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Candidate qualifying closes; Stone elected to State House

Some of the political races are over before they start.

Qualifying ended Friday for the upcoming local election cycle, and several candidates will face no opposition when voters go to the polls in August and November.

County Commissioner Charlie Stone decided this year to leave the county governing body and make a run for state representative in District 22. It's already been successful as he faces no opposition and will go to Tallahassee next January.

In county races, Tax Collector George Albright, Clerk of the Circuit Court David Ellspermann and Property Appraiser Villie Smith, all Republicans, drew no opposition and are automatically re-elected.

In addition to Stone, Dennis Baxley and Marlene H. O'Toole have been re-elected to the Florida House, and Charlie Dean has been re-elected to the Florida Senate.

In other county races, Chris Blair and Dan Kuhn will square off in the Republic primary Aug. 14 for sheriff, with the winner facing Bernie DeCastro, Constitution Party, and Judson Cauthen Spence Jr., write-in, in the general election. Only Republicans may vote in the primary.

For school superintendent, Jackie Porter, George Tomyn and Wally Wagoner will run in the Republican primary, with the winner to face Democrat Diana Greene in November. Only Republicans may vote in August.

Stone

In County Commission District 1, Mike Amsden, the incumbent, is being challenged by David R. Moore in the Republican primary. The winner faces write-in James Bailey in November.

For District 3, incumbent Stan McClain is challenged by Jeffrey Gold in the Republican primary, with Patricia Reed and Robert Brown as write-ins on the ballot in November. Reed had originally been listed as a Democrat.

In District 5, four Republicans, including Earl Arnett, Pat Gabriel, Francine Johannesen and Butch Verrando will be on the ballot Aug. 14, with the winner to face Democrat Jessica Hadley in November.

In all three County Commission races, only Republicans may vote in August.

School Board races are different, since by law the competition is non-partisan. Everyone in the county may vote in the board races. In District 1 it's Woody Clymer vs. Nancy Stacy; in District 2 it's Carol Ely vs. Robert Dobkowski.

Both races will be decided Aug. 14.

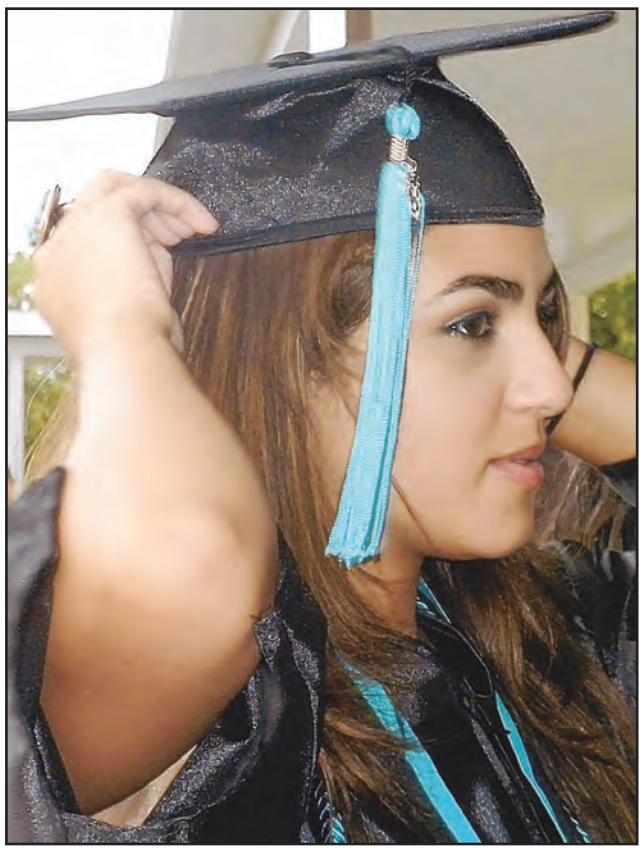
For supervisor of elections, Barbara Ruse and Wesley B. Wilcox, both Republicans, will square off in the GOP primary, with the winner to face Judge Cochran in November. Only Republicans can vote in August.

In the U.S. House District 11, there will be no primary as Richard Nugent, incumbent Republican, and David Werder, a Demcorat, will square off in November.

West Port graduation

Shannon Hill, right, salutatorian for the West Port High School Class of 2012, visits with her friend Michaella Quesada prior to ceremonies. Graduation was originally scheduled for Thursday night, but the day's rain forced the postponement of the outdoor ceremony on the school's football field. That failed to dampen the ethusiasm of those who received their diplomas.

PHOTOS BY MICHEL NORTHSEA



West Port High School graduate Mariah Fernandez adjusts her cap prior to graduation Friday morning.

West Port High School graduates Kevin Jones and Cassie Mrod share a joke before graduation ceremonies began Friday morning. The phone was later collected by school officials – they also took car keys – and returned to graduates after the ceremony.

Ocala Honor Flight reunion ceremony scheduled for Flag Day, June 14

A reunion for the Ocala Honor Flight is planned for Flag Day, June 14, at 10 a.m. at Veterans Park, Corner of East Fort King Street and 25th Avenue.

All World War II veterans who have made one of the flights and their families and all flight escorts and their families are asked to gather together and proudly wear their hats and dog tags.

Prizes will be given away.

RSVP by leaving a message at 352-351-9341.

County Commission makes recycling easier for non-city residents

In a unanimous vote at its Tuesday meeting, the Marion County Board of County Commissioners voted to make recycling in Marion County even more convenient by approving an agreement with Waste Pro of Ocala to provide single-stream recycling at county recycling centers.

Single-stream recycling will eliminate the need for county residents to separate items into cardboard, glass, plastic, aluminum and other categories before recycling. Citizens will be able to dispose of all items in the same box at county recycling centers.

According to the five-year contract, Waste Pro of Ocala will be responsible for constructing a regional material recovery facility in Marion County as well as for transportation of the recyclables from county recycling centers to the facility.

Marion County will receive 55 percent of the revenue from the sale of the recyclable material.

This revenue, combined with cost savings due to the new recycling processes, is anticipated to cover the cost of the expanded services.

According to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Marion County currently ranks 10th out of Florida's 67 counties in a statewide ranking of each county's adjusted recycling rate.

Marion County Solid Waste officials hope single-stream recycling will help improve that rate even more.

"We hope this enhancement of our recycling program will increase Marion's recycling rate and help reduce the amount of materials going into the landfill," Mike Sims, Marion County Solid Waste Director said.

"Plus, recycling will be easier and less time-consuming for our residents – with no increase in cost to the department or to the taxpayers."

The single-stream recycling program is expected to begin Sept. 1.

Quail Meadow

Another important patriotic day is Flag Day on June 14

Carolyn Slocumb

We celebrated Memorial Day, then D-Day, and now another important day in our history is June 14. This is known as "Flag Day". This day commemorates the adoption of our flag. This was done by resolution of the Second Continental Congress in 1777. Many people had part in establishing June 14 as our national Flag Day. Among those who worked for this recognition was a man by the name of Bernard J. Cigrand. He was a grade school teacher in Waubeka, Wisconsin. In 1885, Mr. Cigrand held the first recognized formal observance of Flag Day at the Stony Hill School. Beginning in the late 1880s Mr. Cigrand spoke around the country promoting patriotism, respect for the flag, and the need for the annual observance of a flag day on June 14 - - we need someone like him now, instead of the flag burners. Mr. Cigrand later attended dental school in Chicago. While there he continued his patriotic speeches and writing for many magazines and newspapers. He is credited with being the "Father of Flag Day." I understand that he is a distant relative of our Quail Meadow resident Paul Cigrand!

Following right after Flag Day is Father's Day on Sunday the 17th. Many years ago I read statistics that said on Mother's Day more long distance phone calls were made than on any other day of the year. However, this same report said that on Father's Day more "collect" calls were made than any other day! Remember these statistics go back to when we actually spoke with an operator to make a long distance call – oh, the beauty of cell phones!

Father's Day will be celebrated on Sunday, the 17th. The first time a bill to have national recognition of the holiday was introduced in Congress in 1913. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson went to Spokane, Washington, to speak at a Father's Day celebration and wanted to make it official, but Congress resisted, fearing that it would become commercialized. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge recommended that the day be observed by the nation, but stopped short of issuing a national proclamation. Two earlier attempts to formally recognize the holiday had been defeated by Congress. In 1957, Senator Margaret Chase Smith wrote a proposal accusing Congress of ignoring fathers for 40 years while honoring mothers, thus "singling" out just one of our two parents. In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson issued the first presidential proclamation honoring fathers, designating the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Six years later in 1972, the day was made a permanent national holiday when President Richard Nixon signed it into law. Happy Father's Day!

Did anyone observe Venus passing in front of the sun? It's probably a good thing it was cloudy all day, so we weren't tempted to go out and look at the sun without the proper eye protection. This event won't take place again until the year 2117. I don't think any of us will be around to see it.

Just a reminder: Please observe the watering restrictions of only 2-days per week. With the showers we are having, there is no need to waste the water on our lawns. The restrictions also apply to those with their own wells – the water comes from the same underground water source. Restrictions are: odd number addresses water only on Wednesday and Saturday; even number addresses – Thursday and Sunday. There is no watering allowed between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

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'Absent' not part of their vocabulary

Three graduating seniors in Marion County Public Schools know precisely what it means to always be there, especially when it comes to class.

Dustin Ciraco, Wayne Livingston, and Elizabeth Turner graduate with the highest attendance rates in the district for the Class of 2012 – not missing a single day of class during 13 years of school.

That's 100 percent attendance — 2,340 out of 2,340 days of class.

Ciraco graduated Saturday from Forest High School. In 1999, he enrolled in Marion County as a Pre-Kindergarten student at Shady Hill Elementary.

Livingston graduated from Vanguard High Friday. In 1999, he enrolled in Marion County as a Pre-K student at Saddlewood Elementary.

Turner graduated Thursday from North Marion High. In 1999, she enrolled as a Pre-K student at Fessenden Elementary and later attended North Marion Middle.

Marion County Public Schools recognizes these three students for their dedicated and consistent efforts to always attend school and their outstanding emphasis on a complete education.

In addition, seven other graduating seniors never missed a day of high school class — Brandon Goulbourne – West Port High, Brittany Lakhani - Dunnellon High, Kristin Phifer – Vanguard High, Shane Prince – Vanguard High, Derrick Smith Jr. – Vanguard High, Katelyn Shallue – West Port High, and Anna Zarkowski – Dunnellon High.

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Happenings

Thursday, June 14

NARFE to meet

The National Association of Retired Federal Employees and spouses Chapter 2279 will meet at the Olive Garden restaurant in Ocala on Thursday, June 14, at 1 p.m. for lunch and a short meeting.

Friday, June 15

Elder Abuse Symposium scheduled

A former star of the television show "Father Knows Best" will be featured in the Ocala Elder Abuse Symposium, to be conducted Friday, June 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Ewers Century Center, College of Central Florida.

The event is free and open to the public. People are encouraged to wear something purple.

The event will feature Lauren Chapin, who played the youngest child on the famed television show of the 1950s.

To reserve a spot call 1-888-902-3011, ext. 7920.

Saturday, June 16

Are you interested in publishing?

Interested in publishing? On Saturday, June 16, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Friends of Freedom Public Library present guest speaker Rik Feeney, book coach, consultant and author of more than 48 books, reports and CDs. Mark your calendars and join us for his presentation Publishing in 2012 and Beyond in the library's meeting room. Feeney is a dynamic speaker possessing a wealth of knowledge in the field of publishing. Seating is limited; admittance will be on a first come, first served basis.

Wednesday, June 20

Women to mark summer solstice

Women from diverse faith and cultural backgrounds are invited to celebrate the summer solstice on Wednesday, June 20, when The Interfaith Alliance of Marion County (TIA) holds a potluck luncheon at the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Ocala. The church, located at 1908 S.E. Fort King St., will open the doors to its Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.m. for this "women's gathering" after which speakers will discuss the manner in which the longest day of the year is observed throughout the northern hemisphere.

"While we can't do bonfires on the beach or dance around Stonehenge, we can have the joy of sharing the warmth of our common humanity as we learn how people of differing traditions have saluted the power of the sun since the beginning of recorded history," commented Kay Marks, TIA board member and co-hostess with other members of the church's Christian Action Committee.

The Interfaith Alliance of Marion County works to open windows of opportunity for mutual understanding by celebrating community, compassion and civility among people of good will no matter what their belief system. Please RSVP by emailing TIAofMarionCountyFL@gmail.com or by telephoning Delphine Herbert at 352-873-9970.

Thursday, June 21

Air Force Association to meet

The Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 of the Air Force Association will hold its June meeting on Thursday the 21st at 7 p.m. The location is the Ocala Regional Airport Administration Building, 750 S.W. 60th Ave., Ocala.

Everyone is welcome.

Saturday, June 23

Women's Ministry Super Saturday

Women's Ministry Super Saturday Special: "Dot to Dot" Living. Special speaker will be Linda Bellows. Enjoy a light brunch, door prizes and an opportunity to meet Christian friends. For additional information: 352-861-6182, www.ccomc.org. Christ's Church of Marion County is located at 6768 S.W. 80th St., just off State Road 200.

Moose to sponsor golf tournament

A four person best ball golf tournament will be held on June 23 at Marion Oaks Country Club. Longest drive and closest to the pin contests are part of the fun. Mulligans will be available for purchase.

Tee time is 8 a.m. with a shotgun start. This 18-hole event will offer free coffee, donuts, prizes and plenty of laughs followed by a ½ chicken and fixin's lunch at West Marion Moose Lodge.

For more information call Joe Edel, 352-238-1485, Fred Pulis, 352-854-9976 or signup sheets are available at West Marion Moose Lodge 352-854-2200. Golf outing is open to Moose members and guests.

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.

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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8810 S.W. State Road 200, Suite 103, Ocala, FL 34481

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Call editor Jim Clark at 352-854-3986 or send by e-mail to editor@westmarionmessenger.com Community news and photos must be received by Friday the week before publication. Mail and photos may be left at the *Messenger* office in Kingsland Plaza. All contributions are subject to editing for clarity, taste, and style.	Classified Reader Ads 4 pm Friday Display Ads 5 pm Thursday

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Leisure

Salome's Stars

ARIES **(March 21 to April 19)** Recently obtained information could open a new opportunity for a career change. But temper that Arian impatience and act on it only when all the facts are made available.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You're moving into a more active cycle. So put your ideas back on the table, where they'll be given the attention they deserve. Expect a favorable change in your love life.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A friend might ask for a favor that you feel would compromise your values. Best advice: Confront him or her and explain why you must say no. A true friend will understand.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A relationship continues to develop along positive lines. Meanwhile, a brewing job situation could create complications for one of your pet projects. Look into it right away.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Your interest in a co-worker's project could lead to a profitable experience for you both. But before you agree to anything, be sure to get all your legal I's dotted and T's crossed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Be careful whose counsel you take about a possible long-distance move. Some advice might not necessarily be in your best interest. Stay focused on your goals.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Someone might try to complicate efforts in an attempt to work out that confusing job situation. But don't let that keep you from sticking with your decision to push for a resolution.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A disagreement on how to handle a family problem could create more trouble for all concerned. Look for ways to cool things down before they boil over.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) An unexpected change in long-standing workplace procedure and policy could provide a new career target for the Archer to aim at. Start making inquires.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) You're finally able to get back into the swing of things, as those temporary doldrums begin to lift. Expect some surprising disclosures from a new colleague.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Rely on your innate sense of justice to see you through a dilemma involving a family member. Other relatives who've stood back will soon come forward as well.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) A new friend seems to be pushing you into taking risks — financial or otherwise. Best advice: Don't do it. She or he might have a hidden agenda that hasn't surfaced yet.

BORN THIS WEEK: You love to see new places and meet new people. Have you considered working for an airline or cruise-ship company?

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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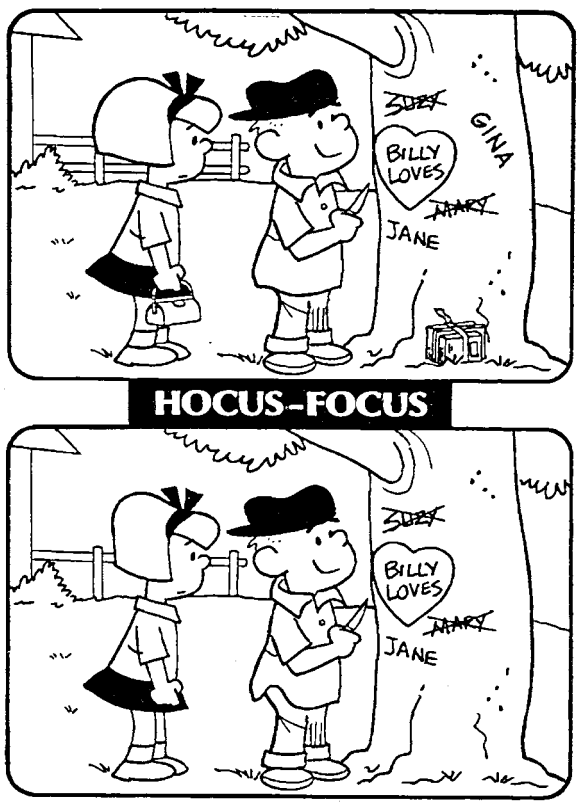
HOCUS-FOCUS

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. Hair is different. 2. Rail is missing. 3. Purse is missing. 4. Shirt is different. 5. Name is missing. 6. Books are missing.

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

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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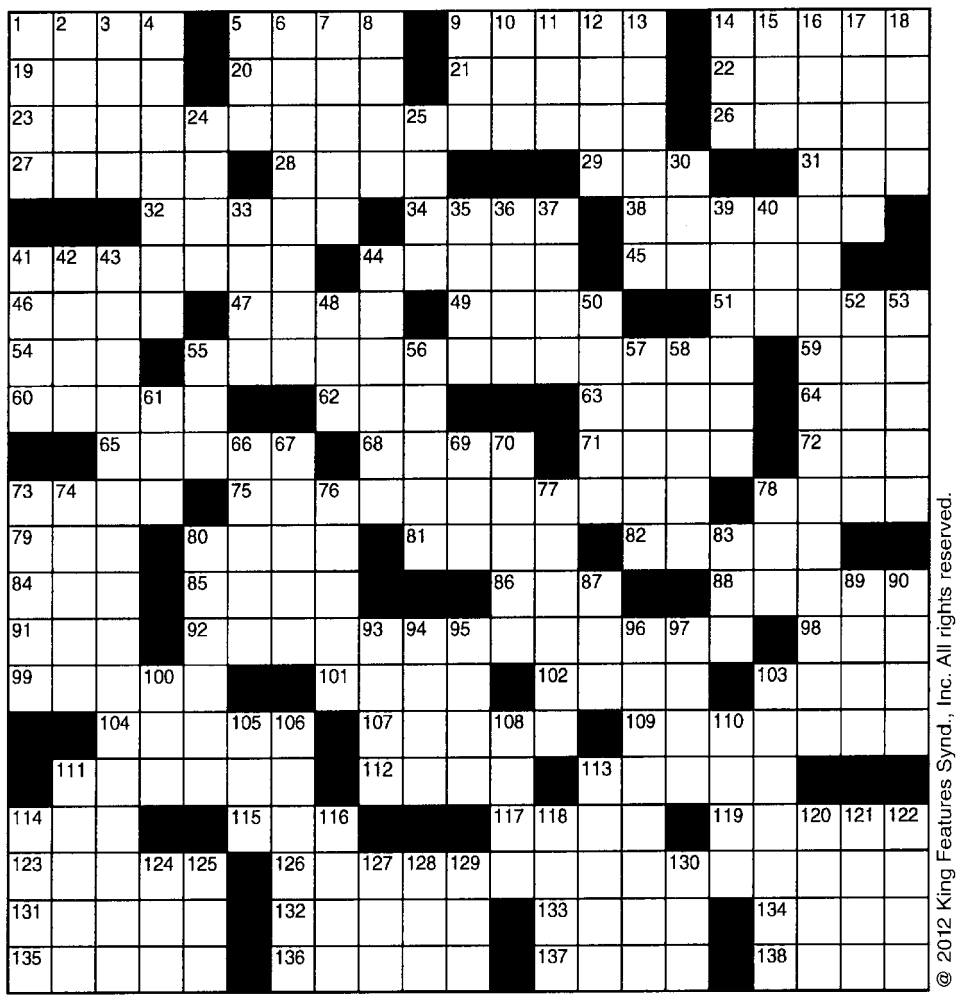
Super Crossword

BY ANY OTHER NAME

ACROSS
1 Bert of "Rose Marie"
5 Decorate glass
9 Tight
14 Oven feature
19 Hodge-podge
20 "Star Trek" navigator
21 Really big star?
22 Florida city
23 Legendary drummer?
26 Boxer Roberto
27 Alpha opposite
28 Use the microwave
29 — Pan Alley
31 Cable channel
32 Vote in
34 Use a dagger
38 Shadowy site?
41 "La Traviata" tenor
44 Musty
45 Family car
46 Dutch painter
47 Spine start
49 Fountain order
51 Shoe measurement
54 "Xanadu" rockers
55 Revolutionary War hero?
59 Nest egg
60 Madame Curie
62 Gelid
63 Rock's — Maiden
64 Word form for "center"
65 Wrapped up
68 Gymnast Korbut
71 Overdo a tan
72 Caravansary
73 Safe place?
75 Syndicated film critic?
78 Tizzy
79 Circle section
80 Paella ingredient
81 Wordy Webster
82 Actor Reeves
84 Sprawl on the sofa
85 Computer image
86 "Winter of Artifice" author
88 Terra — 91 Aspin or Paul
92 "It's Too Late" singer?
98 Letters of credit?
99 Move through mud
101 Part of NB
102 Literary contraction
103 A real Swede guy
104 Nick of "Cannery Row"
107 "The — Man" ('72 song)
109 Most laconic
111 Vietnam's — Van Thieu
112 Painter Paul
113 Baker's appliance
114 Taradiddle
115 Fall behind
117 Coup d'—
119 Gary of "The Buddy Holly Story"
123 City on the Mohawk
126 "I Dream of Jeannie" star?
131 Flynn of films
132 Psychedelic Timothy
133 Poorly
134 Sundance's sweetie
135 Stick
136 Violinist Mischa
137 — majesty
138 Groucho's gaze

DOWN
1 Timber wolf
2 Grad
3 Lie low
4 Hammerstein's partner
5 Seer's gift
6 Arnold or Brutus
7 Influence
8 Clean your ears?
9 Alphabet sequence
10 "Ben- —"
11 Funnyman Philips
12 Be adjacent to
13 Pocket flowers?
14 Director Browning
15 Hosp. area
16 "Captain Ron" star?
17 Serengeti springer
18 Be bombastic
24 81 Across' alma mater
25 Gnat or brat
30 Comic Louis
33 — St. Vincent Millay
35 Rpm indicator
36 South African plant
37 Composer Bartok
39 "The Perfect Fool" comic
40 Chou En- —
41 "Excuse me"
42 Tra- —
43 Famous nurse?
44 Manatee or dugong
48 Sweater letter
50 Cover story?
52 Singer Lopez
53 Common contraction
55 "Waking — Devine" ('98 film)
56 Synthetic fabric
57 Jack's place
58 Mob
61 Squid's squirt
66 Author Jong
67 Furnishings
69 Moo — gai pan
70 Hersey town
73 "Great — of Fire" ('58 hit)
74 Sharon of Israel
76 Vacuum-tube gas
77 Say neigh
78 — -Cat (winter wheels)
80 In full measure
83 Rhine whine
87 Angus' uh-uh
89 Stocking stuffers?
90 Cousin's mom
93 Canal feature
94 And more of the same
95 Lion's pride
96 Solo peformances
97 Essence
100 Old French coin
103 Potsdam pastry
105 — Aviv
106 Make feasible
108 Graceful ruminant
110 Melodious McEntire
111 Safe-cracker's tool
113 Syrup source
114 Feed a fire
116 Celt
118 Sheep's shaker
120 Location
121 Punta del —
122 1492 or 1776
124 Machine part
125 Kensington quaff
127 Pound a portcullis
128 Undergarment
129 Writer Rand
130 Deli loaf



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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.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

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Snake, rattle and roll in the aisles

James Snyder

I would agree with the idea that religion comes in all shapes, sizes and temperaments. It is quite obvious that sanity is not a prerequisite of religion. If it were, most religions would go out of business within the 30-day money back guarantee period.

Every religion has some sort of litmus test for faith. It is in this area of religion that smacks so loudly of insanity. Superstition, regardless of the basis, is one great common denominator of all religion. It is not that I mind superstition; I just do not want it associated with my religion.

I read in the newspaper headlines just this week a pastor was killed by a rattlesnake bite. I had almost forgotten this sort of thing went on in our sophisticated, "enlightened" world.

As a young preacher, I was visiting a congregation in Kentucky as the guest speaker for that Sunday. Never mind the town or the church that is beside the point.

I got to the church a little early and was escorted around the church looking at the facilities. Then they took me into the sanctuary where I could look at the pulpit and the sanctuary where I would be preaching.

Being the observant person that I am, I noticed a basket next to the pulpit.

I had never seen such a basket before. I really did not know too much about the church and now I cannot remember exactly why I was invited to preach there. Be that as it may, I was greatly curious about the basket next to the pulpit. I did not know if it was a wastebasket or if perhaps it was the offering basket and the congregation would fill it up before the service was over.

So, I ask my host what the basket was next to the pulpit.

"That's where we keep the rattlesnake," he said rather passively.

"Say what!"

"That basket there is where we keep the rattlesnake that we use in our service."

I can take a joke and give it a joke back with the best of them. I responded with a hearty laugh.

"Ha, Ha, Ha," I said good-naturedly. "Really, what is that basket for?"

I could see my host was not the least bit amused with my persistent inquiry.

"I said," he said rather sternly, "that's where we keep our rattlesnake for our church service."

He then stared at me for a few moments and then said, "I don't think we'll need it in our service today. You don't look like you have enough faith."

Inside me, I sighed a deep sigh of relief. There is a time when I want to bolster my faith, but in the circumstance before me, I did not want enough faith to handle some rattlesnake. One of the tenants of my religion is to run as fast as I can away from any and all rattlesnakes. It is one part of my religion I take rather seriously.

My host tried explaining to me what was going on. He pointed to a passage in Mark 16:17-18 (KJV) , "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

My first reaction was to think he was pulling the wool over my eyes, so to speak, and I almost laughed out loud. I caught myself in time when I realized this man was serious. According to him, he could have enough faith in God to pick up the poisonous rattlesnake and if it bit him, it would not hurt him at all.

According to their religion, when they are truly "in the Spirit," they have the power to pick up a poisonous rattlesnake, and if it bites you, it will not hurt you. They keep the basket containing a rattlesnake in the front of the church for when such an occasion arises. I was hoping it would not arise during my time in the pulpit. All during my sermon, I could not help casting a wistful eye in the general direction of the basket next to the pulpit.

At one point, I thought I did see the basket move.

I yelled at this point, which excited the congregation thinking I had gotten "in the spirit," and then everybody cast a wistful eye in the direction of the basket.

I respect other people's views on everything, I suppose. However, there are some things I have difficulty wrapping my tired brain around. This has to be one of them. How you can pull the bit about the rattlesnake out of that verse of Scripture and ignore the rest of it is really beyond me.

Religion will make you do many silly things that have no sanity behind them.

Many people just go through the motions not really knowing why they are doing what they are doing.

At least the snake handlers have a little bit of excitement in their services. Nothing I want to experience, but then who am I to criticize.

I rest my faith upon the Scripture. Particularly, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17 KJV).

My faith keeps me away from poisonous rattlesnakes.

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 jamessnyder2@att.net. The church website is www.whatafellowship.com

Watch, clock collectors to meet

Chapter 156 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors will meet on the fourth Sunday of each month, except December, at VFW Post 4781, 9401 S.E. 110th St., Ocala, off State Road 200 behind Sims Furniture. Doors open at 8 a.m.

The organization's mission is to advance the knowledge of horology (the study of time keeping). The local chapter's membership is made up of collectors and craftsman of clocks and watches. The chapter covers Marion, Alachua, Citrus, Lake, Levy, Sumter and Hernando counties.

The meetings consist of a general membership meeting, mart, and presentation. The presentation topics are on repair and maintenance of clocks and watches and related subjects. The public is welcome. There is a $2 fee which covers refreshments and expenses.

For information, contact Jim Beeman at 352-369-3924.

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

Opinion

Our Message

Primaries need an overhaul

Basically, in this country, we have a two-party system. Yes, there are other parties and there is the ability to be a write-in candidate, but usually it's Republicans vs. Demcorats.

With the closing of qualifying last week, the local political races are set, and it's evident from the lists put out by the supervisor of elections that Florida's primary system needs some work.

There are several races where there are no Democrats, meaning that the Republican candidates who survive the primary should be automatically elected. But state law says that if someone else qualifies for the election in November, there must be an election then, even if one major party or another is not represented.

Editorial

By doing this, the state disenfranchises voters of the party that is not represented on the ballot.

This year, for example, there is only one Democrat running for County Commission – Jessica "Cookie" Hadley in District 5. So having the election spread out to November is perfectly legitimate.

However, the other two commission races will carry over to November, because there are write-in candidates in both races.

Facing the facts, the winner of the August primary for Republicans, in which Democrats can't vote, will probably be the winner in November in Districts 1 and 3.

What this means is that Democrats will have little say in who represents those districts. True, they could vote for the write-in candidate, but that's not likely.

The change should be simple. The primary should be open to both parties when there is a write-in candidate, much as it already is open where there are candidates of only one party. Then the entire thing could be decided by everyone in the primary, without the expense, or farce, of taking the race to the general election.

Better still, the state could change write-in candidates to what that type of candidate originally was – someone whose name was written in without any previous qualifying.

Many agree that the write-in system is a ploy to disenfranchise one party or another. It's time to end that possibility.

WEST MARION
Messenger

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

Among Friends

Time to honor all the dads out there

Jim Clark
Editor

This Sunday is Father's Day, a day that doesn't get near as much attention as Mother's Day, but one that honors some of the unsung heroes in our nation.

We're always hearing bad stories about fathers; just this past week there was a mega church minister who allegedly beat his daughter, for example.

But for every father who has gotten into trouble, there are thousands, no, millions, who have done the right things all their lives and been there for their children.

This week it's time to honor them, and those who are fortunate enough to have their dads still around should do so.

The family gatherings, the flowers, etc., aren't the same for the third Sunday in June as they are for the second Sunday in May, but it's just as important to honor dad as much as you honor mom.

At some point, most of us lose our fathers and all we are left with are memories.

My dad died in 2004 after a seven-year battle with dementia, which manifested itself, to the rest of the family, anyway, after my mom died in 1997.

It can be a tough road. I am fortunate to have a wife who was a fabulous caregiver. Dad went into an assisted living facility shortly after mom died, and my wife volunteered there, visited regularly and even ran their bingo program.

I tried to visit often, but many times I was out of town working and couldn't take part in some of the activities.

Dad was a World War II veteran of the China-India-Burma Theater. He was born and raised in East St. Louis, Illinois, and I remember spending a couple of weeks out there every August (it was brutally hot) as we visited on our annual vacation.

One year I flew out two weeks early, and got to stay for a month with my grandparents. Yes, you read it right. In those days I even flew sometimes.

East St. Louis, I understand, has deteriorated over the years, but then it was a great place to visit.

My dad took me all over the Northeast, visiting historical sites. He was a member of a group called the Catholic War Veterans, and once was the keynote speaker on Memorial Day (we always had a parade).

I still miss him, and sometimes wish I could just say hello. For those of you who still have that chance, don't let it pass by.

And to all the dads out there, happy Father's Day.

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

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 contributons 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

Jackie Porter tells her side of the story

I write this letter asking you to consider helping me get my side of the story out to your readers.

The Star-Banner continually attacks me in their editorials. They allow letters to the editor that are lies and they do not fact check the content.

I will not be bullied by their relentless smearing of my name, and will not retreat.

At age 25, in 1984, I had a vision and opened my first retail plant nursery and garden center. I did not marry into the business (I married in 1981) I sold my personal car for the down payment for the first Porter's store property, there was no Porter family fortune. I stood up against the big box stores for 20 years, sold my interest in the business when it was still thriving, and I retired. I am truly a business person with hard work ethics, honesty and integrity. My customer service was top notch, my employees trusted and respected me.

The school system should be run the same way — not by a sword and not with fear of retaliation. Students, parents, employees and taxpayers should be heard and their ideas and solutions taken into consideration. I have exposed the waste of taxpayers' money, most identified to me by stakeholders (employees and taxpayers). I do listen and take action. I have stood up for the taxpayers, children and employees during my four-year term as an elected School Board member, and for doing so been demonized.

I will fund the needs of our classrooms first. My three opponents are current six-figure salaried school administrators who have a combined 70 years employed with Marion County Public schools, taking home week after week a pay check from you. They still do not have the right formula for educating our students. Marion County Public Schools rank 44th out of 67 school districts, this is unacceptable. We have the opportunity to take back our school system. I am not status quo. I was not status quo in the retail world of big box stores but I succeeded and, with the community, we will succeed in educating our children to their fullest potential and reach my goal to be in the top 20 school districts in the state. Our children deserve it, our community deserves it.

I need your vote in the Republican primary for Superintendent of Schools, on Aug. 14. You will not be disappointed.

Jackie Porter

Sex-selection abortion

America's liberal faction has "crossed the Rubicon" and taken a decisive, irrevocable step which reveals forever their lack of concern for women of any age or circumstance, and has shown their deceptive, insincere opposition to discrimination.

It lays open the hypocrisy of the liberal feminism movement whose doctrine pretends to advocate for "women's rights." It reveals their real goal, population control: Abort more unborn female babies which equals less women to bear more children. This is not a new objective but one that has been in operation for decades, albeit carefully disguised for public consumption.

Targeting unborn females for abortion is nothing new in the USA, but until the recent public exposure of Planned Parenthood's gender-specific abortions, it was not widely known by the public. One only has to read recent reports by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to learn that

Please see LETTERS, *Page* 10

Managing Alzheimer's challenges

The local Home Instead Senior Care office is offering a unique approach to help Ocala area families manage the challenges of Alzheimer's and other dementias, diseases that eventually rob seniors of their memories and independence. Free training for families caring for these older adults is now available through online e-learning modules, available at HelpForAlzheimersFamilies.com.

The Alzheimer's or Other Dementias CARE: Changing Aging through Research and EducationSM Training Program offers a personal approach to help families care for seniors with Alzheimer's disease at home, where 60 to 70 percent live, according to the Alzheimer's Association.

"Until there is a cure, we offer an interim solution," said Jim Samuelson, owner of the Home Instead Senior Care office serving Marion County.

The foundation of the Alzheimer's CARE Training Program is an approach called "Capturing Life's Journey®" that involves gathering stories and experiences about the senior to help caregivers provide comfort while honoring the individual's past. Because people with Alzheimer's disease have difficulty with short-term memory, the Capturing Life's Journey approach taps into long-term memory.

The Home Instead Senior Care network assembled the top experts in Alzheimer's disease to develop the CARE approach. "The training we're offering to families is the same kind of training our professional CAREGiversSM receive," he noted.

Please see CARE, *Page* 10

Go Figure!

answers

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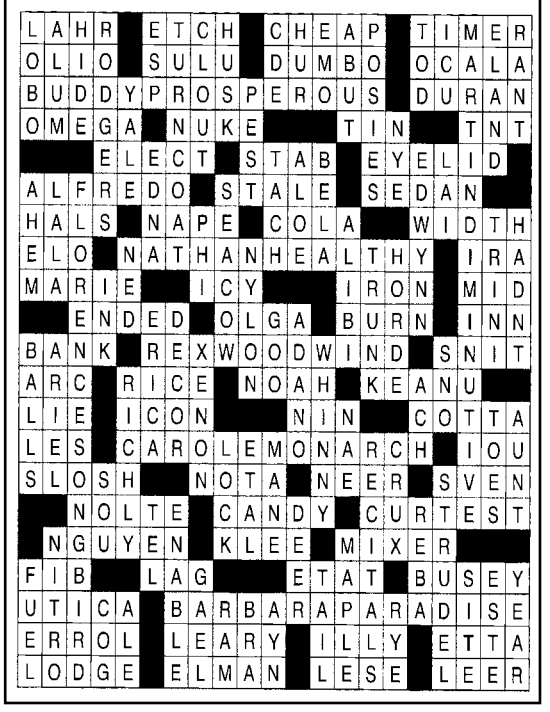
Super Crossword

Answers



Weekly SUDOKU

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

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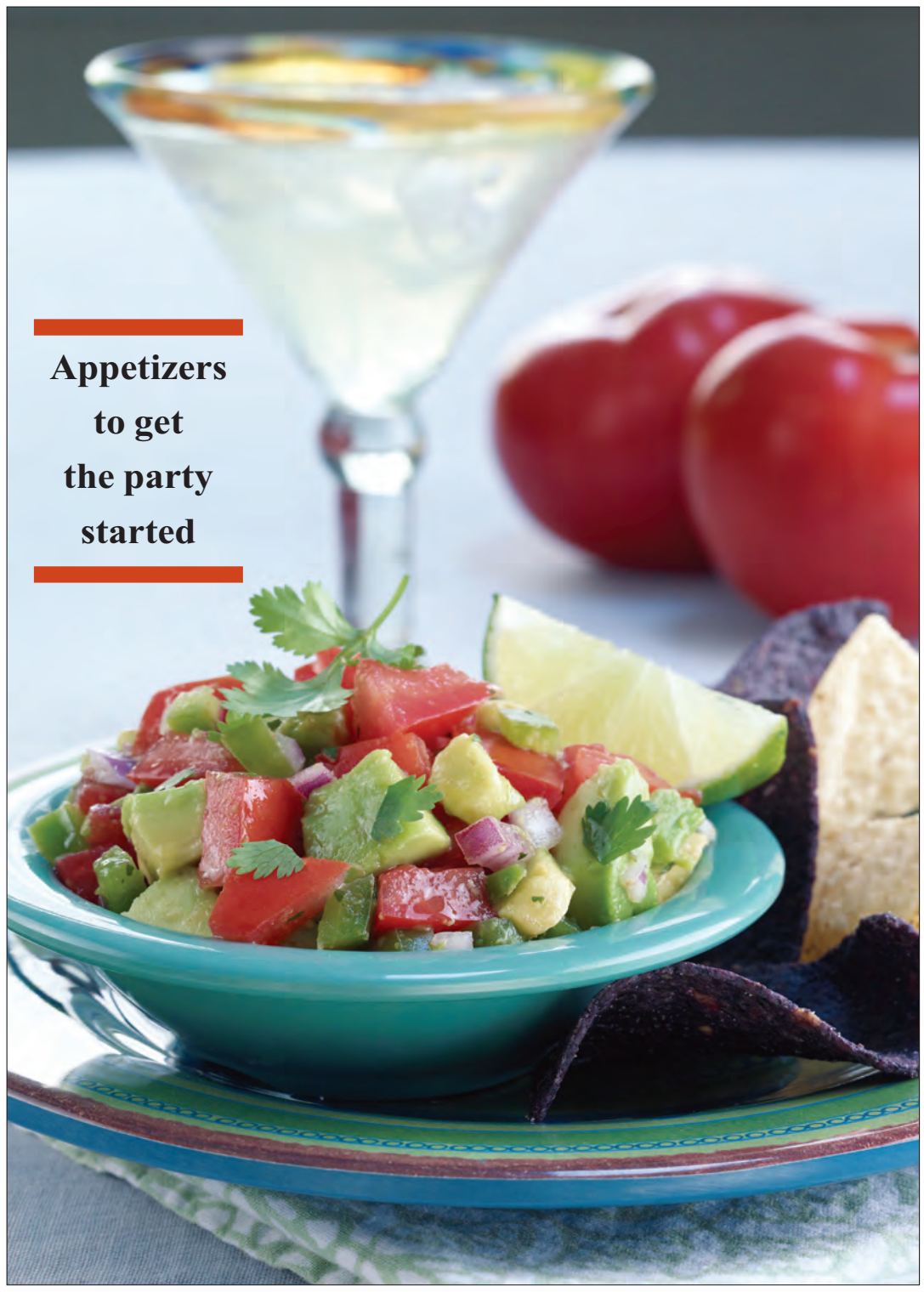
tantalizing TOMATO tidbits



Appetizers to get the party started

FAMILY FEATURES

Great appetizers are full of flavor to stimulate the appetite, but not so rich that they spoil it. To get that balance, look to fresh, flavorful ingredients like Florida tomatoes.

Ripe tomatoes add beautiful color, great taste, and a host of healthy nutrients — like vitamin C — to any appetizer. Chef Justin Timineri, known as the Florida Chef, and Florida Tomatoes have created some mouthwatering appetizer recipes using the versatile, tantalizing tomato.

- Tomato Cobb Salad Wrap — Turn a favorite salad into a tasty finger food by wrapping up Cobb salad ingredients in a flour tortilla.
- Tomato and Avocado Salsa — Whether you make it mild or spice it up, this salsa will make a lot of mouths happy. Try serving it in individual, wide mouthed glasses so guests can dip and re-dip as much as they like.
- Hot Artichoke Dip Stuffed Tomatoes — A savory party favorite, this dip gets extra flavor by being paired up with juicy baked tomatoes.
- Bruschetta with Tomatoes, Blue Cheese and Pecans — Sweet, savory, crunchy, salty — this appetizer has it all.

To get more appetizer and party-ready recipes, as well as sign up for a free newsletter, visit www.floridatomatoes.org.

Tomato and Avocado Salsa

Yield: 4 to 6 servings

2 large Florida tomatoes, diced
1 large avocado, peeled, seeded and diced
1/2 cup red onion, chopped
1/2 cup bell pepper, chopped
1/4 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
1 lime, juiced
1 teaspoon powdered cumin
Your favorite hot sauce (for heat)
Kosher salt and fresh ground pepper to taste

In medium mixing bowl, combine all ingredients. Stir to combine.

Taste and adjust seasoning with salt, pepper and hot sauce.

Serve at room temperature for best flavor.

For hotter version, substitute 1 seeded fresh jalapeño pepper for green pepper. Also, if you prefer, use toasted cumin seed instead of ground cumin.

Don't Refrigerate

For the best tomato flavor, never refrigerate them. A chilled tomato will not finish ripening because cold halts the ripening process. Cold also kills the flavor of tomatoes, so even when the tomatoes are fully ripe, keep them out of the refrigerator.

How Much?

1 medium tomato, seeded = approximately 3/4 cup chopped.

1 large tomato, seeded = 1 cup chopped.

1 pound of tomatoes = approximately 2 1/2 cups chopped, or 2 cups puréed.

Hot Artichoke Dip Stuffed Tomatoes

Yield: 4 servings

1 package (8 ounces) low-fat cream cheese, softened
2 large fresh Florida tomatoes, seeds removed and diced
1/4 cup low-fat mayonnaise
1/2 cup Parmesan or Romano cheese, grated
1 clove garlic, minced
1 tablespoon fresh basil
1 can low-sodium artichoke hearts, drained and chopped fine
1 cup fresh spinach, chopped
1 lemon, juiced
Kosher salt and fresh ground pepper to taste
4 large fresh Florida tomatoes
1/4 cup mozzarella cheese, shredded

Preheat oven to 375°F.

In medium mixing bowl, combine cream cheese, diced tomatoes, mayonnaise, Parmesan cheese, garlic and fresh basil. Stir in chopped artichoke hearts and spinach. Taste mixture and adjust seasoning with lemon juice, kosher salt and fresh ground pepper. Set stuffing mixture aside.

Rinse whole tomatoes under cold running water and pat dry with clean paper towels. Slice off top of each tomato with a serrated knife; cut in half. Squeeze each half to loosen seeds. Using a spoon, scoop out 1/3 of the insides of tomato. Fill tomatoes with stuffing mixture. Top each stuffed tomato with shredded mozzarella.

Place stuffed tomatoes in baking dish and put into preheated oven. Bake for 10 to 15 minutes or until bubbly and golden brown. Remove from oven and let cool slightly. Serve warm with tortilla chips, crisp flatbreads, or sliced vegetables.

Bruschetta with Tomatoes, Blue Cheese and Pecans

Yield: 4 servings

2 ounces cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup crumbled blue cheese
2 tablespoons coarsely chopped pecans
4 slices crusty, firm-textured bread, cut about 3/4 inch thick
2 cloves garlic peeled and halved
2 large Florida tomatoes, sliced about 1/8 inch thick
Freshly ground pepper to taste
Chopped fresh basil or dried basil for garnish

In small bowl, mash cheeses together with fork, leaving mixture somewhat chunky. Mix in pecans.

Preheat broiler. Arrange bread on small baking sheet and broil slices for about 1 minute on each side, just until golden. Watch carefully so bread doesn't burn.

Rub one side of each piece of bread with garlic.

Spread some of the cheese mixture over each slice and arrange 2 or 3 overlapping tomato slices on top. Pepper tomatoes lightly, then garnish with basil and serve.

Tomato Cobb Salad Wrap

Yield: 4 servings

4 large (10-inch) flour tortillas
6 tablespoons prepared blue cheese dressing
8 ounces sliced cooked turkey breast
3 medium, fully ripened fresh Florida tomatoes (about 1 pound), cut into thin slices
4 leaves Boston, iceberg or leaf lettuce
1 ripe Hass avocado, peeled and cut into thin slices
4 strips cooked bacon

Spread each tortilla with 1 1/2 tablespoons of dressing.

Top with layers of turkey, tomato, lettuce, avocado and bacon, dividing evenly.

Roll up tortillas. If desired, tie each wrap with chives, or secure with long toothpicks, and cut each sandwich in half.

To serve, stand both halves of each sandwich on cut ends. Garnish with tomato wedges, green onions and avocado.

Common-Sense Leadership making a difference

Elect Jackie PORTER

Republican for Superintendent of Schools

At age 25, in 1984, I had a vision and opened my first retail plant nursery and garden center. It was not inherited, I did not marry into the business, there was no family fortune . Within 20 years, I had built a successful private company Porter's Nurseries (not a franchise as indicated by the Star Banner) generating $10-$15 million dollars in annual sales, and that was a lot of plants, fertilizer and mulch! Porter's Nurseries and Garden Centers included five giant retail stores, all which competed against the big chain stores like Home Depot, Lowes, and Walmart. I maintained a hands-on approach in every area running this multi-million dollar company including managing the payroll and all accounting records, managing employees, weekly advertising, being hands on with the design, construction, and layouts of the stores, and above all customer service. I oversaw all phases of construction, meeting with architects, contractors, zoning, permitting, financing, and land development. I became an effective negotiator, securing the best purchase prices for the store's product lines. I always found ways to obtain quality products for my customers at a better price than the competition. Millions of dollars a year needed to be budgeted along with financial planning and projections. My employee's families depended on my management skills to keep our business thriving and productive, they trusted me. I recruited the right people for the right jobs which ensured the success of my business. I also employed hundreds of teenagers, many of which Porter's was their first employer. I hung up my garden gloves when I retired from the stores in 2004.

During my 24 years of marriage, I raised four stepsons. My late husband passed away after we suffered a four-year battle with cancer. ***Being a terminal cancer patient's caretaker for four years gave me the added will to fight for what I believe in, the determination to find solutions, and the ability to process decisions that will change a life forever.***

What does all this mean and how does this relate to becoming your next Superintendent of Schools? I am a leader with everyday common-sense integrity, determination, commitment, hard work ethics, honesty and transparency. Together as a community, we will get the job done. That job is educating our children to their fullest potential. I will place and recruit a team that will run Marion County Public Schools **efficiently and effectively.** Results will happen. My job is on the line! I will put together task forces that will review every area in the school system from the classroom curriculum to the administration level. Tasks forces will also target on the basic education skills of our students. Juniors and seniors will be taught how to fill out a job application and how to conduct themselves during a job interview. These task forces made up of parents, volunteers and retirees in their Expert fields will report to the Superintendent personally for an action plan. We will find out what is lacking in our classrooms to advance our children's learning and **we will fund classroom needs first.** Teachers will make suggestions for learning gains in their classrooms and their suggestions will not be put on the shelf as they are so often done. I intend to eliminate the status quo methods of this school system, from the hiring and employee placement practices to the bidding of contracts. This school system will be fair and balanced for all who wish to apply.

I was elected to the School Board in 2008. I promised the voters I would be fiscally responsible, and put a stop to wasteful spending and say NO to any tax increases. I did just that. From the very first meeting my name was called as an elected board member I began questioning what I considered to be excessive spending and lack of priorities in the use of taxpayer's money for our classrooms. Yes I ruffled quite a few feathers and the status quo have attempted to quiet me for 4 years. The verbal attacks, the eye rolling, the relentless use of ink in the media however, with the good graces of God, I am still holding my head high. My family values instilled in me to stand by my commitments and I have followed through for the children and taxpayers. A coward would have rubber stamped the agendas, I did not. A person without integrity would have folded, I did not. Courage is standing for what you believe in and I believe I have stood tall and strong for Marion County.

www.JackiePorter.com

In reviewing a few of my accomplishments as a board member, I hope you feel my passion and conviction to our schools and community.

The Student Code of Conduct Committee recommended Students need NOT STAND for the Pledge of Allegiance each morning of school. The day of the workshop when it was presented to the board, I was attending a family funeral. I reviewed the workshop audio. The 4 other board members gave consensus to move forward with the recommendation. I called the director of Veterans Affairs, Hank Whittier and I requested the veteran's speak with me before the Board to change their decision. With 50 Marion County Veterans in attendance at the School Board meeting, the message was broadcast loud and clear that students must be taught patriotism and must stand for the Pledge of Allegiance in honor of our flag and our veterans. We were successful. The Code of Conduct continues to require students to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and the National anthem.

The 4 Day School Week was recommended to the board by my opponent's George Tomyn, Wally Wagoner, and Diana Greene. The board voted on and approved it by a 4-1 vote. I was the only school board member to vote NO. I backed up my NO vote on June 28, 2011 with research, facts and common sense information. Six months after the vote was taken staff discovered the school district would lose $1.8 million dollars in busing revenue if they implemented the 4-day week. Staff did not do their homework. As your superintendent, the homework will be done. I stood firm for 8 months opposing the 4-day school week. With the help of the community, the traditional 5-day school week was reinstated for the August 2012 school year.

School Busing-Student Transportation was recommended to be privatized last year by my opponent, Wally Wagoner. There was no cost benefit analysis done which should be conducted for all major decisions. The savings touted were between $700,000. - $2.5 million dollars. This 267 page bid proposal which I researched and dissected page by page was a sell out of taxpayer assets for pennies on the dollar. Taxpayers would have been at the mercy of a private bus company to transport our children for a contracted price that would never go down in costs, only escalate with economic triggers. One example I disagreed with. The bid stated our bus fleet of 414 buses was to be sold for $6 million dollars. My research uncovered that in the prior 4 years, Marion County taxpayer's purchased 57 school buses for nearly $6 million dollars. That meant the private company would receive nearly 350 buses FREE. There are problems with school bus privatization. The state of Pennsylvania privatized 72% of their school bus fleets in 2008. A new 2012 study released by the Keystone Research Center shows that Pennsylvania school districts *are spending more tax dollars* transporting students with private companies and don't have the money to buy their fleets back. I do not support privatizing our school bus transportation.

The Star Banner article April 8, 2011 reported the plan of my opponents to eliminate school safety resource officers. I fought and found the funding to keep these highly trained officers in our middle and high schools to keep your children safe. I truly believe bullying will get out of hand in our schools if SRO's are eliminated. My opponent's are talking that they are anti-bullying and concerned with school safety. It was on their watch that the Liberty bus bullying happened and not one took responsibility under their administration. More campaign rhetoric. My actions to keep the funding for SRO's are proof in my commitment to your children's safety.

Currently being ranked 44 out of 67 school districts in Florida does not meet our vision statement. "Leading the State in Raising Student Performance". We don't need a new vision statement, we just need everyone to believe in it with conviction.

My name is Jackie Porter. I need your vote as a Republican in the Republican primary August 14, 2012.

Paid political adv. Paid for and approved by Jackie Porter, (R) for Superintendent of Schools

000BP58

CARE

continued from Page 7

The program for family caregivers consists of four classes: Alzheimer's Disease or Other Dementias Overview; Capturing Life's Journey; Techniques to Manage Behaviors; and Activities to Encourage Engagement. Also available is a free guide for those who are caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias. Called Helping Families Cope, the guide includes advice to help families keep their loved ones engaged and manage behaviors.

"CARE is a wonderful hands-on approach that helps caregivers deal with the behavioral changes that too often accompany these disorders – one of the biggest stressors for caregivers," said Dr. Jane F. Potter, chief of the Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. "There was previously no good program available using adult education techniques to provide hands-on practice in learning how best to help people who have dementia. This is huge," she added.

"The preferred environment for those with dementia is generally at home," said Potter, who served on the expert panel to help develop content for the Alzheimer's CARE Training Program.

And yet, families caring for seniors with Alzheimer's at home are dealing with challenging behaviors such as anger, aggression, wandering and refusing to eat, according to research conducted for the Home Instead Senior Care network.

"That makes the Alzheimer's Disease or Other Dementias CARE Training Program a solution for the many families in our area who are being impacted each day by devastating side effects of this disease," Samuelson said.

For more information about free family caregiver training, to make a reservation in a future workshop, or to obtain a free copy of the Helping Families Cope booklet, contact the local Home Instead Senior Care office at 352-622-6447 or visit HelpforAlzheimersFamilies.com.

Founded in 1994 in Omaha by Lori and Paul Hogan, the Home Instead Senior Care® network is the world's largest provider of non-medical in-home care services for seniors, with more than 950 independently owned and operated franchises providing in excess of 45 million hours of care throughout the United States, Canada, Japan, Portugal, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Taiwan, Switzerland, Germany, South Korea, Finland, Austria, Italy, Puerto Rico and the Netherlands. Local Home Instead Senior Care offices employ more than 65,000 CAREGiversSM worldwide who provide basic support services – assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs), personal care, medication reminders, meal preparation, light housekeeping, errands, incidental transportation and shopping – which enable seniors to live safely and comfortably in their own homes for as long as possible. In addition, CAREGivers are trained in the network's groundbreaking Alzheimer's Disease or Other Dementias CARE: Changing Aging Through Research and EducationSM Program to work with seniors who suffer from these conditions. This world class curriculum also is available free to family caregivers online or through local Home Instead Senior Care offices. At Home Instead Senior Care, it's relationship before task, while continuing to provide superior quality service that enhances the lives of seniors everywhere.

LETTERS

continued from Page 6

the number of female births are much lower than male births reported in earlier statistics. These lower female births are in direct contrast to past reports which showed opposite numbers.

Planned Parenthood and other such abortion organizations are not concerned whether they abort males or females — they care only about the funding that abortion brings. However, these abortionists welcome another reason for parents to abort their children, and sex-selection abortions add to the category of reasons.

Planned Parenthood is a leader in advising parents how to time sonograms to determine the gender of the unborn for purposes of positively producing a male child. Gender of the unborn can be determined by sonogram at about five months gestation — but now sonogram is not the only means of determining gender — now the mother's blood can be tested early in the pregnancy to determine gender. This is a recent discovery which will enable even larger numbers of unborn females to be aborted.

Why is the public so shocked at the discovery of sex-selection abortion? It is completely within the despicable "law" known as Roe vs. Wade. Parents can abort their unborn children at any stage of gestation, for any reason, or for no reason at all. Shouldn't we have known that there would be parents with no personal, moral, or social ethics who would prefer designing their own child using abortion as the tool of preference?

The killing of baby girls by abortion or at birth is pervasive in China due to the One Child policy and a preference for sons. We have often heard pro-abortion American politicians denounce China for its extreme population control program while at the same time these same politicians support and promote abortion in their own country. Now these same politicians are supporting and promoting sex-selection abortions in the USA as if it is a normal part of life and their political agenda.

The Congressional Democrats recently voted down what would have been a ban on sex-selection abortions. These Democratic supporters of targeted abortion of females publicly stated that "this bill to ban sex-selection abortions is the latest tactic in the War on Women." Are these politicians brain damaged or are they hoping that the public is brain dead? What is pro-woman about killing a baby girl simply because she is female?

President Obama who fathered two daughters himself has promoted and supported abortion during his entire public life. He is now revealing extreme discrimination against women by supporting the killing of baby girls simply because they are female. This is barbaric activity and has no place in civilized society. This has passed beyond civilization into moral decadence.

Is this the tipping point in America for abortion? In recent years reliable polling has shown that more than half the citizens in the USA are pro-life and against abortion at any stage for any reason. Is this newly revealed sex-selection abortion the incentive that will spur those who are undecided to take a stand for life? May it be so.

Mabel Ryan
President Life Education Ministry, Inc.

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Fairfield Village

The magnolias of Fairfield Village

Priscilla Geissal

Among the many lovely things about our community, one must be the beautiful magnolia trees that are part of the natural scenery. A symbol of southern charm, they are stately, graceful, and beautiful.

Basically, the magnolias in Fairfield Village are of the type called Grandiflora, the classic Southern magnolia with large glossy leaves and huge, and often fragrant, white blossoms. But there are many different varieties as I found out when I did some research.

There is the Virginiana which is a smaller tree and easier to fit into most gardens. Also there is the Soulangeana which are often called tulip trees because of the shape and bright color of their flowers.

These are deciduous and do not tolerate heavy wind or salt spray. Obviously, we would not find them along Florida's coastal areas. These bloom very early and are glorious when they are in full bloom all over the tree before the leaves appear.

There are some large-leafed magnolias often grown for use as shade trees. Magnolias with yellow blossoms and many of their possible hybrids are generally called Cucumber trees.

The Oyama Magnolia is native to western China. Its blooms are cup-shaped and drooping and are extremely fragrant. Though I have only seen photos of these, I think that they must be gorgeous when they can be a part of someone's garden.

One of the really good things about Magnolias in general is that they usually do not have any serious pest or disease problems. I did find out that it is recommended that Magnolias should not be pruned too much as it is definitely likely to endanger the tree.

As my accompanying photos show, the Fairfield Magnolia trees are a really delightful part of our community which we may sometimes take for granted.

Perhaps, we should stop and admire their beauty more often as we take our brisk or casual walks through this neighborhood made up of "lively" and "lovely" people.

The lavender colored blossoms of the Anne Magnolia (Tulip Tree) appear in early spring and only last a short time. (This tree originated in Tennessee, moved to Georgia, then to California, before becoming a part of the Fairfield Village landscape.)

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

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Pastor Holloway at Joy Lutheran honored on anniversary

BY PATRICIA A. WOODBURY

June 2012 marks the 10th anniversary of the Rev. Edward Holloway Jr.'s call to be the pastor at Joy Evangelical Lutheran Church as well as marking his 30 years since ordination. The congregation wanted to celebrate this event and held a dinner at the Palm Grove Auditorium in Oak Run on Saturday, June 2. More than 160 members of the congregation attended the dinner with guests Pastor Anna Figuerio, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Pastor Ashley Nicolls, St John's Lutheran Church, Summerfield and Pastor Jim Young, Ascension Lutheran Church.

Pastor Holloway came from Minnesota, where he received a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota and his Master of Divinity from Northwestern Lutheran Seminary. He also served in the U.S. Navy. He was a pastor in a small Lutheran church in Monticello, Minnesota from 1982 to 1992 and then senior pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove, Minnesota for 10 years before coming to Florida.

Joy Council President, Jerry Hollnagel greeted everyone to the not so very "Surprise Party" and thanked all for coming to celebrate a friend, confidant and preacher. Pastor Young gave the invocation to begin the celebration.

Sharon Hickman-Besch, Joy Associate in Ministry, Music developed and directed a Musical Toast of Pastor Holloway covering his life events from birth to the present. For his birth, the members were led in the singing of "Jesus Loves Me." Then the Joyful Notes (absent one note) with Linda Aker, Trudy Harrsch and Ann Bellis, accompanied by Ardith Thomas sang "Think About His Love" for Pastor's confirmation. In honor of his years in the Navy, the members all sang Anchors Aweigh. Warren Erickson, marked Pastor's marriage in 1970 to Marsha by singing a solo, "You'll Never Walk Alone." The Joyful Notes Trio then recognized Pastor's seminary years (1979-1982) with a song, "Life in Jesus."

When Pastor Ed was called to Florida he initially had to move alone so he brought his dog with him for company. So the members all joined in to tease him with the song "That Doggie in the Window." Pastor Ed has become known as the "piano playing singing pastor" which he often does at worship services. Irene Henderson devoted this song to him by singing "In My Heart There Rings a Melody." Lynn Barrett, sang a "Simple Song" for Pastor's future life. Finally the Joy vocal choir sang "The Lord Bless You" for the Benediction.

After a delicious meal catered by the Oak Run Caterers, there was a lot of "toasting" of Pastor Holloway. A member of the original Call Committee said that after interviewing many potential pastors she knew that Rev. Holloway would be the right one "just by the way he got out of the car" when coming to the interview. The Committee was looking for someone who would be an available minister to his congregation and a good listener and Pastor Ed fit those criteria.

One of the Stephen Ministers commended Pastor Ed for his initiative in helping to develop this ministry at Joy. Another said she had learned why Pastor Ed was patient and willing to wait because as he said, "God is in control, you wait because it is always in God's time." Others praised him for helping them through hard times, especially one who had a heart attack and heart surgery.

A new member said she was so impressed with how Pastor Ed does so much for a lot of people even when they are not members of the church such as, providing weddings and baptisms. Another praised Pastor Ed's inspiring Daily Devotionals on the church website, www.joyocala.org.

Pastor Ed was allowed to have the last word at this event. However he had to admit that he was quite overwhelmed by the many positive comments. He thanked his church staff for all their devotion and hard work and especially those who helped to put this event together. He said this was like "grace" to him and coming to Joy Lutheran Church was truly a gift.

Vacation Bible School at Joy

Joy Evangelical Lutheran Church will hold its vacation Bible school from July 23 – 27 from 9 a.m. to noon. All children from 5 years of age through fifth grade are encouraged to attend and join the fun. The cost is $12 per child and scholarships are available.

This year the theme for vacation bible school is "Adventures on Promise Island" where students discover God's lifesaving love. These students will learn God's Promises: God is with you, God cares about you, God gives you what you need,

God saves you and God answers you. They will see God at work in the lives of the Old Testament and New Testament as Bible characters realize God's promises are for them too.

Amid the swaying palm trees, exotic wildlife and welcoming sunshine the students will learn about these promises through the games, songs, crafts, and bible stories while enjoying the tasty snacks.

Registration for vacation Bible school is available during the month of June, Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 4 p.m. at the church office.

The program planners are also looking for students in the 6th grade and older plus some adults who would like to volunteer and assist the teachers.

For further information contact the VBS Coordinator, Joan Greve at 352-304-8711 or the church office at 352-854-4509 ext. 221.

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Eat Like Everyday is a Sunday Supper At Mom's House starting at 11 AM $9.25
• Homemade Meatloaf with Real Mashed Potatoes
• Farm Raised Catfish
• Chicken Fried Steak and Gravy
• Country Smoked Ham
• Steak & Many More
Incl. veggies, salad or soup, and homemade cornbread
Expires 7/28/12
Plus regular menu & blackboardd specials!
NEW You love it on Friday, so we added Tuesday
Popular Demand WHITEFISH – CATFISH
ALL YOU CARE TO EAT 11 am to close Dine-in only
NEW MON.-SAT. 11-CLOSE
SLOW ROASTED PRIME RIB FOR TWO $24.95
Veggies, Salad or Soup, Cornbread Expires 7/28/12
Sunday: Best Breakfast & Lunch in Town
DOWN HOME COUNTRY BREAKFAST
FROM 3 EGG SPECIALTY OMELETTES TO DELICIOUS PANCAKES AND BELGIAN WAFFLES
Breakfast Served 6am - 4pm Mon.-Sat. 7am - 3pm Sun.
Slow Roasted PRIME RIB Our Specialty
Served Every Day & Night
4 Cuts:
English Cut, Ma, Pa & Grandpa
Highway 40 W
N.W. 80th Ave
N.W. 60th Ave
Highway 27 N
7947 Highway 40 West
237-1250
Catering Available
VISA MasterCard DISCOVER DEBIT CARDS
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Mon. thru Thur. 6 am - 8 pm Fri. & Sat. 6 am - 9 pm – Sun. 7 am - 3 pm
000BPV7

This Year, Give
DAD
A Gift That Really Rocks.

If you're looking for a Mother's Day gift that Dad will really love, look no farther than our front porch. Our Hinkle Rocking Chairs are hand-crafted and available in a variety of styles. One of which, we're sure, Dad will love.
www.crackerbarrel.com
Cracker Barrel Old Country Store
3801 S.W. College Road, Ocala
(352) 854-7870
Store Hours: Sunday-Thursday 6am-10pm, Friday & Saturday 6am-11pm
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