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VOLUME 6, NUMBER 22
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2012

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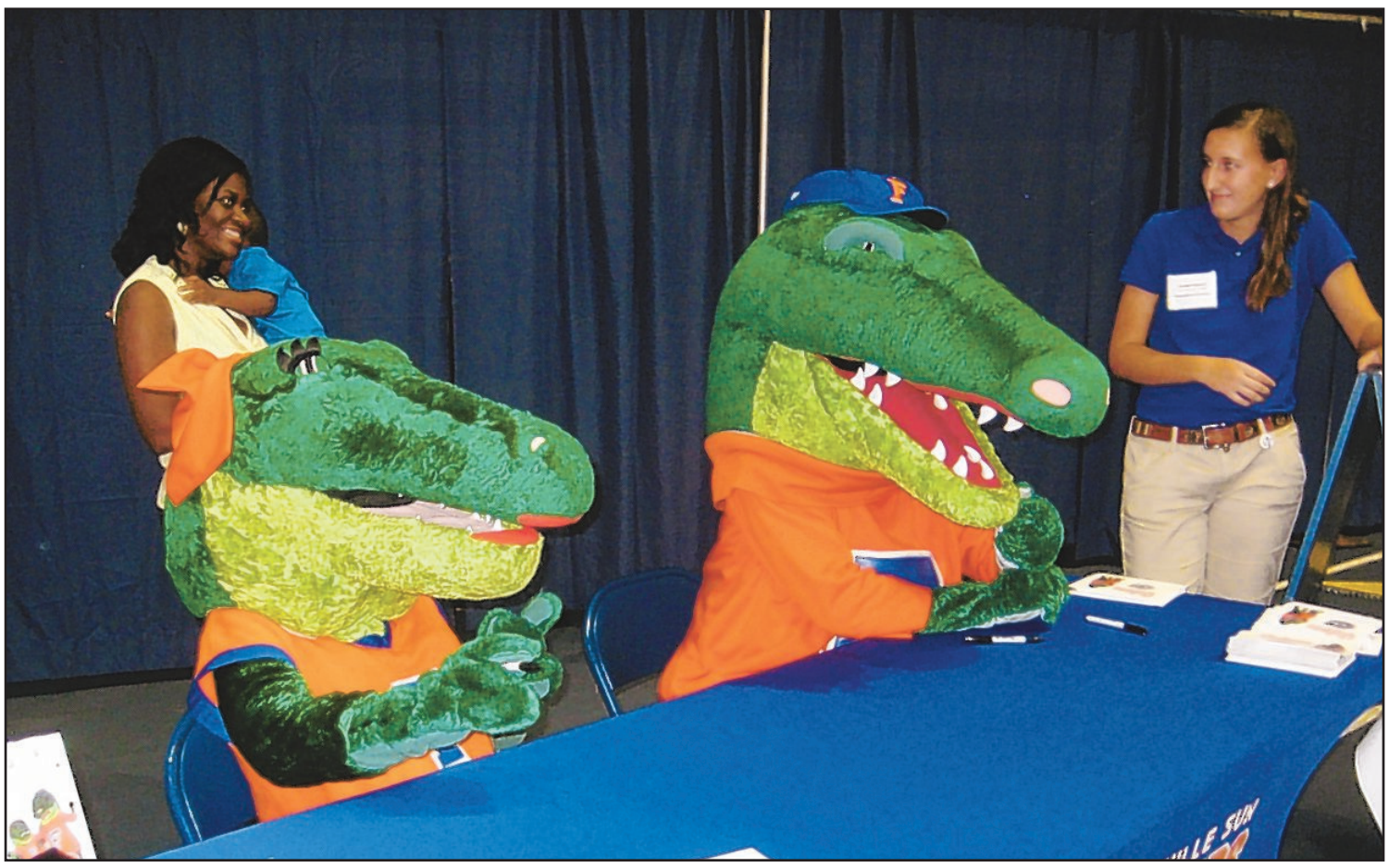

PHOTO BY PRISCILLA GEISSAL

Ready for the season

Finding a dry spot in "The Swamp," Alberta and Albert (beloved Gator Mascots) spent much of the afternoon posing for photos and signing autographs to the delight of the youngest of the fans at Gator Fan Day, held last week. The Gators open at home on Saturday at 3:30 against Bowling Green. The game can be seen on ESPN. More photos and column, Page 4.

Delays likely on Interstate this week

Motorists traveling on Interstate 75 between exit 341 (County Road 484) and exit 358 (County Road 326) will experience concurrent temporary lane closures and traffic pacing (rolling roadblock) during evening hours this week.

The lane closures are scheduled to take place between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m., with the traffic pacing operation taking place simultaneously between midnight to 5 a.m. The construction work, which will begin on the southbound lanes and continue to the northbound lanes, will be completed as part of the Southwest 42nd Street Flyover Project, which is part of the western bypass system.

Work affecting the southbound lanes (from exit 358 at County Road 326 through the construction zone) was scheduled to occur between 8 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 27, and 5 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 28, but that may have changed because of the impending tropical storm.

When the work occurs, southbound on-ramps at exit 358 (County Road 326), exit 354 (U.S. Highway 27), exit 352 (State Road 40) and exit 350 (State Road 200) will experience temporary closures during the traffic pacing activity.

Work affecting the northbound lanes (from the Marion County line through the construction zone) is scheduled to occur between 8 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 30, and 5 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 31.

Northbound on-ramps at the rest area and weigh stations near exit 341 (County Road 484) will experience temporary closures during the traffic pacing activity.

Construction signs, barricades and barriers will guide motorists through and around work areas.

Motorists should plan for delays or use alternate routes when possible. Adverse weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances may affect the work schedule.

For the latest construction work schedule during that week call 352-671-8686.

Join Arbor group and get some free trees

Everyone from Florida who joins the Arbor Day Foundation in September will receive 10 free live oak trees as part of the Foundation's Trees for America program.

Through Trees for America, everyone is encouraged to plant trees for the benefit of the environment and quality-of-life. With one million members, the Arbor Day Foundation is the nation's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to planting trees.

"Those who plant live oak trees will enjoy shade and splendor for years and years to come," said John Rosenow, founder and chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "These trees will also add to the proud heritage of Florida's 160 Tree City USA communities. For the last 36 years, Tree City USA has supported effective urban forest management across Florida, and planting these trees will enhance the state's tree-planting tradition."

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting between October 15 and December 10. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge. Planting instructions are enclosed with each shipment of trees.

New members of the Arbor Day Foundation will also receive The Tree Book, which includes information about tree planting and care.

To receive 10 free live oak trees, send a $10 membership contribution to Ten Live Oaks, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, by Sept. 29, or join online at arborday.org/september.

PHOTOS BY JIM CLARK

'God belongs in my city'

A huge crowd of local residents, many wearing white t-shirts with the words "God belongs in my city," took part in a walk Saturday as part of a national program of the same name. Above is part of the crowd at Veterans Park, where the walk started. The crowd then paraded west on Silver Springs Boulevard, then turned on 8th Avenue to Tuscawilla Park. At the right is one of those who got some help with the "walk."

Happenings

Saturday, Sept. 1

Chess Club to meet

The chess club that formed at the Freedom Public Library meets the first Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Grab your board and chess pieces and come on down.

Interested persons are invited to attend for a rousing game of chess.

It's your move! For more information, call Ron at 352-873-2276

Yoga at Sholom Park

Yoga will be held at Sholom Park, Southwest 80th Avenue, 2 ½ miles north of State Road 200, at 9 a.m. on Sept. 1.

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

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WEST MARION Messenger
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The West Marion Messenger is a free community newspaper covering news of communities west of Ocala including Fore Ranch, Stone Creek, Fairfield Village, Ocala Palms, Timberwood, Falls of Ocala, Quail Meadow, Foxwood Farms and Golden Hills.

Postmaster: Entered as Third Class Matter at the post office in Ocala, Fla., 34477.

Problems getting the Messenger: If your community is listed above and the Messenger is not delivered to you or you are having trouble getting the paper from boxes around the S.R. 40 and SR 27 areas, call 854-3986.

CONTACT INFORMATION
(352) 854-3986 Fax (352) 854-9277
8810 S.W. State Road 200, Suite 103, Ocala, FL 34481

- *Editor* - Jim Clark
- *Circulation* - Barbara Jaggers
- *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.

CPF Member of the Community Papers of Florida

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
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.

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What happened to life's simple things?

James Snyder

Just when you think life can't get more complicated, it does. Personally, I work very hard trying to keep my life as simple as possible. And I must say I do not get very much help on this part, especially from the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Her idea of keeping it simple is not telling me everything.

This past week I think she went a little too far.

It was Saturday night and I was preparing for my weekly bath. I had assembled all the necessary equipment: my rubber ducky, my reading glasses and the book I was reading at the time. There is nothing more relaxing to me than a hot bubbly bath with a good book.

Eventually, I put my book up and began the ritual of taking a bath. I reached for the bar of soap and it felt a little different then I had remembered from the week before. It felt as though it had been rolled in gravelly dirt.

Wanting to know what the problem was, I called to my wife.

"What's wrong with the soap?"

She then came into the bathroom and said, "There's nothing wrong with the soap."

"But it feels different," I complained.

"That's because it's oatmeal soap," she explained.

"Oatmeal soap? What do you mean, oatmeal soap?"

"It's a new soap I found at the Bath and Body store. It's something new. It's good for you, use it."

I immediately began to search my mind (I almost got lost in the process) for information concerning oatmeal. I knew, for example, that oatmeal was a food. I like a bowl of hot oatmeal in the morning with sliced bananas. And oatmeal raisin cookies go perfect with a nice hot cup of coffee. However, I could not find any information in my brain collaborating the fact that you can wash with oatmeal.

I looked at the bar of oatmeal soap and did not know if I should wash with it or eat it. And, where do you put the sliced bananas?

To make matters worse, if that could be possible, I discovered in the bathtub a new bottle of shampoo. It was called Sweet Apple Shampoo. There is nothing like a fruity-tooty bubble bath to bring out the manly spirit in a person.

I did not know if I should dry off and be put into the refrigerator.

This incident only illustrated to me the fact that we live in a very complicated world. Somebody comes up with some simple idea that is a good idea. However, the real money goes to the person who can take that simple idea and complicate it beyond all recognition.

"There ain't nothing simple anymore," my grandfather used to say. And he's been dead for 30 years. What would he say today?

For example, take your common everyday telephone. The telephone is no longer a phone but rather a full communication system. You can do everything on your cell phone.

I tried to buy a new cell phone recently and found it rather difficult. The salesperson was telling me all of the features of this new cell phone.

"All I want is to be able to phone my wife when I'm away from the house."

The salesperson didn't seem to get that fact into his head. For some reason he seemed to think I was so important I needed all of the features of the latest cell phone.

Do you know I could not find a cell phone that just was a phone.

I remember the days

Please see SNYDER, *Page* 3

Saturday, Sept. 8

Stamp coin show at Circle Square

The Florida Stamp Dealers Association and the General Francis Marion Stamp Club will host its annual Stamp and Coin Show on Saturday, Sept. 8, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Sept 9, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center, On Top of the World.

This is the first year the show will include coins for collectors as well as stamps. Dealers will be available to buy, sell and appraise stamps, covers, coins and paper money.

Members of the Stamp club will be on hand to explain the benefits of joining the club.

A youth table area will allow youngsters the opportunity to collect free stamps and collected information for junior collectors.

Circle Square Cultural Center is at 8395 S.W. 80th St., Ocala.

The General Francis Marion Stamp Club meets at 1 p.m. to buy, sell and trade on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Bank of the Ozarks, 8375 S.W. State Road 200 and doors open at noon.

The club meets the second Wednesday of each month at the Queen of Peace Catholic Church Library, 6455 S.W. State Road 200, starting at 7 p.m.

For more information on the club, collectors can contact ocalagfmstampclub.com.

For additional information on the show call 727-364-6897.

Movie in the Park in Dunnellon

Greenlight Dunnellon Communications presents free Movies In The Park, "How To Train Your Dragon," at Ernie Mills Park on Bostick Street. The park opens at 8 p.m., movie starts at dark approximately 8:30 p.m. Concessions are available for sale. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. For more information, call 352-533-5034.

Methodist Men to serve breakfast

The Methodist Men will serve their famous and delicious all-can-you-eat breakfast on Saturday, Sept. 8, from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. A complete menu with a wide variety of breakfast fare is offered for $5.

Ocala West United Methodist Church is at 9330 S.W. 105th St. in Ocala. Look for the signs. Make plans now to bring your friends and attend. All proceeds help fund a variety of local charities.

Sunday, Sept. 9

Indoor picnic potluck luncheon

Christ's Church of Marion County will hold its monthly potluck lunch, celebrating an "Indoor Picnic", following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The public is invited. Christ's Church is at 6768 S.W. 80th St., off State Road 200, Ocala. For further information call 352-861-6182 or contact http://www.ccomc.org/.

Senator's wife to speak

Marion County Democrats announce that Grace Nelson, wife of Florida Senator Bill Nelson, will be principal speaker at the fourth annual "Proud to be a Democrat" Gala at the Ocala Hilton on Sunday, Sept. 9, from 5 to 9 p.m.

Women in the community who have made distinguished contributions to our civic life will also be honored, according to State Committeewoman Joyce Blake.

Tickets are $50 each and may be obtained either through the website www.mariondems.org or by visiting the new party headquarters at 601 S.W. First Ave. between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. in Saturdays.

The telephone number is 352-402-9494.

SNYDER

continued from Page 2

when the telephone was a party system. What parties we used to have. Each person on that party phone line had a certain ring. I still remember ours. It was two rings. Of course, whenever the phone rang everybody on the party line knew who was getting a call and felt complete liberty in joining in.

Not just telephones but also everything else has been complicated for us. A watch is no longer a watch, but rather a timepiece that does everything but tell time.

I saw one that was also a cell phone.

Now, I need a cell phone to find out what time it is and I need a watch to make a phone call. While I'm on the subject, try to find a phone booth in the neighborhood. The absence of the neighborhood phone booth may explain the rise in crime. Where in the world does Clark Kent change into his Superman suit?

Then there is coffee. On a recent trip, I had to use the services of our friendly airline service, which necessitated spending time in airports, which is as close to purgatory as a person can get without dying. I tried to find a plain cup of coffee. Everywhere I went they had everything but plain coffee. The coffee had been flavored with everything from vanilla to pineapples and a few ingredients I could not pronounce.

No wonder so many elderly people go senile. It's the only sane thing to do in such a complicated world.

Where, oh where have the simple things in life gone?

Only one place remains simple for me. That is the Bible. It is not hard understanding what Jesus meant. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6 (KJV).

As far as I'm concerned, nothing is complicated about trusting Jesus.

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 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail jamessnyder2@att.net. His website is www.jamessnyderministries.com.

Fairfield Village

Gator Fan Day a totally fun day as well

Saturday, Aug. 18, was called "Fan Appreciation Day" on the University of Florida campus. What an outstanding event that turned out to be. Whether one is referring to the "Gators," the "Seminoles" or the "Knights," there is usually something really fantastic going on with the universities in the central Florida area. Being a former high school coach and an avid sports fan myself, I can understand why there should be a "fan appreciation day." Without the support of those fans, the programs at all of the schools would not be possible.

Priscilla Geissal

What was so special about the event in Gainesville was that there were representatives from all the sports in the venue. The athletes and many coaches were there to sign autographs and have photos taken with the people who appreciate their efforts for excellence in their respective sports.

One of the things that stood out to me was the excitement of the children who had come to see these "role models" up close and personal. One of the football players even had his lovely young sister sitting with him at the table as he signed the posters highlighting the upcoming 2012 football season. She was obviously so proud to be there with her "big brother."

A very nice middle school student from Ocala, 11-year-old Leo, told me that he has ambitions to be a Gator football player someday. The smile on his adorable face spoke volumes about how much the chance to meet his heroes meant to him.

His grandmother was beaming with pride as he explained his goals and plans for his future. I bet we will hear his name as part of the organization about seven or eight 8 years from now.

Johnny and Kyle Crofoot are brothers who are both on the Gator team. The Orlando brothers are the two youngest of five brothers all of whom have played college football in major schools. One of the older brothers played at the University of South Carolina while two others played at Auburn University.

The Crofoot family was highlighted on national television last year during the LSU game. The extended family was there supporting Johnny and Kyle as the new football season is about to begin. Two older Crofoot brothers, their wives and young children were enjoying the day with the children especially thrilled to see Albert and Alberta (the Gator mascots) up close and doing high fives.

The small group from Fairfield Village who made the trip to Gainesville, enjoyed watching a volleyball game, and caught "Gator fever" along with lots of other people.

On a personal note, I was so excited to see Will Muschamp for the first time in many years. Will went to the same high school in Rome, Georgia, as my children; and he is just as personable and gracious now as he was as a teen with high ambitions.

It is gratifying to see an exceptionally nice young man achieve some very high goals. Those of us in Fairfield Village who have had the pleasure of talking with this talented coach wish him and his athletes a great football season with the prayers that no one sustains any debilitating injuries.

All of the Fairfield neighbors are reminded again of the Labor Day barbecue which will be held on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 2 starting at 1 p.m. and lasting throughout much of the afternoon at the Fairfield Village Clubhouse.

Those with tickets should bring them to present at the door. Fairfield residents who do not as yet have tickets will be able to pay $2 at the door. Everyone is encouraged to bring a side dish for eight to add to the delicious food that the SAC will be providing. A great time is promised for all who join in the fun!

From Fairfield Village, "..a lively place filled with fun-loving and sports loving people.." we hope that your favorite teams experience success and avoid serious injuries as the new school year begins.

On Fan Appreciation Day in Gainesville, Priscilla Geissal was pleased to reconnect with her children's high school friend, Coach Will Muschamp of the Florida Gators football team.

An aspiring Florida Gator Cheerleader is ready to take on the challenge someday comes.

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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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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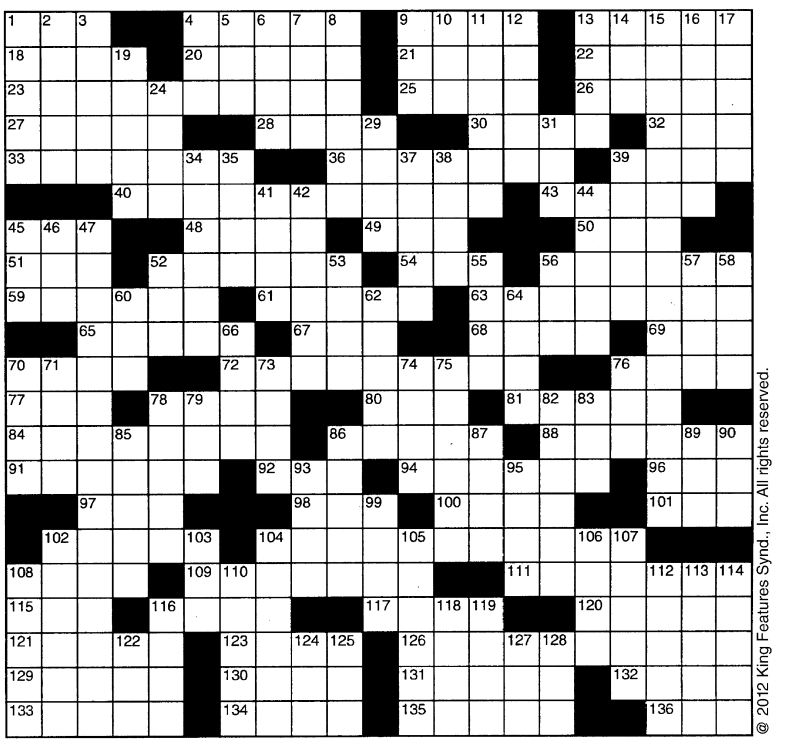
Super Crossword HOOFERS

ACROSS
1 Martin Sheen, to Emilio Estevez
4 Photo tint
9 Pipe part
13 TV's "The — of Life"
18 Baal or Elvis
20 Bonus
21 Soccer superstar
22 Cold sound
23 Dancing president?
25 Landed
26 Range rope
27 — a customer
28 Whip
30 Tranquil
32 —4 (Toyota model)
33 Little lumps
36 Fawning
39 Parisian pronoun
40 Dancing colonist?
43 Go Fish and golf
45 Comic DeLuise
48 Muse with a scroll
49 Command to a corgi
50 Meyerbeer's "— Huguenots"
51 Prospector's prize
52 "The Twelve —" ('70 film)
54 At once
56 Freezin' season
59 Finger food
61 Trickles
63 Short story
65 Cognizant
67 In the manner of
68 Bare
69 Start to snooze
70 Viva —
72 Dancing comic?
76 "— of Gold" ('70 hit)
77 Gray matter?
78 Northwestern st.
80 Philips of "UHF"
81 Tonto's horse
84 More disreputable
86 Director Lang
88 Flusters
91 Percussion instrument
92 Feel awful
94 Bean
96 Make chedder better
97 Prohibit
98 Wine vessel
100 Yuletide
101 Piglet's parent
102 Hunt or Hayes
104 Dancing boxer?
108 Kid at court
109 Hailing from Hunan
111 Mention briefly
115 Aussie walker
116 Space
117 Assistance
120 Spanish guitarist
121 "Crazy" singer
123 Widespread
126 Dancing cartoonist?
129 Neighbor of Somalia
130 Singer Phoebe
131 Entertain
132 Sour fruit
133 Novelist Danielle
134 Bronte heroine
135 Aden's locale
136 Minnesota twins?

DOWN
1 Mustard type
2 Hersey setting
3 Like the Taj Mahal
4 Use a straw
5 Word form for "environment"
6 It may be bitter
7 "— Dinka Doo" ('33 song)
8 '92 Wimbledon winner
9 Health resort
10 — Aviv
11 Draw forth
12 Copper or cobalt
13 "Green Acres" setting
14 "Stroker —" ('83 film)
15 Dancing body-builder?
16 Wrecks the Rolls
17 Italian wine
19 Abate
24 Seafood selection
29 Coop crowd
31 Pantyhose part
34 Rembrandt or Whistler
35 Ward of "Sisters"
37 Wreckage
38 Reject
39 Touch up the text
41 Journalist Jacob
42 Jeanne of "Jules and Jim"
44 Mrs. Kramden
45 Bandleader Severinsen
46 ". . . man — mouse?"
47 Dancing statesman?
52 Numbers pro
53 Push a product
55 Trick stick
56 Tie the knot
57 Thames town
58 Funnyman Foxx
60 Veneration
62 Less vivid
64 Van —, CA
66 Piece of fencing?
70 Enormous
71 European capital
73 Akbar's city
74 "— the Mood for Love" ('35 song)
75 "— bet!"
76 Sprout
78 It's up in the air
79 Volcano part
82 Peruvian port
83 Keats composition
85 Dickens title start
86 Peel off
87 Move like mad
89 Self-esteem
90 Make a muumuu
93 Psychologist Pavlov
95 Obligation
99 TV host John
102 Village
103 Sgt. or cpl.
104 Disney cricket
105 Margin
106 Mallard or teal
107 Suffers
108 Acts like a chicken
110 Neighsayer?
112 Actress Berry
113 Synthetic textile
114 "The Highwayman" poet
116 Genuine
118 Fancy fabric
119 Horner's fruit
122 Carrie or Louis
124 On behalf of
125 Ovine female
127 Poetic monogram
128 — Buddhism



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Quail Meadow

Watch out for scams

Carolyn Slocumb

Important information: Many of us are receiving more and more scam phone calls, so beware of calls from those you do not know. One of our residents received a call wanting to send her a "new" medical card, but they needed the name of her bank! When told she didn't give out that info, but if the caller would give her a phone number to call back, she would contact them later. At this, the caller disconnected the call! Our resident knew this was a scam. She was able to locate the number of the FTC (Federal Trade Commission) and gave them the information. The FTC keeps a log of such calls. In case you get any of these calls, or other scam calls, you should contact the FTC at 1-877-382-4357. Please call this number to report any suspicious fraudulent calls, or any suspicion of ID theft.

The Interfaith collection box is located in the clubhouse. This organization is in need of non-perishable food items, and personal hygiene products. With the school year beginning they are receiving more requests for assistance. Our own John and Mary Zdarsky deliver our contributions to Interfaith each week. Mary is also a volunteer at Interfaith.

Attention Red Hatters: We are working on the Christmas tree ornaments on Friday between 1 and 3 p.m. at the clubhouse. We need your help. The first fall meeting of the Red Hot Fillies will be Sept. 7 with lunch at The Apple restaurant, followed by a planning meeting at the clubhouse. Call Pat Talley or Carolyn Slocumb for

Please see QUAIL, *Page* 7

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Opinion

Our Message

Labor Day losing its luster

Labor Day isn't celebrated much these days as it was originally intended, which was to honor the working people of this country.

Next Monday's holiday, the first Monday in September, used to be a big day for labor, particularly unions, to honor the workers who built America into the large industrial complex it is today.

But with many of those jobs gone, either vanished or sent overseas, the holiday has lost its luster, and it's hard to convince young people of it being anything other than just another day off, marking the traditional end of summer.

In many parts of the country, school starts the day after Labor Day. Summer vacation is over and it's time to hit the books.

Editorial

Up north, some apartment complexes and communities that opened their pools on Memorial Day close them after Labor Day, even if the temperature is still hovering around 90.

Temperatures eventually start to turn a little cooler, a warning that winter is not too far away, even though fall has not yet begun.

Of course, here in Florida, the end of summer is still far away. We're more concerned about an active hurricane month that anything else to do with the weather.

So millions of people will celebrate Labor Day on Monday, without giving much thought as to why it is called that.

Many of us had parents and grandparents who toiled as laborers, helping this country make advances during the 20th Century. It's a lot easier for us to remember them and their contributions.

So if you have a chance, talk to a younger person about Labor Day and what it means. Workers are what made this country great, and if we lose that work ethic, we could be in trouble down the road.

But, as usual, we leave you with this warning. If you're traveling this coming weekend to celebrate the holiday, please drive carefully. We want you back as readers next week.

WEST MARION
Messenger

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

Among Friends

I wonder what happens when I push this

Jim Clark
Editor

There are little things in life than can have a major effect on your concentration, your thought process, your lifestyle. Last week, my cell phone died.

I won't tell you the brand, but this cell phone could do more things than just be a "phone." Still, you had to maneuver around the screen with a little button, then press that button to make your phone do anything. If you wanted to type something, the keyboard was so small that a kindergartener probably would have been frustrated.

It was probably just a battery, but somehow I remembered that years ago, when I got into the plan I was on, I was told that after two years I was entitled to a new phone if I signed up again for two years. Since those first two years had long since passed, I decided to find out what benefits awaited me.

So I went to my provider's store, and it turns out that I would get a credit toward a new phone. Phones cost so much now that they couldn't keep giving them away, I guess.

After some thought, I took the plunge. I got a new phone, and I paid very, very little for it, which is good.

I must say, it's only been a few days, but so far I've learned how to turn it on, turn it off, make a call and receive a call. How's that for just a few days?

This is one of those phones that you just touch the screen and it performs whatever function you touch. I haven't figured out how to lock the screen yet, so I don't accidentally touch something, but I will. Honest.

I found out that I can browse the Internet, send and receive e-mail, use it as a GPS so I can find out where I am (hey, I'm a man, I never ask for directions), listen to music and do all sorts of fun things with games.

And now, I can even (gasp!) text.

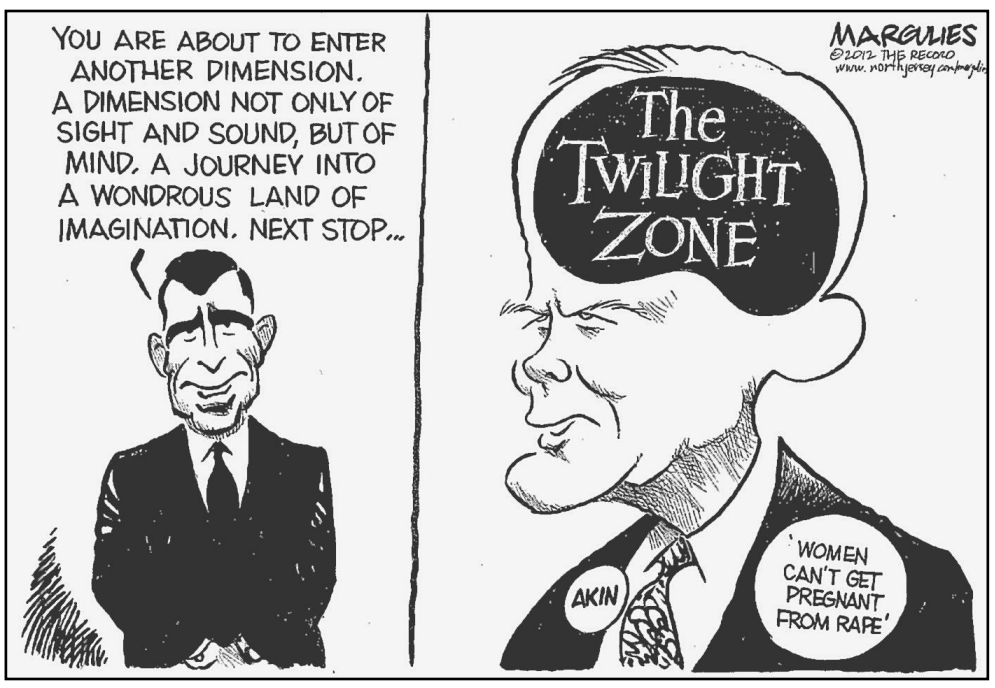
To get to the keyboard, you slide it out from under the screen and turn your phone sideways. In an amazing bit of technology, whatever is on your screen also turns sideways, saving you from a stiff neck. Sheer genius.

Then there are "apps." I'm assuming that is short for "applications," but you know what they say about people who assume things. I found several apps on my phone, but I'm still learning how to use them. On The Weather Channel on Saturday morning, Stephanie Abrams was in Key West getting ready for the hurricane, and she talked to someone from the Red Cross about an app that they had available. Trouble is, for dunces like me, she never said how to get that app. Doesn't she know that people like me need lots of step-by-step guidance?

The people at the store were very nice. They downloaded all my contacts from my old phone. They even transferred my ringtone, which is music from 50 years ago. It's a song called "Meet the Mets." Those who know me probably already guessed that.

So I'm going through the abbreviated owner's manual, which most companies evidently now expect you to read online, and trying to learn a lot of things. But I have to cut this short. My phone is ringing ...I think.

Jim Clark is the editor of the South Marion Citizen and West Marion Messenger.



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- 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 103, Ocala, FL 34481; or e-mail editor@westmarionmessenger.com.

Guest column

Not always meaning what they say

BY JIM FLYNN

We don't believe Missouri Congressman and Senate candidate Todd Akin committed a gaffe when he was asked if he would support abortions for women who have been raped. He

said: "It seems to me first of all, from what I understand from doctors, that's really rare. If it is a legitimate rape, the female body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down."

The congressman's "legitimate rape" quote should rank among the most awkward comments in the history of the English language. It wasn't clear enough to qualify as an outbreak of hoof-in-mouth disease. We think he said what he intended to say without emphasizing what he really meant.

Mr. Akin holds a degree in engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and a degree in divinity studies from Coventry Theological Seminary. We doubt either school offers an elective in Gynecology 101.

Opinions from around the world about Congressman Akin's half suggestion that there are two kinds of rape have been various. A comment in the British Guardian newspaper suggested that by using the word "legitimate," Mr. Akin was bending the word "rape" to sound less rapey.

Calling Congressman Akin's comments "a mistake of words and of heart," the North American editor for the British Broadcasting Company dismissed Akin's opinion as a politician peddling pregnancy-by-rape theories which date back to the 13th century.

One of the old wives tales of that time was that pregnancy wouldn't have occurred if the woman hadn't enjoyed the rape.

More professionally, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists called Mr. Akin's statement medically offensive and dangerous to between 10,000 and 15,000 pregnant women who request abortions annually because of rape or incest. Mr. Akin seems to doubt those numbers.

Gail Collins, who writes for the New York Times, was on the right trail about what Mr. Akin meant. Collins said Mr. Akin exposed the phoniness of the rape and incest exceptions which are used by some anti-abortionists to make their opposition appear more moderate.

Eve Ensler, author of "The Vagina Diologues," wrote a note to Mr. Akin saying his assumption is that women and their experiences are not to be trusted. Her observation was right on!

Mr. Akin was dismissing the annual rape and incest statistics of the Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. He was suggesting that rape and incest exceptions just encourage women carrying undesired pregnancies to claim an abortion entitlement by lying about the circumstances of the conception – in other words what he would call an illegitimate rape.

Since the Rowe v. Wade abortion decision in 1973, some 300 human life amendments have been introduced in Congress. So far as we know, none suggests there are two kinds of rape – legitimate and illegitimate.

QUAIL

continued from Page 1

reservations.

I'm sure most of us have used the expression, "once in a blue moon," but do you know where it originated? This month, August, we are honored with a "blue" moon. There are in fact two definitions for a blue moon. According to the more recent definition, a blue moon is the second full moon in a calendar month. For a blue moon to occur the first of the full moons must appear at or near the beginning of the month so that the second will fall within the same month (the average span between two moons is 29.5 days). The full moon on Aug. 31, 2012, will be this type of blue moon; it will be the second full moon in one month. The older definition, which is recorded in early issues of the Maine Farmer's Almanac, states that the blue moon is the third full moon in a season that has four full moons. This answer is complex, and has to do with the Christian ecclesiastical calendar. Some years have an extra full moon—13 instead of 12. Since the identity of the moons was important in the ecclesiastical calendar (the Paschal Moon, for example, used to be crucial for determining the date of Easter), a year with a 13th moon skewed the calendar, since there were names for only 12 moons. By identifying the extra, 13th moon as a "blue" moon, the ecclesiastical calendar was able to stay on track. The song, "Blue Moon" was a popular song when many of us were growing up.

So, when you hear the expression, "once in a blue moon," it only means it is only a very rare occurrence.

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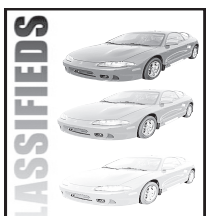

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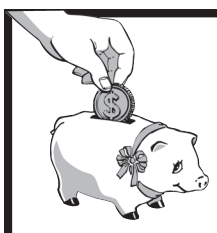

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CERT training scheduled to begin on Sept. 13

A new Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training will begin Thursday, Sept. 13, at the Marion County Sheriff's Office, 692 N.W. 30th Ave., Ocala. This is an 8-session training, which is available either as an afternoon class, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. or as an evening class, from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

The afternoon and evening classes run concurrently and attendance can be mixed, depending upon availability. Only one class can be missed in the 8-session series and the CPR and last class is mandatory.

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

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

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

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Autumn run for autism scheduled for Sept. 15

The ninth annual 5K Autumn Run for Autism at Silver Springs will take place Saturday, Sept. 15, at 7:30 a.m.

Race day registration starts at 6 a.m.

Adults are $15, students 19 and under $12. All entries after Sept. 10 are $20.

Take part in one of Marion county's most scenic 5K road races. All pre- and post-run activities take place in the Wild Waters parking lot. The first 200 entrants will receive complimentary custom shirts. Male/female awards given to the top overall, top masters, and top three in each 5-year age group from 9 and under to 70+.

Walkers are invited and will begin after the runners.

There will be a free kids 1 Mile Fun Run.

Post-run activities include a drawing for prizes from local businesses and area attractions (Disney and Sea World), lots of food and fun, autism information. Race benefits New Horizon Academy for Exceptional Students.

Registration can be done online at www.active.com or forms can be picked up at most health clubs, YMCA, local businesses and mailed or done at Ocala Sports (Holly Plaza on Easy Street). For additional information call 352-207-2347 or 352-629-1785.

Candidate forum set

The GFWC Woman's Club of Ocala will conduct a Candidates Forum for candidates in the November elections on Tuesday, Sept. 18, at the Marion County Public Library Headquarters, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, in Meeting Room C from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Judy Johnson will serve as moderator.

For further information, contact Frances at 352-629-7397 or e-mail: ocaladowns@yahoo.com.

Two-day yard sale

The Pioneer Garden Club will conduct its annual indoor yard sale on Sept. 21-22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. There will be clothes, toys, household items, kitchen goods and plant, among other things.

The site is the Pioneer Garden Club, 4331 E. Silver Springs Blvd.

Butterflies: From A to Z

Hospice of Marion County is hosting its first "Butterfly Seminar" on Wednesday. Sept. 26 from 1-4 p.m in the Hospice Education Center (3231 S.W. 34th Ave.,). Edith Smith, regionally-renowned butterfly expert and owner of Shady Oak Butterfly Farm in Brooker, will conduct the seminar.

In this seminar, Edith will teach how to build a basic butterfly garden habitat, basic butterfly lifecycle and facts, and how to create a butterfly garden in a container.

Pre-registration is required. Call 352-854-5218 or go to www.hospiceofmarion.com. Cost is $20, which includes seminar, butterfly host plant and refreshments. Your registration includes a visit to a custom-designed butterfly garden.

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Enjoy a lunch-sized portion of some of our favorite meals. Served from 11AM - 4PM
Monday
BAKED CHICKEN N' DRESSING
A tender, juicy chicken breast served with savory dressing and choice of one vegetable
Tuesday
MEATLOAF AND MASHED POTATOES
A slice of homestyle meatloaf, mashed potatoes and choice of one vegetable
$5.99
Wednesday
CHICKEN POT PIE
Freshly baked, loaded with chunks of chicken breast and topped with a golden flaky crust
Thursday
TURKEY N' DRESSING
Tender, oven roasted turkey breast served with savory dressing and choice of one vegetable
Introducing Country House Salad - Plus Choice of Baked Potato or Soup
Served Monday thru Friday from 11AM - 2PM. Our fresh green mix with grilled chicken tenderloin, hickory smoked bacon pieces, wedges of vine-ripened tomatoes, red onion, shredded Colby cheese and our own sourdough croutons served with your choice of a Baked Potato with butter and sour cream or a cup of soup.
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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TO ADVERTISE HERE CALL TOM OR SUSIE AT 854-3986

Crossroads Country Kitchen
YOU TRIED THE REST, NOW TRY THE BEST!
Catering Available
Former Owners of Spiced Apple in Fort Lauderdale
NEW You love it on Friday, so we added Tuesday
Popular Demand ALL YOU CARE TO EAT WHITEFISH – CATFISH 11 am to close Dine-in only
NEW MON.-SUN. 11-CLOSE
SLOW ROASTED PRIME RIB FOR TWO $24.95
2 - 10oz. Cuts
Veggies, Salad or Soup, Cornbread
Expires 9/8/12
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
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Mon. thru Thur. 6 am - 8 pm Fri. & Sat. 6 am - 9 pm – Sun. 7 am - 3 pm
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