> <p>Display Ads 5 pm Thursday</p>
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Sunday, March 25

Cantata at Ocala West

Ocala West United Methodist Church will have a special Easter musical cantata "Come Walk With Me" on Sunday, March 25, at 8 a.m. and on Palm Sunday, April 1 at 11 a.m. Please join us for worship and fellowship. The church is at 9330 S.W. 105th St., Ocala. Phone is 352-854-9550. Pastor is the Rev. Alan Jefferson.

Collison Trio concert at Nazarene church

The Collison Trio will give a concert at Ocala West Church of the Nazarene at 5884 S.W. 60th Ave. (Airport Road) on Sunday, March 25 at 6 p.m. The Collison Trio is made up of a father and his two teenage daughters who live in Jacksonville, North Carolina, and travel throughout the region presenting the gospel in song and estimony. All are invited to come and enjoy this evening of song.

Concert open to the public

Appearing together for the first time are Cantor Kim Komrad, a classically trained soprano, and renowned pianist/conductor David Leighton, in two performances. The first will be the Gala Celebration of the Stone

Creek Piano, Saturday, March 24 at 7 p.m. in the Reunion Center ballroom in Stone Creek. This is for Stone Creek residents and invited guests only.

The next day, on Sunday, March 25, open to the public, they will perform An Afternoon of Music: The Sounds of Jewish Composers, at 2:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Shalom, 1109 N.E. 8th Ave., Ocala.

For information and tickets, contact herbamy@embarqmail.com, or call 352-854-9440.

Organ students to perform

Hosted by the Ocala Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO), the organ students of the University of Florida will present a varied program on Sunday, March 25, at 3 p.m. on the beautiful pipe organ at Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Ocala. The program will include works by David German, J.S. Bach, César Franck, Olivier Messiaen, Johann Pachelbel, Derek Bourgeois, and John Weaver.

Some of the students are organ majors while others are doubling majors or minors in music with mechanical and aerospace engineering or linguistics. Their professor, Dr. Laura Ellis, presented a concert for Ocala AGO last November. Admission to the concert is free but a free-will offering will be taken. The American Guild of Organists is an organization with a national membership of over 20,000. Visit their website at www.ago.org.

For further information, call 352-537-0207.

Thursday, March 29

Spring Business Expo

The West Marion Business Associations annual Spring Business Expo will be Thursday, March 29, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Cultural Center of On Top of the World, 8395 S.W. 80th St. The event is free and open to the public.

There will be drawings for more than 50 door prizes and for a grand prize of a \$500 Visa gift card.

Other sponsors include Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida, Village Crier, The Gene Martin Show, Coffee News, Comfort Keepers and the South Marion Citizen.

U.S. Constitution for seniors

The Senior Learning Center of the College of Central Florida will offer an introductory class to the U.S. Constitution on Thursdays from March 29 through May 17 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

This class is open to all interested seniors over the age of 50. There is a yearly membership fee of \$125 to join the Learning Center and over 40 different classes are currently being offered.

For more information call 352-291-4444 or visit RAHAM@cf.edu.

McCLAIN

continued from Page 1

Asked about the springs protection ordinance, he noted, "The more I looked at it, the more I realized it was not the right thing to do for Marion County. I do see the encroachment of government.

He was questioned about the proposed tech development at Interstate 75 and County Road 318 north of Ocala, and defended the property owner, saying that he was a strong proponent for property rights and that someone had made an investment in the property.

He said he could support the development if it could pay for itself.

Speaking about the Munroe Regional Medical Center trustees, he indicated he felt the hospital needed to either be sold or leased, and said there were seven proposals on the table.

As far as a hospital tax, he said that the people "elected me to represent you, so you won't be bombarded" by proposals to vote on.

But he said there was another side. "Sometimes I get a little ticked off. Just

send it to a referendum and let the people vote it down, then we're done with it.

"We don't need more taxes in Marion County."

About grants and "handouts," he said, "There is no free money." He pointed out that if the money is coming from the state, or federal government, or water management district, then the taxpayers gave it to them. "They'll just be giving you your money back."

McClain vigorously defended the Second Amendment to the Constitution.

"I'm afraid the citizens are in trouble. In the revolution we were an ocean away from the tyrant," and he added that it was not that way in America. "A lot of people don't understand why it's so important."

McClain said it was important to have a congressman from Marion County for the majority of local citizens.

He pointed out that a legislator out of Hernando County would "more than likely" be our sitting congressman.

"If we had a strong congressman from

Marion County, the difference that it would make for you is tremendous.

"We have to have a voice in Washington. We have to have people who will go fight for us."

The next debate is scheduled for March 19 at 7 p.m. at the Tea Party Solutions meeting at Berean Baptist Church. It will feature candidates for District 5, the seat being vacated by Charlie Stone.

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Opinion

Our Message

No open government on the part of the feds

Now that Undersheriff Dan Kuhn has been cleared to run for sheriff without quitting his job by the Office of Special Counsel, there remains one big question which has gone unanswered.

Who complained?

Someone had to alert the federal government about the possibility of a conflict with the Hatch Act, although that conflict was so remote that it was ultimately dismissed by the Counsel.

Forgetting the discussion of whether the Hatch Act is effective in the current political scene, we have to wonder who tried to blow the whistle on Kuhn.

Unfortunately, we're probably going to get little help from the feds, who say that these complaints are privileged and the person who filed them can't be identified.

Why? This is another example of those who work in the federal government failing to realize that they work for us, for "we the people." We deserve to know whether this was a political dirty trick by a candidate, or whether it was some overzealous citizen who is against Kuhn's candidacy.

His opponents, if they didn't file the complaint, have to come out and say so vehemently. That might help clear the air.

But it won't change the fact that the federal government, for a while, looked as if it would interfere in a local election, and won't tell us why.

Hopefully, someone who has the ability to do so will file with the courts to get a release of the complaint. Until then, we're in the dark, which is where our federal government likes to keep us.

Editorial

Your Letters

Florida's Democrats

I read an article in the Tampa Bay Times dated March 8 where the Democrats in the Florida House and Senate feel that they are invisible and irrelevant. While this is true they must realize that the general electorate does not read or understand politics especially Florida politics where the minority rules.

While the Democrats hold the majority number of voters in their party, the Republican and Independents understand

Please see LETTER, Page 7

WEST MARION Messenger

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

Among Friends

Boys of summer, though it's still winter

Fishing is not my favorite activity ... actually, I've only been fishing once in my life, as a boy, caught some little fish up at Greenwood Lake, New York, watched him squirm, told my father to put him back in the water so he wouldn't suffer, and never touched a rod and reel again.

But I once had a fisherman describe the feeling the first time he went out in season, in the early morning on a peaceful lake, with nothing to concentrate on, except what he was doing. He said it was pure relaxation.

I had that feeling last week. It came on Monday evening when the New York Mets' Dillon Gee threw the first pitch of the spring training season.

Baseball is back. All is right with the world. I leaned back in my recliner, a glass of iced tea (decaf) on the table by my side, and it felt so right.

As you may gather, I'm a baseball nut. Unlike a lot of baseball fans, I am just as comfortable watching a Little League game (I used to coach) as a Major League game. I've been to Williamsport, to Little League's World Series, and I've been to numerous Major League games.

That's all great, but I am a diehard Mets fan. They started playing 50 years ago, in the 1962 season, and last year they looked as if they hadn't learned much in those 50 years.

They were, however, missing their ace pitcher last season, Johan Santana, who threw two scoreless innings in the second game of the spring last week, leading to wild speculation about the chances this year. Mets fans are used to the saying, "Wait 'til next year!"

I don't care. I just enjoy sitting back, rooting for my team, from the comfort of my living room.

My wife missed this spring opener because she is out of town. It has taken more than 48 years together, but I'm finally getting her converted ... a little. She can recognize Jose Reyes (now a Marlin) and David Wright. She knows the names of some of the others, including Santana. I

Jim Clark
Editor



even coerced her, one year, to name our new cat "Mookie," after Mookie Wilson, who was a star fielder and later a first base coach for the Mets.

My favorite baseball movie is "Field of Dreams" with Kevin Costner and James Earl Jones.

There are a couple of lines in that movie that always stick with me. One is uttered by Costner, as he looks over the field he has built, and says, "It's perfect."

The other is the dialogue by Jones, trying to talk Costner out of selling his farm. He describes the sport this way: "The one constant through all the years, Ray, has been baseball. America has rolled by like an army of steamrollers. It's been erased like a blackboard, rebuilt, and erased again. But baseball has marked the time. This field, this game, is a part of our past, Ray. It reminds us of all that once was good, and it could be again."

That, in a nutshell, is why I like baseball. That's why every year, about this time, I get that relaxed, contented feeling.

All of you can have your NBA playoffs and Stanley Cup playoffs. March Madness ends about the time the regular baseball season starts. I'll take the baseball season over all of those other sports.

So if you need to contact me after April 1, consult the baseball schedule first and see what time the Mets are playing. If you call during those hours, you'll probably have to leave a message. But don't worry. I'll get back to you ... probably sometime in October.

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

Guest Column

The power of the third rail has fizzled

By Jim Flynn

Social Security is no longer the threatening third rail of American politics. Until the reforms of the Greenspan Commission in 1983, politicians did not dare fiddle with Social Security for fear of being electrocuted by voters at the next election.

Based on the Commission's recommendations, Congress raised the retirement age and extended the solvency of Social Security for 75 years to 2058.

Unfortunately they've been very short years. More reform is on the horizon, and Social Security has few champions.

In 2010, during a rare moment of harmony, Democrats and Republicans agreed to extend the politically popular payroll tax cuts put in place by generous George Bush, who financed two wars and wild Congressional spending with checks from China.

More recently, President Obama insisted on an extension of the extension. Some key Democrats balked at extending a reduction which is adding \$89 billion to this year's deficit.

After lengthy dissension between and among Republicans and Democrats, the President was granted a vote-buying extension of the FICA tax holiday to the end of 2012, which occurs right after the November election.

What's next? Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa, a Democrat and one of the honorable members of Congress, was opposed to the tax holiday extension for the right reason.

He said "Make no mistake; this is the beginning of the end of the sanctity of Social Security. The very real risk is that Social Security will become just another program to be paid for with deficit spending, and then in the future, perhaps raided to reduce the deficit."

Republicans may not be known as Social Security cheerleaders, but they knew when the third rail needed repairs. It was President Reagan who appointed the Greenspan Social Security Reform Commission.

Unfortunately the Commission's reforms were seriously negated by the irresponsible spending of George Bush and his no-veto Congress.

As for Democrats, their lengthy reputation as supporters of Social Security is fading.

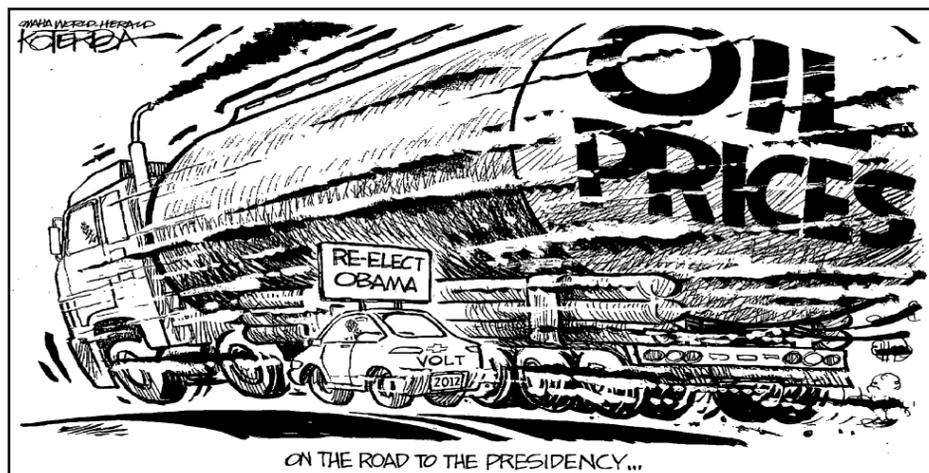
Mr. Obama and key members of his administration believe too much federal support goes to senior citizens, and too little to social programs they favor, such as Obamacare and food stamps.

Mr. Obama's 2010 Commission on Fiscal Responsibility (debt and deficit), co-chaired by Erskine Bowles and Alan Simpson, included more than a few members who were in favor of privatizing Social Security.

It was of no consequence, because the President ignored the Commission's work and report.

It was also little noticed that during last year's debt and deficit wrestling match between Congress and the White House, President Obama suggested a plan for major changes and spending reductions

Please see FLYNN, Page 7



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.

LETTER

continued from Page 6

how to vote and make their votes count. I agree that recently the minority Democratic party in the House and Senate have stopped many of the harmful bills introduced by the Republicans but the public is unaware of their actions.

There is very little publicity that is allowed outside of Tallahassee that is not beneficial to the Republican Party, and if a blurb does escape from time to time the Democrat electorate does not understand what is being done to them.

The Democratic Party in Florida does not understand that this is their state also and if you want something you

must fight for it.

The Democratic Party does not know how to organize a grass roots campaign to represent the people and are afraid to fight where they might possibly lose an election. By not fighting, you have already lost!

Jerry Segovis
Ocala

Please use our e-mail
editor@westmarionmessenger.com

FLYNN

continued from Page 6

to Social Security and Medicare in exchange for new tax revenues.

That a Democrat president would suggest such changes to congressional Democrats is a sign of things to come, as suggested by Senator Harkin.

Seniors and aging boomers would be well advised to take a cue from the Tea Party's emphasis on Congress in the 2008 election. It matters more who serves in the House and Senate than who may sit in the Oval Office for the next four years.

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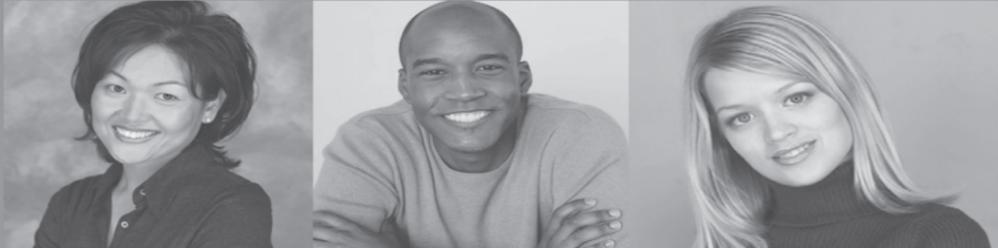
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FAMILY FEATURES

A bake sale is a sweet way to support any charitable cause, whether it's raising money for new uniforms or donating to a local animal shelter. These tips and recipes from the celebration experts at Wilton will make bake sale treats that stand out among the rest — it's a piece of cake.

- Baking delicious goodies is just the start to a successful bake sale. Add some dazzling details. The eye-catching finishes on Bake-Sale Ready Cupcakes — swirls of colorful icing topped with jumbo sprinkles and butterfly decorations, complete with vibrant wraps — will ensure they sell out fast.
- Serve sweets-on-a-stick like Kaleidoscope Cookie Pops and School Star Cereal Treat Pops. Favorite treats are more fun and easier to eat when customers can just grab them and enjoy.
- Offer size options. Sell some cupcakes and mini breads by the "eaches" and cookies by the pop. Have dozens available, too.
- Wrap goodies using treat bags and ribbon, or pack in colorful, easy-to-transport boxes — making them perfect gifts customers will want to keep for themselves.

Visit www.wilton.com for other bake sale ideas and recipes, and for all of your baking and decorating supplies.

Coconut Lime Mini Breads

Breads

- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon finely grated lime zest
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1-1/2 teaspoons coconut extract
- 1/3 cup unsweetened coconut milk

Topping (optional)

- 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 to 2 teaspoons fresh lime juice
- 3 tablespoons toasted sweetened flaked coconut

Preheat oven to 350°F. Line cavities of Petite Loaf Pan with Petite Loaf Baking Cups.

In medium bowl, combine flour, lime zest and baking powder. In large bowl, beat butter and sugar with electric mixer until light and fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Stir in coconut extract. Add flour mixture alternately with coconut milk to batter mixture; mix until well combined. Divide mixture evenly into baking cups.

Bake 25 to 28 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool loaves in pan 10 minutes. Remove loaves from pan; cool completely.

To make icing, combine confectioners' sugar and lime juice in small bowl to desired consistency. Drizzle icing over tops of loaves, allowing icing to run down sides. Sprinkle with toasted coconut.

Makes 9 petite loaves.

Zucchini & Apple Bread

- 2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1-1/4 cups granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 3/4 cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 medium zucchini, shredded (about 1-1/2 cups)
- 1 medium apple, peeled, cored and shredded (about 1 cup)
- 3/4 cup chopped pecans or walnuts

Preheat oven to 325°F. Spray 9 x 5-inch loaf pan with vegetable pan spray.

In large bowl, combine flour, sugar, cinnamon, baking powder, salt and nutmeg. In medium bowl, whisk together oil, eggs and vanilla. Stir into flour mixture. Stir in zucchini, apple and pecans, mixing until just combined. (Do not overmix.) Turn mixture into prepared pan.

Bake 50 to 60 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool bread in pan 10 minutes. Loosen edges of bread from pan. Remove bread from pan; cool completely.

Makes about 12 servings.

Kaleidoscope Cookie Pops

- 2-3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 1-1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- Round Comfort Grip Cutter
- Assorted Colors Cookie Icing
- Assorted Jumbo Sprinkles or other favorite Sugars and Sprinkles
- Cookie Treat Sticks
- Candy Melts candy (optional)

Preheat oven to 350°F.

In small bowl, combine flour, baking powder and salt. In large bowl, beat butter and sugar with electric mixer until light and fluffy. Add egg and extracts; mix well. Do not chill dough. Divide dough into 2 balls. On floured surface, roll each ball into a circle approximately 12-inch diameter x 1/8-inch thick. Dip cookie cutter in flour before each use. Bake cookies on ungreased cookie sheet 8 to 11 minutes or until cookies are lightly browned. Cool cookies completely.

Outline and fill-in cookie with Cookie Icing. Add zigzag border to some cookies. If desired, pipe alternating circles of colors onto cookie surface; immediately pull toothpick through icing from center of cookie to outer edge, pulling colors through. Or, arrange sprinkles and sugars on iced cookie surface. Let dry.

Attach sticks to back of cookies with icing or melted candy. Let dry.

Makes about 2 dozen cookies.

Bake Sale-Ready Cupcakes

- Assorted Primary, Gold or Silver Baking Cups
- Favorite cupcake recipe or mix
- Buttercream or Chocolate Buttercream Icing
- Golden Yellow or other desired Icing Color
- Jumbo Stars and Jumbo Nonpareil Sprinkles
- Butterfly or other favorite Icing Decorations

Preheat oven to 350°F. Line cavities of standard muffin pan with baking cups.

Bake your favorite cupcakes in prepared pan. Cool completely. Color buttercream icing with icing color. Pipe tip 1M buttercream or chocolate buttercream icing swirl on cupcake top; insert icing decoration.

Each cupcake serves 1.



Brighten up Bake Sales

School Star Cereal Treat Pops

- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter or margarine
- 4 cups mini marshmallows
- 6 cups crisp rice cereal
- Cookie Treat Sticks
- Cookie Icing
- Assorted Sprinkles

Spray Star Cookie Treat Pan and rubber spatula or wooden spoon with vegetable pan spray.

In large saucepan, melt butter. Add marshmallows; cook and stir until melted. Remove from heat and add cereal; mix well. Press into prepared pan; insert cookie sticks. When cool to touch, remove from pan. Repeat with remaining cereal mixture. (If mixture becomes hard to work with, microwave at 50 percent power 30 to 60 seconds to soften.)

Outline treat with Cookie Icing; add Sprinkles. Let dry.

Makes about 2 dozen pops.

Candy Bark

- 2 packages (12 oz. ea.) White or Light Cocoa Candy Melts candy
- Rainbow Chip Crunch or other Sprinkles or Sugars

Line 10.5 x 15.5-inch cookie pan with parchment paper.

Melt Candy Melts candy following package instructions; spoon into prepared pan. Tap pan on counter to remove air bubbles; if needed, smooth top with large spatula. Sprinkle on Rainbow Chip Crunch. Chill until firm, about 15 minutes. Remove parchment from pan; break candy into smaller serving pieces.





Fairfield Village

Fairfield Village's SAC looks ahead to pleasant activities



Priscilla Geissal

The regular monthly meeting of the Social Activities Committee was held in the Fairfield Village Clubhouse at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6.

Though the gathering

was rather small, those who attended showed considerable interest in upcoming activities.

Of special interest is the St. Patrick's Day Potluck Dinner scheduled for this coming Saturday, March 17, at 5 p.m. This annual event is always a community favorite.

This year the SAC will provide corned beef and cabbage as well as some other very "Irish" dishes that will be complemented by the additional culinary delights which will be brought by those attending. Everyone who plans to come and add a dish or two

is asked to remember that there be a minimum serving for eight. The food should be at the clubhouse and ready to be served before the 5 p.m. time set for the dinner.

Also, there will be special entertainment this year in the form of a game that was "hinted at" by the SAC officers. Something similar to Name that Tune appears to be in the plans with appropriate small prizes being awarded to the winners.

Bart Rich will be part of the plans for the evening and that will be more than just acceptable since our

community disc jockey and entertainer is always fun.

Other than St. Patrick's Day, there will be other celebrations forthcoming. Naturally there will be the traditional Memorial Day barbecue and the 4th of

July festivities. In addition, there are some other plans that are not yet finalized that will be announced soon for our community's neighbors to enjoy. There promises to be lots of things to do and enjoy com-

ing up in the next weeks and months.

The semi-annual Fairfield yard sale is being planned and will be an-

See FAIRFIELD, Page 12

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Leisure



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) This is a good time to reassess important relationships, both personal and professional, to see where problems might exist and how they can be overcome. Keep communication lines open.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It's not easy to bring order to a chaotic situation, whether it's in the workplace or at home. But if anyone can do it, you can. A pleasant surprise awaits you by week's end.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Be careful that you don't make an upcoming decision solely on the word of those who might have their own reasons for wanting you to act as they suggest. Check things out for yourself.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A personal relationship that seems to be going nowhere could be restarted once you know why it stalled. An honest discussion could result in some surprising revelations.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) That unexpected attack of self-doubt could be a way of warning yourself to go slow before making a career-changing decision. Take more time to do a closer study of the facts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) A workplace problem needs your attention, now, before it deteriorates to a point beyond repair. A trusted third party could be helpful in closing the gaps that have opened.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A recent family situation could give rise to a new problem. Keep an open mind and avoid making judgments about anyone's motives until all the facts are in.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Rely on your always-sharp intuition to alert you to potential problems with someone's attempt to explain away the circumstances behind a puzzling incident.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Although you still need to do some snipping off of those lingering loose ends from a past project, you can begin moving on to something else.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) With your self-confidence levels rising, you should feel quite comfortable with agreeing to take on a possibly troublesome, but potentially well-rewarded, situation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Travel is favored, both for business and for fun. The end of the week brings news about an upcoming project that could lead toward that promised career change.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) You might feel suddenly overwhelmed by a flood of responsibilities. But if you deal with each one in its turn, you'll soon be able to hold your head above water and move on.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a wonderful way of offering comfort as well as guidance. You would do well in the healing arts.

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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 BOLTINOFF



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.
Differences: 1. Sun is missing. 2. Bandanna is smaller. 3. Picture is missing. 4. Funnel is missing. 5. Water gun is missing. 6. Shorts are shorter.

Wishing Well®

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

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

STRICTLY SPEAKING

ACROSS

- 1 Summer stinger
- 5 Sailor's quaff
- 9 In the sack
- 13 Master, in Madras
- 18 "Dies —"
- 19 Melodious McEntire
- 20 — Valley, CA
- 21 Walked confidently
- 22 Tenured?
- 24 Ex-wife, sometimes?
- 26 Roman official
- 27 Umps
- 29 Bus. bigwig
- 30 Plant part
- 31 Writer Blyton
- 33 Tabula —
- 37 At full tilt
- 40 Violin bows?
- 44 Evils
- 45 Terry-cloth inscription
- 46 Cookbook author
- 47 Deed
- 49 Wraps up
- 52 Incompetent
- 55 Neighbor of Latvia
- 57 TV's "The — Game"
- 59 Melo-dramatic
- 60 Progress
- 61 Chaka Khan's group
- 63 Pigeon English?
- 64 To boot
- 66 Spud bud
- 67 Bulldog, for one
- 68 "Blame — Rio" ('84 film)
- 69 Capone impersonator?
- 73 Hire a private eye?
- 75 Landed
- 76 Palm Sunday animal
- 77 Humbug lead-in
- 79 Act like an antelope
- 80 Oxford figure
- 81 Vote in
- 83 "Watership Down" author
- 85 Defy a dictator
- 89 Salad veggie
- 91 Geronimo's birthplace
- 93 Draw
- 94 Donated
- 95 Swedish currency
- 96 Mardi —
- 98 It may be white
- 99 Signor Ferrari
- 101 Stock-brokers?
- 105 Petite pet
- 108 Blood components
- 109 Kid at court
- 110 Former
- 111 Carpenter —
- 113 Wine valley
- 116 Exit
- 120 FDA-approved snack?
- 126 "Equus," for instance?
- 128 Inventor Otis
- 129 Dinky digs
- 130 Pat on the buns?
- 131 Kuwaiti ruler
- 132 Blackboard
- 133 Type of chalcidony
- 134 Holler
- 135 Odense denizen

DOWN

- 1 Man's altar ego?
- 2 Like the Kalahari
- 3 Agra attire
- 4 Prepared a pineapple
- 5 Whippet's warning
- 6 Keep the shelves stocked
- 7 Crumhorn cousin
- 8 Sail support
- 9 Furniture wood
- 10 Jacket info
- 11 Big bird
- 12 — brakes
- 13 Canonized Mlle.
- 14 "— you for real?"
- 15 Was an optimist
- 16 Unimprovable
- 17 Juicy fruit
- 21 Toast word
- 23 Await judgment
- 25 Macabre
- 28 — Lanka
- 32 Tennis pro
- 34 Moss Hart's autobiography
- 35 "— Game" ('71 film)
- 36 Up and about
- 38 Requests
- 39 Ain't right?
- 40 Spanish sherry
- 41 Author Dinesen
- 42 "Peter Pan" pirate
- 43 Tried a mouthful
- 48 Crack up
- 50 Proclamations
- 51 A nose that shows
- 53 Coat-of-arms figure
- 54 Lovett or Waggoner
- 56 Italian greyhound, e.g.
- 57 Ignoramus
- 58 Used up
- 60 Gaggle gal
- 62 Wood and gas
- 65 Sedimentary stuff
- 68 Force
- 69 Lose luster
- 70 "— Comes Mary" ('66 song)
- 71 Dano or Darnell
- 72 Messy Madison
- 73 Nickels and dimes
- 74 Designer Lagerfeld
- 77 Church sale
- 78 Bustle
- 81 Happening
- 82 Latin class no-nos
- 84 Scratches the surface
- 86 Zodiac animal
- 87 Buffalo waterfront
- 88 Actor Horsley
- 90 Currier's partner
- 92 Memo start shows
- 93 On a whale watch, perhaps
- 95 Asian nation
- 97 Clothes
- 100 African equine
- 102 Quayle or Blocker
- 103 Eye appreciatively
- 104 Acted like a chick
- 105 Garden supplies
- 106 In the slightest degree
- 107 "GoodFellas" group
- 112 Return address?
- 114 "Hi, sailor!"
- 115 Battery part
- 117 — mater
- 118 Self-smitten
- 119 Thornfield governess
- 121 Cornerstone abbr.
- 122 "Evita" character
- 123 "— Tiki"
- 124 TV Tarzan
- 125 King's handle?
- 127 Costa del —

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18				19				20				21					
22			23					24			25						
26					27			28			29				30		
		31		32				33	34	35	36		37	38	39		
	40	41				42	43					44					
45					46				47			48		49	50	51	
52		53	54			55	56					57				58	
59						60					61	62				63	
		64	65				66					67			68		
69	70	71					72				73			74			
75					76				77	78			79				
80			81				82		83			84		85	86	87	88
89			90					91	92				93				
		94						95				96	97			98	
			99						100			101			102		
105	106	107											109				
110								111	112				113	114	115		
120			121	122						123	124	125		126		127	
128																	131
132																	135

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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.

	×		—		16			
÷		×		÷				
	×		+		14			
+		+		+				
	—		×		18			
10					17			10

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 8 9

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Go Figure!

answers

6	x	4	-	8	16
÷		x		÷	
2	x	3	+	8	14
+		+		+	
7	-	5	x	9	18
10		17		10	

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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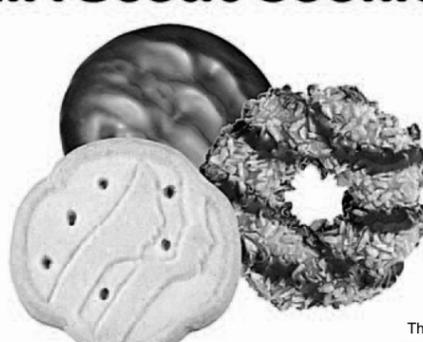
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6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____ 9. _____ 10. _____
11. _____ 12. _____ 13. _____ 14. _____ 15. _____

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At left, although attendance at the SAC meeting was relatively "small"....the plans for future activities are BIG! Hopefully, more neighbors will choose to attend and plan activities. Above, some of the St. Patrick's decorations were up early.

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FAIRFIELD

continued from Page 9

nounced very soon. Spring and fall are the two times that our community has this fun event which offers lots of real bargains for shoppers. The planning committee is working on some additional new possibilities that will be even more enticing to our community and to others who might want to come and

join us on that Saturday. The Ladies Lunch Bunch has scheduled its next gathering to be at Sammy's restaurant in Jasmine Plaza at 1 p.m. on Monday, March 26. The Sunshine Red Hats meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. this Friday, March 16. Those playing Rumikub meet at the Fairfield clubhouse at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. Bunco is set for each Wednesday at 1 p.m.; while Mah Jongg is being enjoyed on Sunday and Thursday also at 1 p.m.

Anyone interested is invited to attend. The same 1 afternoon time has turned out to be a popular one for these recreational activities. Card playing is set for each Tuesday and Saturday evening at 6 p.m., while dominoes is on the calendar for Fridays at 6 p.m. as well. Billiards breaks the time pattern somewhat as it is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. It seems that there are many activities that can be enjoyed by attendance at the Fairfield Village Clubhouse at the regularly scheduled times. As the weather warms up, word is that the water aerobics group will soon be reorganizing probably upon the return of Toni Belcher who is away visiting her mother who has been quite ill in Oklahoma. New neighbors are invited to check the calendars in the Clubhouse for other upcoming activities being scheduled even ahead into 2013. Lots of fun times can be had by joining in the fun in "Fairfield Village—a lively place filled with lovely people."

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