



WEST MARION Messenger

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES & BUSINESSES BETWEEN SR 200 AND US 27

Hays files homeowners' legislation

BY JIM CLARK
 Editor

State Sen. Alan Hays, R-Umatilla, has introduced legislation designed to answer the complaints of homeowners throughout his district concerning alleged abuse by associations and developers.

In part, the bill says: "It is the intent of the Legislature to protect the rights of parcel owners by ensuring that the

powers and authority granted to homeowners' associations and in deed restrictions created by developers of mandated properties in residential communities conform to a system of checks and balances in order to prevent abuses by these governing authorities."

At a recent Legislative Delegation meeting, homeowners from various developments in Marion and Lake counties peppered legislators with questions about enforcement of existing regula-

tions and possible new ones.

At that meeting, Hays said he was "astounded" at the last delegation meeting when he heard the vocal complaints. "We took it on," he said of the people in Tallahassee, "but we have yet to solve the problem," which he called "gargantuan."

"It cannot be retroactive, you can't roll the calendar back and say 'you can't do that,'" Hays told the audience. "We ran into brick walls, and some of them

were reinforced."

Hays added, "We're still striving to solve the problem."

Now the senator, who serves southeastern Marion County, is attempting to provide some relief.

At the delegation meeting, residents from Cherrywood dominated the conversation, although there were speakers from other neighborhoods, including one in Lake County.

The bills are Senate Bills 580 and 596.

High school jazz bands perform at West Port

Jazz Bands from five Marion County high schools perform this Valentine's Day (Feb. 14) in the Optimist Club of Ocala's Jazz Band Festival.

The event takes place at 6 p.m. inside West Port High School's Performing Arts Center located at 3733 S.W. 80th Ave. in Ocala.

Tickets are \$3 at the door. Participating high school jazz bands include Belleview, Forest, Lake Weir, Vanguard, and West Port.

This event prepares student performers for further evaluations at the Florida Bandmasters Association jazz band assessment on Feb. 21 at 9 a.m. at Lake Sumter Community College.

For more information, call Scotty Vance at 291-4030.

Regional science fair Thursday, Friday

Hundreds of students compete head-to-head next week during the Big Springs Regional Science Fair taking place Thursday and Friday, Feb. 14-15.

The event takes place at the Florida National Guard Armory located at 900 S.W. 20th St. in Ocala.

The annual event draws students from Levy, Marion, and Sumter Counties, each displaying their own unique science projects. Individual winners from public, private, charter, and home schools advance to this regional level, with several dozen awards handed out in various categories.

Judging takes place Thursday and Friday, with winners announced Friday night, Feb. 15, at a special awards ceremony at the Browne Greaton Cole Auditorium at Marion Technical Institute / MTI (1614 S.E. Fort King St., Ocala) at 7 p.m.

Regional winners advance to the Florida State Science Fair in Lakeland, March 26-28. High School students selected as the top state winners then advance to the International Science Fair in Phoenix taking place May 12-17.

For more information, contact Jacqua Ballas at 352-236-0588 or Jacqua.Ballas@marion.k12.fl.us.



PHOTO BY PATRICIA GIZZI

Painted horse unveiling

The residents of Stone Creek celebrated the unveiling of their new painted horse recently. Above, Artist Gail Ashford and organizer Marge Dumburgh pose with the newly unveiled horse. Story, more photos on Page 4.

Take time to review your Medicare benefits

In February, as we take time to honor our sweethearts and loved ones, we should also consider taking time to review our Medicare benefits. Whether you chose a new plan during the annual enrollment period, you've maintained the same coverage, or you are new to Medicare, there are some important changes and coverage information you should be aware of. The following information will be helpful to current and

soon-to-be Medicare beneficiaries.

Part A is often called hospital insurance because it covers your care while you are in the hospital. Part A also covers some of the costs for skilled nursing facilities and hospice. The monthly premium for Part A is \$0 if you qualify based on work quarters. There is a \$1,184 deductible in 2013, an increase of \$28 per inpatient hospital benefit period. Note that an overnight or longer

stay in a hospital does not mean you have been admitted as an inpatient. Check with your doctor to be sure she or he has admitted you because outpatient care is not covered by Part A.

Part B pays for doctors' services and outpatient hospital care, as well as home health care that Part A does not cover. Medicare Part B additionally cov-

Please see MEDICARE, Page 3

Ocala Palms fun



The "Fun Five Fabulous Flat-Pickin Group" "PatchWork" presented a fun- filled and lively evening at Ocala Palms on Jan. 26.

PHOTOS BY CATHY DONOHUE



Eunice Davis chats with visitors from Cherrywood.



Bob and Judy Anderson also enjoyed a lively evening.



Also enjoying the show were, left to right, Melinda Jones, Marilyn Hinds, Judy Duby, Angie Fischetti and Susan Gerry.



Judy Mitton and Ken Sims also attended the show.



Beth Bates, left, and Pat Adams also enjoyed the show.

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Beware, O ye blasted hacker, whomsoever thou art

Under normal circumstances, I am a rather cool, calm and collected person. I say normal because not everything in my life is normal. It takes a lot to rattle this cage of mine but once rattled, look out whoever rattles it.



Out to Pastor
Dr. James Snyder

I am saying all this to get to my point, which is, somebody hacked my computer e-mail account this past week. If you think I will take this sitting down, oh, I guess I am sitting down right now, but I assure you I will not stand for something like this. I have never been so rattled in my life.

If a mistake is mine, I will own up to it. If it is not mine, look out sender.

The first thing I did was to call my cousin who is an attorney, Charles Sues-A-Lot, and laid the case out before him. My first question to my cousin attorney was very basic; "Is it still against the law

to murder someone?"

As all good attorneys do, he hesitated and thought about it.

He then went on to explain that if he could prove insanity there was a good chance he could get somebody off very lightly.

"Insanity," I asked, "is that hard to prove in a court of law?"

At this point, there was no hesitation whatsoever. My good lawyer cousin said, "Not in your case."

If insanity runs in our family, I am convinced it trotted over into his pasture a long time ago and has been milling around for years.

At this point, murder is out.

If I actually knew who this person was, I could "defriend" them like they do on Facebook. You can be sure I would defriend him with all of the sarcastic bitterness I could muster on that hot dog.

I noticed this last week when I accessed my e-mail a bunch of different pop-ups popped up on my screen. Instinctively I tried to unpop them without any success whatsoever. Every time there was a "pop-up," I had the instinctive desire to pop someone in the nose.

At one stage, it got out of control and about 17,000 pop-ups jumped onto my computer screen at the same time. Without thinking, I immediately turned off my computer.

If anybody knows what I did, you realize what I did was a terrible thing to do. I encrypted, or whatever the term is, these pop-ups permanently on my computer. When I opened up my computer, it was pop-up time for the hacker.

Things can be done to "unhack" your computer, which I put in full force. I really wanted to hack into this hacker's life except he probably does not have one. I mean, after all, where are the jolies of hacking into someone's email account? I can see someone hacking into my bank account. I would love to see someone hack into my bank account and see how much money I don't have.

If I were a small government, I could

see somebody trying to hack into my e-mail accounts. As it stands, where is the payoff in doing something like this? This ghost hacker cannot see me and my frustration after being hacked. So, what is the good of it all?

These pop-ups on my computer were coming fast and furious.

Then it hit me. This is not some ghost hacker hacking into my e-mail account, it must be the government. The government must be behind it. I remember something called "fast and furious" in the news a while back. Was this what they were talking about? Am I now a casualty of Big Brother-itis?

There were many similarities between what I was going through and our government.

First off, the whole thing was rather annoying. I am not sure there has ever been a time in our country when the government has been more annoying than now.

Then, all the hacking did not make any sense to me at all. How much of the government is really making sense to anybody anymore? I am sure there is somebody, somewhere who can make sense out of our government but he is probably on the run.

All of this hacking of my e-mail has interrupted my life. So has the government. The government has taken on a new phase where it is not happy unless it is interrupting my life every day of the week. I would not mind so much if the government would take at least one day

Please see SNYDER, Page 11

MEDICARE

continued from Page 1

ers a number of preventive services that help you stay healthy, such as flu shots and cancer screenings. It also covers medical costs, such as laboratory tests, durable medical equipment, and ambulance services. The monthly premium has increased from \$99.90 to \$104.90 for incomes under \$85,000 for an individual or \$170,000 for a couple. The annual deductible of \$147, which is due before Medicare pays, has risen by \$7. This excludes several free preventive services provided by Medicare. Co-pays and co-insurance will vary, so check with your plan or contact Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE.

Medicare Part D helps cover the cost of your prescription drugs, including most injectable medicines. People with Medicare Part A, Part B, or both, are eligible to join a Part D drug plan of some kind. Monthly premiums in 2013 will range from \$15 to \$127.60 or higher if your income is more than \$85,000 per year. Also, before the drug plan begins to pay, you may have to meet a deductible of up to \$325. Co-pays and co-insurance vary by plan.

When you select Medicare Part C, you are enrolling in a Medicare Advantage

Plan. You must already have Medicare Parts A and B, and you will receive health care through that plan. This coverage may include prescription drug coverage. These are plans like HMOs, PPOs, PFFS plans, and Special Needs plans. You will not lose your Medicare coverage by selecting a Medicare Advantage Plan. It is just another way of receiving your Medicare benefits. Private insurance companies have a contract with Medicare to administer medical coverage under the same rules as Original Medicare. They also have a network of providers that you may have to see, so make sure to research all of the restrictions before joining.

FINANCIAL HELP: A single person with a monthly income of \$1,397 and resources less than \$11,800 (not including your home and vehicle) can qualify for Extra Help to pay for their prescription drugs. There are also many programs available to assist with other medical costs. You have nothing to lose and lots to gain, so check with a SHINE counselor. A listing of sites may be found at floridashine.org. You may also call the Elder Helpline at 1-800-963-5337 to request assistance from SHINE.

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Stone Creek unveils its new painted horse

On Tuesday, Feb. 5, the residents of Stone Creek gathered outside the Reflection Park for the much anticipated unveiling of Stone Creek's painted horse. Some 150 residents came out for the Champagne Toast given by Jennifer Giraldo, a sales person for Pulte Homes. Jennifer said, "Frank Lloyd Wright said, 'The longer I live, the more beautiful life becomes.' How beautiful it is to see a group of people, who likely didn't know one another before making their way to paradise, come together to do something to enhance such a place.share a toast to this stunning addition to our lovely community."

The Painted Horse was the vision of resident Marge Dumburgh. She began her quest last year and after many obstacles the horse has arrived. Marge would like to thank her committee Bing Svenssonm, Carol Spooner, Harvey Paskins, Kay Scott, Patricia Gizzi, Patti Wallner, Rita Singer, Marion Pierleoni, Ann Kirby, Terry Trisler, Bev Wiggins, Rose-



Stone Creek
Patricia Gizzi

mary Fisher, Beth Mueller, and Sandy Lynch for their hard work to make this dream a reality. The Sportsmen's Club sponsored the event due to the efforts of Bing Svenssonm.

She would also like to thank the Pulte team of Bob Foisy, General Sales Manager, Rick Morang, Maintenance Manager, Kim Krstopa, Lifestyle Director, and Chris Johnson, Property Manager for their help in the unveiling process. Pulte donated the base for the horse as well as the paper products for the event.

After the unveiling and speech by Marge

Dumburgh, Marge was presented with a bouquet of red roses by Bing Svenssonm from her committee for her efforts and dream of giving Stone Creek their own painted horse. Artist, Gail Ashford told of how the horse was painted and showed pictures of the horse's development.

The horse is located outside the Churchill Downs Ballroom near the swimming pool. The horse overlooks the lake and it is near the Garden Club's Reflection Park.

Money that was donated to the horse but was not used will be given to the Garden Club to complete their Reflection Park. The horse is a wonderful edition to the park and it can be seen from the 11th hole on the golf course.

The residents then feasted on fruit, appetizers and cookies, coordinated by Beth and Karl Muller and their committee members.

Once again, the Stone Creek Community worked together to accomplish a goal. It is what Stone Creek does!



Harvey Paskin gets prepared for the unveiling of the horse.



Chris Johnson and Jennifer Giraldo are shown getting ready to give toast.

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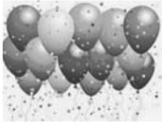
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Member of the Community Papers of Florida

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

Wednesday, Feb. 13

Spring soccer signup at Joy

Joy Evangelical Lutheran Church is now ready for some spring soccer! They are looking for boys and girls from kindergarten through 6th grade to register for this fun and encouraging sports experience.

Players may register at the church office beginning Wednesday, Feb. 13 through Saturday, Feb. 16 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The registration fee is \$65 per child, which includes a reversible jersey, water bottle, socks, car magnet and an end-of-season reward. Scholarships are available. All players must attend one soccer evaluation that promotes equal and competitive teams as well as a substitution system, to complete the registration process.

Practice begins Tuesday, Feb. 26 and Thursday, Feb. 28. The first game is scheduled for Saturday, March 9. All events will occur at Hope Field at Joy Lutheran Church. So get your child registered to learn the skills of the game and an opportunity to experience good sportsmanship.

Volunteers are needed to help with coaching, registering the participants and organizing the players.

For more information, contact Pastor Ed Holloway at 352-854-4509 ext. 223, or Fran Johnson at 352-854-4509 ext. 221.

Joy Evangelical Lutheran Church is at 7045 S.W. 83rd Place at State Road 200, Ocala.

Friday, Feb. 15

All church Valentine dinner

The Forever Young Ministry presents an All Church Valentine Dinner on Friday, Feb. 15, at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$7 per person. Reservations, by phone or at the sign-up desk, required.

Christ's Church of Marion County, 6768 S.W. 80th St. (off State Road 200), Ocala, 352-861-6182, www.ccomc.org/.

The Circle of French Friends

Le Cercle Des Amis Français meets on the third Friday of every month from 11 a.m. to noon at Marion County Sheriff's Office Community Conference Room, 9048 State Road 200, about ¼

mile from Walmart.

The club promotes all things French: language, culture and fun. You do not have to be a fluent speaker to join the group.

Guests are welcome at any meeting. Call Marie McNeil at 352-509-4940 for more information.

The next meeting is Feb. 15.

Male Chorus sings at Ocala West

The Rockingham Male Chorus will present a concert at the Ocala West United Methodist Church on Friday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m. The church is at 9330 S.W. 105th St. For more information, call 352-854-9550.

The chorus of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia is a group of volunteer musicians from a variety of careers who welcome the opportunity to travel and sing the gospel of Christ.

The chorus has given more than 1,000 concerts and performs regularly, September through April, traveling from Pennsylvania to Florida. Ocala West is pleased to have them return for another concert. You will enjoy their smooth, rich, melodic sound.

Saturday, Feb. 16

Horses for Hospice Trail Ride

Hospice of Marion County, Inc. will hold its 13th annual "Horses for Hospice" Trail Ride on Saturday, Feb. 16, on the Central Florida Greenway at the Florida Horse Park in Ocala. This year's ride is in memory of Wayne Vaught, beloved Cross Florida Greenway enthusiast and former Trail Ride chairman.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the first ride leaves at 9:15 a.m. Riders travel from as far as Jacksonville and Tampa to spend 2-3 hours on the trail. Following the ride, participants can enjoy lunch by Tommy's BBQ, live entertainment by Bordertown, and door prizes. Proceeds from this event will benefit Patient Care Programs. The minimum donation to ride is \$30. Wagons are welcome; \$30 for driver and \$10 per passenger. Horse lovers who are unable to ride may purchase a \$10 ticket to enjoy lunch and entertainment. For more information or to register, call 352-854-5218.

Home Improvement Expo

Mark your calendars for the fifth annual Home Improvement Expo on Saturday, Feb. 16, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Circle Square Cultural Center! The event is sponsored by On Top of the World Communities and World Home Improvements.

Browse through the dozens of exhibitor booths and visit with experts from a wide variety of trades in the home improvement industry including; home solar, screen room enclosures, windows and flooring, the latest in home entertainment, single room or total home renovation, home security and much more. Numerous companies will fill the Circle Square Cultural Center with different ideas for enhancing homes and showcasing concepts for home improvements from standard remodeling and landscaping to complete reconstruction. This is a free event and open to the public.

The Circle Square Cultural Center is at 8395 S.W. 80th St. For more information, visit the website at www.CSCulturalCenter.com or call Theresa Fields at 352-854-8707 ext. 7530.

Queen of Peace Country Fair

Queen of Peace Council of Catholic Women will hold their annual Country Fair Saturday, Feb. 16 in the Parish Hall at Southwest State Road 200. Bring your friends; there will be something on sale for everyone, including white elephant items, jewelry, books, tapes, videos, decorative items and baked goods. The event is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Scandinavian Club of Marion

The Scandinavian Club of Marion County invites people of Danish, Finish, Icelandic, Norwegian and Swedish descent to join us at our next meeting on Feb. 16. We will meet at 11:30 a.m. at the Ocala Hilton, 3600 S.W. 36th Ave. in Ocala. The menu will be roast beef au jus with mashed potatoes, salad, coffee

and dessert. Entertainment will be announced. The cost is \$16 per person. Reservations and payment must be made in advance. Payment must be received by Wednesday the 13th of February. Checks to be made out to Don Clauson and mailed to Don Clauson, 5901 S.W. 86th Place, Ocala, FL 34476. For further details call Jim Neate 352-687-1580, Don Clauson 352-861-1235 or Terry Rasmussen 352-347-8362.

Chili supper and bake sale

Sister Concepta, who founded and oversees Brother Keeper's soup Kitchen in Ocala, is sponsoring the 6th annual chili supper and bake sale on Feb. 16, at Blessed Trinity Church.

It will be from 4 to 8 p.m. in the Parish Hall, 5 S.E. 17th St. Menu includes both red and white chili, plus salad.

For information, call 352-867.9860.

Golf Scramble benefits, Elks, ACS

The annual Benjamin H. Ayres Memorial Golf Scramble, a fun event to benefit Ocala Elks Lodge 286 and the American Cancer Society, will take place on Saturday, Feb. 16 at Candler Hills Golf Club.

Registration is at 7 a.m. with a continental breakfast and driving range available. Shotgun start will be at 9 a.m., with lunch following golf.

There will be two flights for golfers with equal size trophies. Age groups are up to 49 years and 50 years and older.

Price per golfer is \$75, gold sign sponsor is \$200, silver sign sponsor is \$100. Donations are accepted for trophies, printing and hole in one. There will be a \$10,000 cash prize for a hole-in-one on the par 3 hole 13, 157 yards.

Please make checks payable to Ocala Elks Lodge 286, 702 N.E. 25th Ave., Ocala FL 34470. You can also make payment at the lodge with cash, check or credit card to Betty Lee, 352-732-7091.

More on Page 10

Circle Square Cultural Center

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VISA DISCOVER

RISE & DINE

Breakfast dishes for any springtime celebration

FAMILY FEATURES

Whether you're celebrating a special occasion or just want to make breakfast more special, gather friends and family around the table to make some new memories together. These recipes are full of flavor and, best of all, easy to make, so you have more time to spend enjoying a delicious meal with the people you love.

- **Olé Tortilla Cups** — Zesty bites made with Johnsonville Hot & Spicy Breakfast Sausage Links can be prepped ahead of time and baked when you're ready.
- **Cornbread with Spicy Sausage and Red Peppers** — A colorful side that pairs great with a tasty skillet dish.
- **Breakfast Sausage Skillet with Sautéed Tomatoes and Basil** — Have all the ingredients prepped and ready to go to make cooking this restaurant-style breakfast skillet really easy.
- **Crustless Mini Quiches** — Make these bite-sized beauties ahead of time and serve at room temperature.

For more delicious reasons to rise and dine, visit www.johnsonville.com.

Cornbread with Spicy Sausage and Red Peppers

Servings: 8
Prep Time: 25 minutes
Bake Time: 20 minutes

- 1 12-ounce package Johnsonville Hot & Spicy or Original Recipe Breakfast Sausage
- 1 cup yellow cornmeal
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 3/4 cup chopped red bell pepper
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 425°F.
Remove sausage links from casings. (Slice casing with knife and peel to remove.)
In skillet, cook and crumble sausage until no longer pink; drain and set aside.
In bowl, combine cornmeal, flour, sugar, baking powder and salt.
In another bowl, combine eggs, milk and butter; stir into dry ingredients just until moistened.
Fold in sausage, red bell pepper and cheese.
Pour into a greased 8-inch square baking pan. Bake for 18 to 20 minutes or until golden brown. Serve warm.

Crustless Mini Quiches

Yield: 7 servings (3 quiches each)
Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cook Time: 10 minutes

- Nonstick oven spray
- 1 sleeve whole wheat crackers, crushed
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese
- 1 package Johnsonville Original Recipe Breakfast Sausage
- 1 package frozen broccoli florets, thawed, drained
- 1 cup frozen corn
- 8 ounces reduced fat cheddar cheese
- 32 ounces liquid egg whites
- Kosher salt and fresh pepper, to taste

Preheat oven to 350°F.
Generously spray 21 mini muffin cups with cooking spray. Set aside.
In small bowl, mix crushed crackers and Parmesan. Distribute evenly between muffin cups.
Cook sausage according to package instructions. Cut into 1/2-inch pieces. Evenly distribute sausage into muffin cups.
Chop broccoli into small pieces. Microwave for 1 minute on high; drain well. Spoon broccoli evenly into muffin cups. Top evenly with corn and cheddar cheese.
Pour egg whites over each of the muffin cups.
Bake for 8 to 10 minutes, or until mini quiches are set. Let rest for 2 minutes prior to unmolding.



Olé Tortilla Cups

Servings: 12
Prep Time: 30 minutes
Bake Time: 18 minutes

- 1 12-ounce package Johnsonville Hot & Spicy or Original Recipe Breakfast Sausage
- 9 flour tortillas (6 inches), at room temperature (thicker, home-style tortillas work best)
- 2 cups (8 ounces) shredded Mexican blend cheese
- 6 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/4 cup finely chopped red bell pepper
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- Salsa

Preheat oven to 350°F.
Cook sausage according to package directions; cut into small pieces and set aside.
Coat muffin pan and both sides of tortillas with cooking spray. Cut tortillas into quarters. Arrange three tortilla pieces in each muffin cup, overlapping to fit. Press tortillas gently and firmly into muffin pan. (Tortillas should stick up higher than muffin cup sides.)
Arrange half of the cheese in tortilla-lined muffin cups. Top with sausage and the remaining cheese.
In a bowl, combine the eggs, milk, bell pepper, cilantro, salt and pepper. Carefully pour into cups.
Bake for 18 to 20 minutes or until eggs are set. Serve with salsa if desired.

Breakfast Sausage Skillet with Sautéed Tomatoes and Basil

Servings: 3 to 4
Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cook Time: 25 minutes

- 2 medium red skinned potatoes, (about 3/4 pound) cut into thin wedges
- 1 small onion, sliced
- 1 teaspoon rosemary, dried or fresh
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 12-ounce package Johnsonville Original Recipe Breakfast Sausage, divided
- 1/2 pint grape tomatoes, (about 1 cup)
- 1/3 cup shredded Gouda cheese
- 2 to 4 large eggs, poached, fried or scrambled
- 1/4 cup slivered fresh basil leaves
- Salt and pepper to taste

In bowl, combine potato wedges, onion slices, rosemary and olive oil. Toss together.
In large skillet over medium heat, add potato mixture and cook for 5 minutes. Add half the sausages to pan and continue cooking another 10 to 12 minutes, turning occasionally to evenly brown ingredients.
Add tomatoes, stir to combine and heat through allowing the tomatoes to brown slightly and burst, about 3 minutes.
Remove from heat and sprinkle with shredded Gouda cheese, and top with eggs and a sprinkling of fresh basil.



SAC welcomes new neighbors and new ideas for fun

Though several important members of the Social Activities Committee were not able to be present, the remaining group conducted a very worthwhile meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 5.

Two couples who are among our new neighbors were introduced. They are Phil and Betty Creswell and Larry and Dale Hansen. It was noted at the time that our community is so happy to have such nice people to join us and be an active part in helping to plan for future social activities. Specifically, Larry Hansen presented some viable suggestions which were readily accepted by those present.

Sharon Breeden, who conducted the meeting in the absence of Toni Belcher, reminded those present that a group interested in shuffleboard are getting together (weather permitting) on Thursday mornings at 10:30. This time is not "set in stone" but will be adjusted if those interested decide there would be a better time.

The groups who regularly play cards, etc., in the Clubhouse continue to invite others to check the calendar and come to join in the fun of all kinds of card games, Mahjong, or board games. With the re-tiling of our pool, water aerobics will resume very soon. Check the calendar for times and days.

The Valentine themed pot luck dinner will be held on Saturday, Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. Everyone in Fairfield Village enjoys these gatherings and the hope is that many who attend will consider thinking about the Valentine theme even though it will be two days after the traditional 14th. It's never too late to



Fairfield Village
Priscilla Geissal

"show the love."

HOA President Bart Rich announced that the HOA is taking bids on the exceptional entertainment center that has been in the TV room for the past several years. Due to the move of the manager's office into that space, the HOA is working toward upgrading the television and video capabilities to be more conducive to use for all kinds of activities. It was pointed out that by utilizing a section of the major part of the clubhouse, there could be many more options for movie nights, aerobic exercise, or even things like traditional parties where TV or video could be incorporated—parades, football games, special events, etc.

As I mention this move, I am hoping that many interested people will consider making a bid on the great bargain being offered for sale by the HOA. This involves a beautiful wood entertainment unit (9 feet long and 6 feet high) which holds a 65 inch projection screen TV and a superb surround sound system with DVD/VCR and other things that I personally cannot describe adequately.

However, I know a bargain when I see one, and I sincerely hope that someone else makes an outstanding bid before I decide to buy it myself — and I already



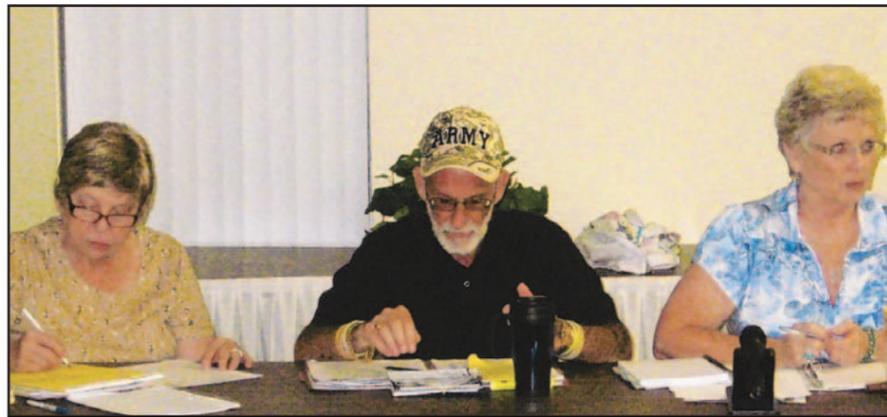
New members of the Fairfield Village community, Phil and Betty Creswell, offered friendly smiles as they were welcomed.

have one and do not have room for another one. My family would thank anyone who buys it to keep me from trying to figure out how to purchase this and move it to one of their homes in Georgia, Alabama, or Virginia. (Laughter is acceptable here, but this is really true. I have an especially hard time passing up a genuine bargain!)

For more information about the unit, please contact Bart Rich at 352-873-8295. Bart knows how to describe what is being offered and can assure anyone that this purchase is well worth the

money. Any and all bids will be given serious consideration and one does not have to be a part of the Fairfield Village community to bid on this.

From Fairfield Village, "the LIVELY place filled with LOVELY people" we wish everyone a wonderful Valentine's Day and urge all those reading this to hug the one you love and tell him/her/it (if your loved one is a 'pet') how much that living being means to you. "It does a 'heart' good"...to know that it is loved. Have a Happy Valentine's Day and great week!



Above, In the absence of Activities Director Toni Belcher, from the left Carol Starr, Stan Cohen, and Sharon Breeden conducted a very productive meeting of the Fairfield Village SAC. At left, new neighbor Larry Hansen offered some good ideas for activities and fundraising.



The beautiful entertainment unit up for bids by the HOA will be replaced with a more space-saving wall mounted flat screen TV. Whoever gets this 9-foot wide bargain will be very fortunate as it is exceptional.

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West Marion Messenger
8810 W. State Road 200, suite 103,
Ocala, FL 34481; or e-mail
editor@westmarionmessenger.com

Opinion

Our Message

Traffic safety means on foot, too

There are always stories about traffic safety, texting while driving, drunk driving, etc. But there are other people on the roads who have to be careful.

In recent years, the scene was U.S. Highway 27, which doesn't have that many traffic lights to help people cross from residential areas to the grocery stores. It was highlighted when a man in a wheelchair was struck and killed as he crossed the road.

Now the scene has shifted.

In the past two weeks, two men have lost their lives on State Road 200, both crossing the highway, both in the same area, near Steeplechase Plaza in about the 8500 block.

The first was Stephen R. Cote, listed as a transient, who was struck back on Jan. 28. He was taken to the hospital, and last week he died from his injuries.

Then late last week a similar accident occurred when a pedestrian was struck, also crossing the highway.

He was struck by one car, evidently not too hard, but was knocked into the path of another vehicle and run over.

As of this writing, there was no ID available for this man, and officials are asking for help in identifying him. He was crossing against the light.

There are traffic lights and "walk" signs there to help pedestrians. It doesn't help, however, when they are ignored.

So if you're walking, obey the signals so you can save your own life. When a pedestrian is struck by a vehicle, the vehicle usually wins.

If you're driving, be aware of pedestrians as you go through congested areas.

You may think you have the right of way, and you may be correct, but you should always watch out for the other guy.

That's something that you're taught early in driving school.

You may be the greatest driver in the world (or you think you are), but you can't account for what other people might do on the road or at the crowded intersection.

If you're careful, you can save yourself a lot of mental anguish, and maybe save the life of another person.

Editorial



Your letters

Assault weapons

Proponents of gun enthusiasts i.e. the NRA, say they have the right to own assault weapons in case of government invasions or tyrannies, but paranoid, hypothetical scenarios cannot take precedence over the very real, very preventable deaths of children. Adding to its deadly efficiency is the large capacity magazine, a gunman can easily empty a 60-round magazine in less than 20 seconds. Sixty bullets. Twenty seconds. Those little kids and teachers at Sandy Hook didn't have a chance.

Proponents say they have the right to own the guns for hunting, but assault rifles are designed specifically to kill people, not animals. Hunters don't use these weapons, but every military in the world does. They would have you believe that more guns provide more chances for people to defend themselves. So should everyone be armed to the hilt in schools, churches, at social gatherings, etc? Where does this logic end? Assault weapons do not belong in civilian hands, nor do clips that contain more than 10 rounds. If you can't defend home and family with a pistol, you won't with a more complex weapon.

These weapons, specifically, are used in almost every mass shooting tragedy. Dangerous individuals are instantly enabled to cause devastating numbers of casualties in a matter of seconds. The desperate justifications of gun enthusiasts deteriorate more with each tragedy.

All gun sales or transfer of ownership must be handled by a registered gun dealer with the appropriate background check and waiting period. There should be no exceptions. This includes guns sold online, at a gun show, at auctions, by individuals, or even individuals within the same family. All ammo clips must be limited to 10 rounds. The increased safety for all Americans demands it.

It is way past time for reasonable people to expect a sane policy.

Anything less is an act of selfishness so profound that it is an act of immorality.

Lee Wiggins
Ocala

Where will the money come from?

I admit I do not know what will happen if America does go bankrupt, but it could happen soon with our borrowing 40 cents of every dollar we spend, with no end in sight. We are now over \$17 trillion in debt! Too many of us believe big government is the answer to all of our problems, expecting government to keep their "freebees" coming. They applaud raising taxes on the contributors and our printing more money. Econ 101 tells us this has to stop or we will have massive inflation coupled with severe devaluing of our dollar. This will affect every individual regardless of financial status.

Somehow we now have more money to fight the hoax of manmade Global warming, and because of the action of one evil killer in a school, we believe all schools should have armed guards, fences, etc. We resist simply having the principal and a few teachers armed which would stop cowards from entering the school and not cost us billions of dollars. For example, all teachers in Israel carry guns and they don't have this problem. I can't recall a single incident where mass killings were committed by anyone with a concealed weapon permit. There are numerous recorded in-

Please see LETTERS, Page 11

Round white things: baseballs, snowballs

This is the annual week when you almost feel a little guilty about where you live, work and play.

Almost.

While the Northeast, which many years ago was home, was digging out from a blizzard that paralyzed the area for a couple of days, we were basking in the sun, and listening to the crack of the bat and the chatter of the players.

Major League Baseball's spring training has begun all over Florida and Arizona.

Pitchers and catchers reported Monday, although for many teams, including my Mets, many of the players have reported early. The players obviously want to get the bad taste of last year out of their mouths, and move on with the 2013 season.

Starting on Feb. 22, spring training games will be piped in to the northern cities that may still be shivering, and, having gone through it many times, creating a feeling that the end of winter is near, doing more for that feeling than the groundhog does.

Still, those of us who used to live up north can recall vividly some of those storms like the ones the people up there just went through.

I believe it was 1948, when I was just a little kid (yes, I was little once), when a great snowstorm hit. Our front door was twofold, with the outer door called a storm door that opened outward. The snow was so high that the door couldn't be opened, and my dad had to take the window out of the door frame so we could get outside. As a child, I was panicking, feeling that we would never get out of the house again.

I imagine some little children went through that type of situation last week.

Then there was the time as a teenager when I worked hard clearing the snow from in front of my driveway so my folks could get the cars out. Just as I finished, along came a plow and clogged up the



Among Friends

Jim Clark

driveway again. I wanted to chase down that truck swinging my snow shovel like a weapon...while my parents laughed.

There was also the time, many years later, in my final years in New Jersey, when I had to walk through the snow to get to Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, because it was too dangerous to drive.

I can remember turning on the radio and listening to a spring training game from places I never dreamed I would visit, such as St. Petersburg and Vero Beach. Just hearing the baseball players in the background gave you some hope that the white stuff would turn to green shortly.

Last week during the height of the northern storm, which The Weather Channel, for some reason, named after a missing fish (Nemo), I went to a website called flightaware.com. That site enables you to see the radar at any airport in the U.S., pretty much the same as the view seen by air traffic controllers. I tuned to LaGuardia in New York, and there was one plane on radar, flying over the city at 35,000 feet. That was it, almost unheard of, just one aircraft in New York airspace.

So while we're here for another baseball season, when "hope springs eternal," let's just remember that those poor folks in the northern tier were getting hit with their second storm in two weeks. We hope they all get through it OK.

Jim Clark is the editor of the West Marion Messenger.

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 352-854-3986.

All letters must be signed and include a phone number and community name, including letters sent via e-mail. Names and communities will be printed; phone numbers will not be published or given out.

We reserve the right to edit letters for length, libel, fairness and good taste. Not all contributions are printed.

Letters longer than 350 words may be regarded as columns and printed on a space-available basis, and writers will be limited to one contribution per month. 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.

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Messenger

PUBLISHER:

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REGIONAL MANAGER:

JOHN PROVOST

EDITOR:

JIM CLARK

Sunday, Feb. 17

Jazz Society offers music, dancing

The Ocala Jazz Society will host an afternoon of music at the VFW hall on Sunday, Feb. 17 from 2 to 5 p.m.

Open to everyone, organizers say the event offers "incomparable musicians featuring great tunes for everyone and dancing is encouraged."

A \$3 donation is requested and benefits Hospice in memory of Bea Wilson, the founder of the Ocala Jazz Society.

The VFW, across from Oak Run, is just off State Road 200.

For more info call Diana, 352-286-5636.

Chuck Wagon Gang at Christ's Church

Back by popular demand the number one Gospel Group of all time, entering its 75th year of singing the old songs, The Chuck Wagon Gang appears Sunday, Feb. 17, 5 p.m. This mixed quartet has continuously recorded what has come to be known as "grass roots" Gospel music, recording over 800 songs and selling 40 million records worldwide. Many of the original songs are still being sung at their concerts across America. Admission is free; a love offering will be taken.

Christ's Church of Marion County is at 6768 S.W. 80th St. (off State Road 200), Ocala, 352-861-6182, www.ccomc.org/.

Cosmopolitans Anniversary

The Cosmopolitans of Ocala will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary on Sunday, Feb. 17 from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Ocala Hilton Hotel. Donation is \$50 per person. Over the years members have volunteered many hours to community services that involve children, and many have made donations to charitable organizations in Marion County. The income from this anniversary event will go to the Winston Brown Scholarship Program for high school graduates, May 2013.

Please contact Edith Harper, 352-307-0670 or Gertha Williams, 352-893-9265 for tickets.

Rose pruning demonstration

Marion County Rose Society will hold a rose pruning demonstration at 2:30 p.m. at 2224 Clearwater Run, The Villages. Meetings are open to all who want to have fun learning about and sharing their love of roses. Visit www.marioncountyrosetes.org, or call Howard Johnson at 352-751-0355.

Monday, Feb. 18

American Legion post to meet

The Ralph J Green American Legion Post 354 will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, Feb. 18, at 1 p.m. in the community room of the Sheriff's Brian Litz Building 9048 S.W. State Road 200. Try to arrive early to enjoy light refreshments and comradeship with fellow veterans. For more information, telephone Commander Fred Pulis 352-854-9976.

Tuesday, Feb. 19

Financial Workshop at Ocala West

Do you have the information you need to make decisions about your financial goals? This financial workshop, sponsored by Edward R. Jones will help you

learn key principles of saving and investing and also learning specific strategies to help you reach your long-term financial goals. The workshop will be held at 10:30 a.m. in the multi-purpose room (room 235). Topics and dates are as follows:

- Feb. 19, Focus on Fixed Income.
- Feb. 26, Take Stock in the Market.
- March 5, Protecting What's Important.

Thursday, Feb. 21

College Road Young at Heart

College Road Baptist Church, on Feb. 21, will bring our own Rod Hendrick to entertain us with his Southern style storytelling and humor. He might even sing. Bring a dish to share and join us for an hour of fellowship at noon at 5010 S.W. College Road (State Road 200). Phone is 352-237-5741 for information or if you need a ride.

Alzheimer's workshops set

Marion County families are invited to attend a series of free Alzheimer's CARE training workshops that will be offered on Feb. 21, March 7, March 21 and April 4. Each session will begin at 5:15 p.m. at Home Instead Senior Care, 606 S.W. 3rd Ave., Ocala.

Developed by Home Instead Senior Care, the Alzheimer's or Other Dementias CARE program incorporates an innovative, hands-on approach to help families deal with the difficult behavioral changes that often are associated with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias.

During the workshop, program experts will teach caregivers how to:

- Manage behaviors.
- Encourage engagement.
- Care for themselves while caring for their loved one.

To reserve a spot, call Home Instead Senior Care at 352-622-6447.

Saturday, Feb. 23

Kingdom of the Sun Concert Band

The Kingdom of the Sun Concert Band announces its "A Musical Memory" concert series for Saturday, Feb. 23 at 2 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 24 at 3 p.m. at the Marion Technical Institute, 1614 S.E. Fort King St., Ocala. Musical selections include: "Finlandia"; "Selections from Les Miserables"; "Memory" from Cats; "Indiana"; "Esprit De Corps"; "Morceau Symphonique" featuring trombonist Richard Blankenship; and "Lassus Trombone" featuring the KOS trombone section.

All performances are free and open to the public.

For more information, call 352-624-9291 or visit <http://kingdomofthesunband.org>.

Saturday, Feb. 23

Eagles tribute concert planned

7 Bridges: The Ultimate EAGLES Experience is a stunningly accurate tribute to the music of the Eagles. Using no backing tracks or harmonizers, the band faithfully re-creates the experience of an Eagles concert from their most prolific period. 7 Bridges will feature brilliant hit singles after another while offering the perfect blend of songs to capture all levels of Eagles devotees with some mighty Don Henley and Joe Walsh surprises sprinkled into the mix. Tickets for this concert start at \$15.

The 7 Bridges: The Ultimate EAGLES Experience show provides family friendly entertainment for all ages, weaved into a powerful rock-n-roll concert experience! Catch them live at the Circle Square Cultural Center on Saturday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. The Cultural Center is at 8395 S.W. 80th St., Ocala. For more information on the 2013 entertainment line-up including times, dates and tickets, visit www.CSCulturalCenter.com or call 352-854-3670.

Ocala Symphony; Two days of young talent

The Ocala Symphony Orchestra will showcase the two winners of the annual 22nd Young Artist Competition at the Saturday, Feb. 23 and Sunday, Feb. 24 concerts at the Ocala Breeders' Sales Auditorium, while performing some of the most uplifting and powerful pieces of the symphonic repertoire of Italian composer, Ottorino Respighi's Pines of Rome.

Julia Hossain, 14, who won the junior division, will perform Edouard Lalo's Symphonie Espagnol. Ivana Muncan, 23, who won the senior division, will perform Ludwig Van Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4. Both winners received a \$1,000 cash prize, as well as the opportunity to perform with the OSO Feb. 23 and Feb.24.

Each year the OSO sponsors this youth outreach program for outstanding young musicians, with the goal of motivating and enhancing the music careers of promising young musicians.

There will be two concerts held at OBS: Saturday, Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 24 at 3 p.m. Tickets start at \$5 and can be purchased by visiting www.ocalasymphony.com or calling 352-351-1606.

Tuesday, Feb. 26

SOS meeting

The SOS (Sisterhood of Survivors) Support Group meets the last Tuesday of each month at Ocala West United Methodist Church, 9330 S.W. 105th St. Room 235 (Multipurpose Room) at 1 p.m.

Our meeting on Feb. 26 will be a presentation by Jane Houldsworth, Community Relations person for America's Choice in Homecare, Visiting Angels.

We never know when we might have a need for these kinds of services and this presentation should be very interesting. If you have any questions, please contact Gail Tirpak at 352-291-6904.

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SNYDER

continued from Page 3

a week off. But no, it is a 24/7 kind of annoyance.

A friend of mine said that everybody goes through this sort of thing and it is kind of an equal share in the misery of being on the Internet. Equal share? That's government lingo if ever I heard it.

After three days of torturous working at my computer, I finally got the pop-ups to stop. I changed the password of my e-mail account and brought all of this nonsense to a stop.

I won the battle against that blasted hacker who tried to ruin my week. With a steaming cup of coffee and my open Bible,

I read some comforting words. "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, then he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4 KJV). My relationship is of such a nature with God that nobody can hack into that relationship. I rest completely in God's competent hands.

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. His web site is www.jamesnyderministries.com.

LETTERS

continued from Page 8

cidents where these same individuals have saved lives. Evil cowards only attack the helpless.

We are facing the implementation of Obama Care, which is estimated to cost 10 to \$13,000 per individual.

But don't worry, most won't pay that much because they will receive "government assistance." Who do they think they are kidding?

Just where do they think that money comes from? The only money they have is taxpayers' money, and here we go again, robbing Peter to pay Paul. They just

plan to take it out of both of Peter's pockets. Our future depends on our making drastic spending cuts but nothing indicates this will happen, we just keep adding more such as the above.

If we go bankrupt, there will be no money for any government program! I invite all responses that will answer the question, What will happen to America if we go bankrupt?

This isn't about political party, it's about our country.

Wayne Rackley
Ocala

This week's puzzle answers

Go Figure! answers

3	+	1	×	5	20
×		+		÷	
7	×	2	+	1	15
-		×		+	
8	-	6	×	9	18
13		18		14	

Super Crossword Answers

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

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

DEADLINES

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

CANCELLATIONS

Advertisements may be canceled as soon as results are obtained. You will be billed only for the dates the ad actually appears in the paper. Deadlines for cancellations are the same as the deadlines for placing ads, except for specials.

TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD, CALL Toll Free 1-877-676-1403
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

CHARGE IT!!

All ads require prepayment. We accept:



ERRORS

Be sure to check your advertisement the first day it appears. We will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Adjustments are made only for the portion of the ad that is in error.

Beware: Publication of any classified advertisement does not constitute endorsement by the West Marion Messenger. We make every effort to screen out advertising that may not be legitimate. However, since we can not guarantee the legitimacy of our advertisers, you are advised to be careful of misleading ads and take caution when giving out personal information.



Sales Help

CHRONICLE

INSIDE SALES REPRESENTATIVE
Citrus Publishing
Citrus County, FL
Job Summary
This position is designed to increase our market share of retail and classified display advertising in all of Citrus Publishing's products. The position will consist of receiving incoming calls and making outbound service/cold calls. The position will also handle walk-in advertisers from our Meadowcrest office.

Essential Functions

- Develop new opportunities for advertisers to do business with Citrus Publishing, Inc.
- Consistently meet or exceed monthly and annual sales goals

Minimum Qualifications

- at least two years of sales experience; advertising experience preferred

Administrative

- This is a 40 hour a week position

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795-1906 ★ 586-1906
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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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

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For your convenience, mail with payments to West Marion Messenger office at 8810 SW SR 200, Unit 104, Ocala, FL 34481 or call...

Call Toll Free 1-877-676-1403

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

Lots going on during short month of February

When you receive this paper, it will be the middle of February already! Don't forget that tomorrow (Thursday) is Valentine's Day.

For February to be such a short month, we do have many holidays: Groundhog Day, Presidents Day, Valentine's Day, and this year we have Ash Wednesday in February.

For those who may not know, General Beauregard Lee, the official Southern groundhog, did see his shadow! I hope the prediction doesn't hold true for us.

The First Friday gathering was an enjoyable evening; spent with friends and neighbors at the clubhouse. In case you haven't attended a First Friday, or know what it is, let's just say it is a time for friends and neighbors in QM to get together for an evening of visiting and getting acquainted and/or renewing friendships.

No food is provided; we each bring snacks and beverages to be shared. Plan to join us on March 1.

Last Monday night we were privileged to have Nita Nelson, Volunteer Coordinator, from Interfaith Emergency Services with us.

Ms. Nelson gave us an overview of the services provided by this organization. Interfaith does not receive government



Quail Meadow
Carolyn Slocumb

funds to run this service; support is from Marion County churches, various civic organizations, and private individuals. They depend on volunteers for most of their work – they only have three paid employees. They have a shelter for women and children, transitional housing for 33 individuals, provide food, clothing, and medical supplies for those in need, and also offer classes in parenting, budgeting, and nutrition.

Plans are under way for a "tent city" to provide more shelters for the homeless. They provide 1,400 children in Marion County with backpacks of food each week. The backpacks contain 12 meals per child.

The cost of this project is \$3,000 to \$4,000 each week. Sales from the Interfaith Thrift Store provide the funds

needed for prescription medications for the needy. They are happy to receive donations at any time.

The High Five campaign has been very successful. Ms. Nelson said in addition to food items, they can always use personal hygiene supplies; she suggested donating the little bottles of shampoo, etc. always found in hotels. Quail Meadow residents have always been very generous in giving to this organization.

There is a collection box in the clubhouse for items you wish to contribute. John and Mary Zdarsky deliver the items to Interfaith each week.

Red Hatters don't forget the Chocolates and Champagne party on Saturday at 1 p.m.

If you want to keep up with what's going on in the community, go to Quail Meadow Community News on Facebook. There you will see pictures from past events and reminders of what's coming in the future.

The Comfort Care committee is available if you or anyone you know in the neighborhood who might need assistance with transportation to appointments, or perhaps just a friendly visit. Contact Marion Gartman for more information.



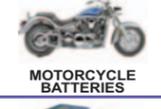
The recent First Friday gathering at the Quail Meadow Clubhouse.



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Nita Nelson, volunteer coordinator from Interfaith Emergency Services, gave an overview of the services provided by her organization.



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