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VOLUME 6, NUMBER 51
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2013

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PHOTOS BY JIM CLARK

George Albright Car Show

The third annual George Albright Car Show took place Saturday, March 16, at the McPherson Complex in Ocala. Above, military vehicles were on display. Below left, Ken Bedsock's red 2000 Corvette, and below, right, a 1903 Oldsmobile owned by Richard Richert. For more photos of this annual show, please turn to Page 6.

March of Dimes golf tourney at Ocala Palms Saturday, March 23

A golf benefit for the March of Dimes will take place on Saturday, March 23, at Ocala Palms Golf and Country Club. Registration is at 7:30 a.m. and there will be a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast and lunch included.

There will be a Hyundai Sonata, EZGO Golf Cart and $1 million shot for a man and a woman.

Cost is $75 for a non-member and $50 for members. Make checks payable to March of Dimes. There will be tickets sold for mulligans, raffles and a silent auction.

A pairing party will be held Friday, March 22, at the Hilton from 5 to 8 p.m. There will be a cash bar and free food and a small silent auction.

For information call 352-690-1643.

Wildland Task Force warns about outdoor burning

The Multi-agency Wildland Task Force met on March 11, and while it has not recommended a mandatory burn ban, officials are encouraging residents to refrain from outside burning.

Weeks of extremely dry conditions and high fire activity made a mandatory burn ban a consideration at Monday's meeting. However, the task force instead opted for a voluntary burn ban, as forecasted rain may improve conditions.

As of March 11, some areas within the county bordered the drought index's severe drought range. On a scale of 0-800, 62 percent of the county fell within the 400-500 range with the average at 476; some areas registered as high as 617. Officials also noted burn piles that got out of control have caused many of the county's recent brush fires.

Due to the current dry conditions, the task force encourages residents to postpone burning and instead take yard debris to the Marion County Landfill (5601 S.E. 66th St., Ocala) or one of the county's other 17 recycling centers. Locations and hours of operation for these centers are available online at http://www.marioncountyfl.org/solidwaste.htm.

Irish eyes are smiling

Green was the color of the day, although it was 24 hours early, as St. Patrick's Day was celebrated in downtown Ocala on the Square. At the left are some of the items for sale, mostly green, of course, at one of the many vendors spread out in the area. Maybe the only Irish eyes that weren't smiling belonged to the young man at the right, who is seen plunging into the dunk tank after the ball, on the ground at the right, hit the target about halfway up the screen. Large crowds packed the area to celebrate the upcoming holiday.

PHOTOS BY JIM CLARK

Quail Meadow celebrates the first day of spring

Quail Meadow

Carolyn Slocumb

Today (March 20) is the first day of spring! Wednesday, March 20, is the vernal equinox, which marks the first day of spring in the northern hemisphere; vernal meaning "of or pertaining to spring," equinox meaning "equal night." As the angle of the earth's inclination toward the sun changes throughout the year, lengthening or shortening the days according to season and hemisphere, there are two times annually when day and night are of more-or-less equal length - the spring and autumn equinoxes. These celestial tipping points have been observed for thousands of years and given rise to a considerable body of seasonal folklore.

One such folklore custom is that an egg can be stood on end, without falling, on this day. Many years ago when I was teaching, my students wanted to try this. They did with success. Our scientists say this has nothing to do with the equinox, but my students thought it was a great "homework" assignment.

Twenty women from Quail Meadow enjoyed lunch at The Olive Garden last week. It was great to see some who haven't been with us for a few months – Patty Schettine and her mother, Audrey Hall. On April 12 we will have lunch at the new restaurant in our neighborhood – Darrell's Dog Gone Good Diner. Plan now to join us for lunch.

Springtime also means "yard sale" time. This is the time to clean out closets, garages, and other storage places. This is a good thing! What you no longer need, may be the very thing someone is trying to find. Well, Saturday, April 6 is the day to put out those items and let them find a new home. This is the day of the Quail Meadow Annual Spring Yard Sale.

We are now in the season of several religious holidays. The first celebration is the Jewish Passover. Passover begins on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan, the first month of the Hebrew calendar. This date corresponds in the

Please see QUAIL, *Page* 11

Marion Gartman, Pat Tobin, Patty Schettine and Audrey Hall at Ladies Luncheon.

Mary Martha Collins (head of table), Elaine Barberis, Jeannie Kane.

Recycling helps hospitalized children

You can help the children at the Shriners Children's Hospital in Tampa just by recycling your newspapers and magazines.

Please recycle your papers and magazines — just drop them off at the canteen in VFW Post 4781, 9401 S.W. 110th St., across from the entrance to Oak Run. They will be picked up every Wednesday. We thank you for helping.

Meals on Wheels is shy on drivers

There is a great need for volunteer drivers at the main Meals on Wheels site in the Ocala area, especially in Oak Run. Even two hours of time will help deliver meals to homebound seniors.

For more information, call Stan Magen at 873-3433.

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Happenings

Wednesday, March 20

Interfaith women to meet

"Empathy – is it hardwired in humans or can it be developed?" Rev. Peggy Hostetler, newly elected president of The Interfaith Alliance of Marion County, will examine the capacity of pre-schoolers to develop empathy for others when she addresses the organization's next potluck luncheon "women's gathering" which will take place Wednesday, March 20 , at the Unity Church, 101 Cedar Road, in Silver Springs Shores.

Doors at the church will open at 11:30 a.m. with the formal program concluding at 1 p.m.

Rev. Hostetler has selected her topic as a facet of The Charter for Compassion, the organization's theme for 2013. Development of this document was spearheaded by Karen Armstrong and other leading thinkers in an effort to activate adherence to the Golden Rule in cultures and religions throughout the world.

The pastor of the Oakbrook Center for Spiritual Living wants to encourage children to become altruistic adults who buy shoes for a homeless man on a freezing night, or rush to lift a commuter pushed onto the subway tracks as the train nears rather than those whose callous behavior leads to the bullying and disdain for the "other" which afflicts so many raised only to be princes and princesses of all they survey.

Betty Jean Wochinski, secretary-treasurer of The Interfaith Alliance and member of the Unity Church, is hostess for the event. Please telephone her at 352-680-9296 or visit www.TIAMarionCountyFL.org to RSVP or for more information.

Thursday, March 21

Air Force group to meet

The March meeting of the Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 of the Air Force Association (AFA) will be held on Thursday, March 21 at 7 p.m. at the Ocala Regional Airport Administration Building, 750 S.W. 60th Ave., Ocala.

Guests are always welcome.

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

Friday, March 22

Lions Club offers casino trip

The Ocala 200 Lions Club is having a Seminole Hard Rock Casino trip on Friday, March 22.

The bus will leave at 8 a.m. from the Winn-Dixie, old Porter's store, parking lot on State Road 200, Ocala.

The cost is $30 per person but each person is given a $30 casino reimbursement.

Make checks payable to the Ocala 200 Lions Club.

Reservation deadline is March 13.

For more information call Diane Melnick, 352-861-2730 or email her at, melnick8350@aol.com

Saturday, March 23

Book sale to benefit wildlife

A book sale to benefit the Ocala Wildlife Sanctuary will be held Saturday, March 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Winn-Dixie, 8445 S.W. State Road 200, Ocala.

Also, bring your aluminum cans for recycling.

For further information, call 352-291-1962.

Saddle Oak Club yard sale

The Saddle Oak Club will hold its annual yard sale on Saturday, March 23, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the development on State Road 200 across from Heath Brook

The yard sale will be in the clubhouse and on clubhouse grounds by all the community residents.

Breakfast will be served with sandwiches and coffee.

Lunch will be soup and sandwiches.

There will also be a bake sale. The event is open to the public.

Tuesday, March 26

Breast Cancer group to meet

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

Our meeting on March 26 will be a presentation by Cammy Dennis, Fitness Director at On Top of the World Communities. Her talk will be on "Brain Health." If you have any questions please call Gail Tirpak at 352-291-6904.

Friday, March 29

Easter eggs, plants at Hawthorne

Hawthorne Village, 4100 S.W. 33rd Ave., Ocala, will be having its semi-annual plant sale on March 29 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. All plants, herbs, and vegetable plants are $1. Also on March 29 from 10 a.m. to noon we will be holding an Easter egg hunt, free pictures with the Easter Bunny, and face painting. It will be a day of fun for the whole family.

Saturday, March 30

Marion Landing community yard sale

The annual Marion Landing Community Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, March 30, from 8 a.m. to noon in the Lifestyle Center parking lot.

There will be more than 40 tables set up selling many interesting items. The Lifestyle Center is located on Southwest 65th Avenue Road, just off State Road 200 across from Queen of Peace church. Free and open to the public.

Read the classifieds

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Religion

Temple B'nai Darom

Temple B'nai Darom will hold a traditional first seder on Monday evening, March 25 at Silver Springs Restaurant, 5300 E. Silver Springs Blvd. The seder will be conducted by Rabbi Sherman Stein. The cost is $28.50 per person which includes a full seder dinner with choice of brisket or salmon. All reservations must be received by Friday, March 15. For reservations or additional information please contact Micki Hirsch at 352-624-9563.

Christ's Church of Marion County

Sunday, March 31: It is Easter! The Worship Service, at 10:30 a.m., will be our choir's presentation of "Eyes of Faith" an Easter Musical featuring the resurrecton of Jesus Christ. The day begins with Easter Breakfast at 9 a.m. followed by Easter Sunday School Classes at 9:30 a.m.

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

Our Redeemer Lutheran

Join us for Casual with Christ every Saturday at 5 p.m., beginning March 9. This will be a casual service with modern music. Youth bible study follows.

Free English classes

College Road Baptist Church, 5010 S.W. College Road, continues teaching ESL

(English as Second Language) each Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m.

Classes are free, as is child care, and youth programs. Assistance with applying for citizenship is also offered. Enroll any Wednesday evening.

Call 352-854-6981, or 352-237-5641 for more information.

Countryside Presbyterian Church

Palm Sunday

Countryside Presbyterian Church will hold a special communion service with palm processional lead by Rev. Gary Marshall for Palm Sunday on March 24 at 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

Countryside Presbyterian Church will hold a Tenebrae Service "service of shadows" with communion at 7:00 p.m on March 28 led by the Rev. Gary Marshall.

Good Friday

Countryside Presbyterian Church will hold a noon service on Good Friday, March 29 recalling Jesus' crucifixion with the Rev. Gary Marshall officiating.

Easter Sunday

Celebratory Worship Service with communion at 10:30 a.m. on March 31 at Countryside Presbyterian Church, 7768 S.W. State Road 200, Ocala with Pastor Gary Marshall officiating. The Chancel and Handbell choirs will perform.

For further information, please call the church office at 352-237-4633.

Joy Lutheran Church

On Maundy Thursday, March 28, at 6:45 p.m. the worship service begins the three days of Christ's Passion. Holy Communion will be offered in memory of the Last Supper. The altar will be stripped in honor of Christ's death and at the end of service; the sanctuary lights will be dimmed and the worshipers will quietly leave.

The Seven Last Words of Christ from the Cross will be presented on Good Friday from noon to 2 p.m. There will be readings, music and meditation.

The joy of Easter Sunday (March 31) will begin at 6:30 a.m. outdoors in the Memorial Garden (weather permitting). The message will be "Amazed Where the Road Leads" (Luke 24:1-12). Two services will follow in the church sanctuary. At 8:30 a.m. the message will be "A Twist in the Road" (John 20:1-10), and at 10:30 a.m. the message will be "Jesus Leads ME on the Road" (John 20:11-18). The church will be decorated with spring flowers and the Bell and Vocal Choirs will perform at the last two services.

These Holy Week services are open to the public and all are welcome.

Joy Lutheran Church is at 7045 S.W. 83rd Place at State Road 200, Ocala. For more information call 352-854-4509 ext. 221.

Countryside at TimberRidge

Countryside Presbyterian Church provides Christian Ministry to residents of TimberRidge Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 9848 S.W. 110th St., Ocala, and holds bimonthly worship services.

If you have a loved one, or friend at the TimberRidge Center, you are invited to attend our next service on Saturday, March 23, at 10:15 a.m.

For further information, please call the church office at 352-237-4633.

Chabad-Lubavitch Jewish Center

The Chabad-Lubavitch Jewish Center of Marion County and The Villages plans to distribute handmade Shmurah Matzah this year to help local Jews participate in the upcoming Passover holiday. The Matzahs will be distributed to doctors, lawyers members of the community or upon request.

Passover, celebrated this year from Monday Night, March 25, until after nightfall on Tuesday, April 2, the exodus of the Jews from Egypt some 3,000 years ago. Directed by God to leave Egypt hastily, the people of Israel could not wait for their dough to rise, and thus ate unleavened crackers called "Matzah." To celebrate the Exodus, Jews gather for festive "Seder" dinners on March 25 and 26, and abstain from eating, or even owning or benefiting from, any leavened substance such as bread and pasta.

"Shmurah" literally means "watched" Matzah. From the moment the wheat is harvested, until the time it is baked, the ingredients are carefully watched to ensure that they do not come into contact with anything that could cause them to become leavened, which would be prohibited on Passover. Shmurah Matzahs are round, kneaded and shaped by hand, similar to the Matzahs that the Jews ate when leaving Egypt over 3,000 years ago. It is therefore appropriate to use Shmurah Matzah during Passover, at least on each of the two Seder nights.

The local effort is part of a global campaign by the Chabad-Lubavitch movement to increase holiday awareness and participation. According to estimates provided by Lubavitch World Headquarters in Brooklyn, New York, over four million hand-baked Shmurah Matzahs will be distributed by the Chabad movement this year. In addition, millions of Passover guides in 17 languages will educate people on the meaning and practices of the holiday.

"The Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory, taught that no solitary Jewish person ought to be left out. Every Jew, regardless of their background, affiliation or even location, should have access to the provisions they need to celebrate Passover," said Rabbi Yossi Hecht from the Chabad-Lubavitch Jewish Center of Marion County. "There are Chabad emissaries across the globe are working feverishly to provide Jews with Matzahs, holiday guides and much more,"

To learn more about Passover, make reservations for the seder, or for further information, please contact Rabbi Yossi or Chanie at 352-291-2218 or email info@jewishmarion.org or visit our website at www.JewishMarion.org.

Reflections Church

We at Reflections Church are looking forward to seeing new friends and neighbors, along with our current ones, at our March 24 Family Fun Day.

There will be the worship service at 10:17 am, where child care, kid's church and nursery will be available.

Starting at noon and going until 2 p.m. is when the fun and games will take place.

An Easter Egg Hunt, along with games and concession stands, will also be available. Proceeds from the concessions will help fund the "Reflex Students" trip to camp this summer.

Hop on over to the Citrus Springs Middle School on Sunday, March 24 to join in the fun. There might even be some other surprises!

Episcopal Church of the Advent

The Episcopal Church of the Advent on County Road 484 in Dunnellon (by the Firehouse) is happy to report that we have again an active Episcopal Church Women (ECW) group at our church. Our role is to help support the ministries of Advent Church, both with our time (actual hands-on volunteering) and talent (each one of us has a special God-given skill that we are challenged to put to His purposes).

The projects/events we plan and undertake provide us with wonderful opportunities for good fellowship among us as well as the opportunity to generate income for Advent's ministries and special fund-raising needs. For example on Friday, April 12, we are sponsoring and producing a Murder Mystery Dinner Theater. More details about this will appear in a subsequent issue of this publication.

All are always welcome to visit our church, attend one of our services or an ECW meeting to see what we're all about.

If you would like particular information about the Church of the Advent, call the office at 352-465-7272 or go to our website: adventepiscopal.net. If you would like particular information about our Episcopal Church Women, feel free to call Mary Lamp, Publicity, at 352-854-9378.

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

CONTACT INFORMATION
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Excuse me, but I've just gotta be me

Out to Pastor

Rev.. James Snyder

I refuse to answer for anybody else because it is a full-time job trying to answer for myself. I must confess though, I sometimes cannot give a good answer for myself. I can give an answer, but not a good one, and when it comes to answers, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage demands good ones.

How do you explain yourself to someone when you cannot even explain yourself to yourself?

I do not pretend to be a man of mystery, but many things about Yours Truly I certainly do not understand.

For one, I am not an actor. I want to make that very plain to all and sundry. Within the confines of my presence, are absolutely no acting skills.

I have some friends who are always acting like a fool. I am assuming they are acting and give them the benefit of the doubt. Another friend of mine at certain times acts dumb. I have known him for a very long time and I can usually tell when he is acting. By the way, he is a very good actor. Many of my friends are excellent actors and if they ever were competing for some Oscar or Emmy award, they would come pretty close to winning.

I am another story. It is very difficult for me in the area of acting. With me, what you see is what you get. I suppose when you boil it all down, I am just not smart enough to be a good actor. I am not even smart enough to be a bad actor.

Putting all of this in context, I must confess that my wife believes I am a great actor. I have tried to dissuade her from this opinion, but up to this point, I have not been successful. When she thinks of me she always says, "And the Emmy goes to..."

How she came to this point, I'm not quite sure. No matter what I do, she still holds to this personal opinion of me. I keep telling her that I am not that good of an actor, which she keeps smiling and nodding her head in my direction.

Some examples need to be given here to show my point.

Just the other night we were at a restaurant with some friends, having a good time, or so I thought. I must say when I'm on a roll, I'm on a roll.

But all during my "roll," I kept feeling somebody under the table kicking me. I ignored it thinking perhaps our friends did not quite know what they were doing. Never once did I suspicion my companion with this action. I kept rolling on.

Finally, both of them excused themselves to take a break and when they were out of listening distance, my wife said to me, "Will you stop acting so foolish?"

I looked at her, not quite knowing what she was referring to, and said quite innocently, "But, my Precious, (it's a name I use when I'm in trouble but don't know why) I'm not acting."

She gave me one of "those looks" and said, "Stop acting foolish."

This is what I admire about my wife. She has the highest opinion of my abilities particularly in the area of the thespian arts. Our friends were coming to the table when I was about to tell her I was not acting foolish, it just came natural.

Another example comes to mind.

I remember she was trying to explain something to me one time.

I do not know what it was now. It was something to do with something in the garage, a place I have not been for years, and I was not connecting the dots, as they say. She was going into a long dissertation on what needed to be done and I was just standing there staring at her. I was trying to understand what she was saying, but nothing was clicking upstairs, if you know what I mean.

In the middle of her dissertation she stopped, looked at me intensely, placed both hands on her hips and said, "Don't act so dumb."

Smiling broadly I whispered, "My Precious, I'm not acting."

With a glare that could have intimidated good old Goliath, she quipped, "I'm coming to believe you're right. You are not acting. You're just naturally dumb."

Somebody once sang a song called, "I gotta be me" which has become my theme song. What you see is what you get, when you are dealing with me. I am not smart enough to act and I am too old to play. Therefore, it all boils down to this one thing, I am what I am, like it or lump it.

I do not like it when people pretend to be something they are not. I want people to be real with me.

This is doubly true with my relationship with God.

He is honest with me and I want to be absolutely honest with him.

"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?" (1 John 4:20 KJV).

Many people say they love God and yet it is all an act. It is easy to love somebody you cannot see but hard to love a brother right in front of you.

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 jamessnyder2@att.net. His web site is www.jamessnyderministries.com.

SPCA: Next meeting is Thursday

BY MARIA DEVINE

Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, March 21, at 1 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room at the Bank of the Ozarks and we are pleased to announce that our guest speaker will be Dr. Ed from A Family Veterinarian. His practice is located in Jasmine Plaza at 7466 S.W. 60th Ave. For those of you who work during the week, or have other commitments, A Family Veterinarian is open on weekends. Since our meetings are always open to guests; this would be a good opportunity for you to meet Dr. Ed and hear about his new clinic. Please give us a call at 352-362-0985 if you would like more information about our meetings or have any other questions for us.

At our last meeting everyone agreed that we should meet all year round since we work all year round. So starting this summer, we will meet in July and August.

We are still looking for individuals or families willing to foster a dog or cat in need from time to time. Please call us at the above number and we will put you on our list. Sometimes we only need a foster for a few days while we reunite a lost pet with their family. Other times it may be a few weeks to a few months while we find an adoptive home. In either case, you will be doing a wonderful service for your community.

Be on the lookout for the SPCA's used book sale to be held at the Farmer's Market at Circle Square Commons outside of On Top of the World Communities by Southwest 80th Avenue and Southwest 80th Street. We're trying to have one each month when the cooking demo, "Flavors of the Season" takes place. They are held on the first Thursday of each month from 10 to 10:30 a.m. The Farmers

Please see SPCA, *Page* 11

Read the classifieds

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Wonderful surprise at FFV's Home of the Month

Fairfield Village

Priscilla Geissal

I recently visited with the owner of Fairfield Village's Home of the Month for March. What a delightful surprise was in store for me when I met the owner, Floyd Gorham!

I am sorry to say that although I have lived in FFV for almost four years, I had never formally met one of my "up the street" neighbors. When I went by his lovely home to see if I could get some information about him, I was so pleased to meet and get to know this exceptional gentleman.

Granted, I had waved to him, and he had always waved in return or vice versa; however, we had never been introduced. Since I am certainly not known for shyness, Floyd seemed perfectly at ease when I knocked on his door and told him the reason for my intrusion into his day. Obviously, Floyd has no shyness issues either and was quite open to my coming back another day for an interview. Therefore, we set up a time when I would return with my well-worn camera and notepad.

The next morning I ventured forth to visit with a new "friend." The exterior of his home is just as beautifully well kept on all four sides. Each side has a focus with something unique to catch one's envious eye. If my front yard were to be as neatly kept as Floyd's side and back yard..well I would expect Better Homes and Gardens' editors to be knocking at my door.

There are photos accompanying that show that my descriptive adjectives could not do justice to the landscaping. Even the mailboxes next to his home have been given design treatment that makes them extraordinary. It is more than obvious that Floyd works daily to maintain such a lovely home.

I was surprised in the best possible way when he cordially invited me into his lovely home. Floyd has a home unlike any I have entered in all my visits with people in my community. The spotlessly customized interior was filled with music, and Floyd demonstrated such talent and expertise that I was totally mesmerized.

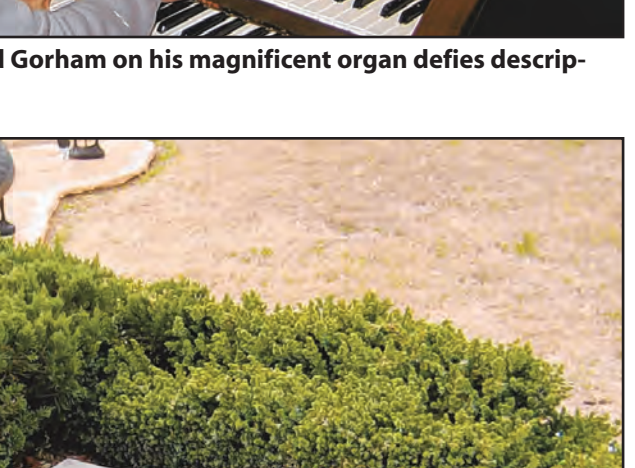
Yes, I love music; but this was much more than anyone would have expected in a relatively modest home in our community. There was a beautiful piano, but even though the delightful music that Floyd makes to come from that wonderful instrument was totally secondary to the extraordinary sounds that come from his unbelievable pipe organ. It could only be described as phenomenal!

I had heard from others of our neigh-

Please see FAIRFIELD, *Page* 10

The music created by Floyd Gorham on his magnificent organ defies description. It is awesome!

Who would believe that a water meter could be camouflaged so beautifully?



The detailed model of the TITANIC is placed on a shelf close to the ceiling to avoid the curiosity of Floyd's precocious cat.

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More scenes from the car show at the McPherson Complex

This is a 1969 Chevrolet owned by Butch Etheridge.

A blue 1960 Morris Minor belongs to Wayne and Sally Turner.

Donald Beebe's 1947 Ford pickup

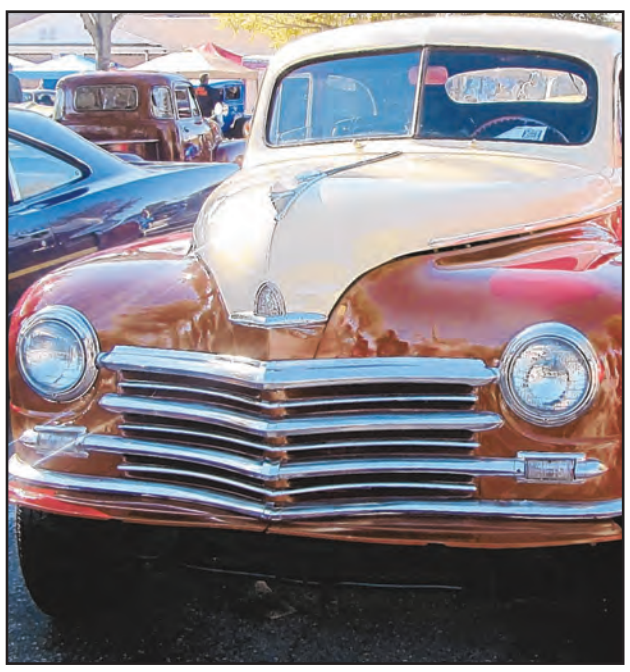
The hood decor on a 1966 Geo Phaeton from Michael Martino.

Mike Scroggie's 1972 Chevy.

Photos by Jim Clark

A 1993 Mercury from the Marion County Sheriff's Dept.

A 1957 Chevy belonging to Brian Geoghegan.



Jim Little of Belleview's 1947 Plymouth.

Linda O'Brien and Sandy Sander did face-painting.

This was one of the colorful vendor booths.

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

Opinion

Our Message

Keep Florida in the sunshine

Florida's sunshine is something the state brags about in all its tourist brochures and advertising. We're called the "Sunshine State" for a reason.

But last week we celebrated a different kind of sunshine, one that many people take advantage of without realizing what kind of battles go on around it. We're talking about Florida's open government laws, commonly called the Sunshine Law.

First, there are two basic laws, and they are different. The open meeting law requires that advance notice be given and that a meeting be open to the public whenever two or more members of a board get together to discuss that board's business.

The law applies to elected officials, according to statute, and any boards that they may have appointed.

Editorial

Second is the public records law, which states that most documents that involve the government's business are open to the public.

While the open meeting law is the one that gets the most attention, especially when there is an alleged violation, it's the public records law that gets used the most.

The state over the years, since the 1967 updating of the laws, has passed several amendments in attempts to weaken the law, but it's still a tough piece of legislation.

There are some things to remember. Most importantly, people have to know who is responsible for keeping the public documents and releasing them upon request. Last year, for instance, we were inundated with letters to the County Commission's individual members demanding some public records on homeowners associations. Unfortunately, commissioners are not responsible for keeping, or releasing, such documents. The clerk is. That doesn't mean they can't release the information, but they can choose to refer the requests to the proper people.

Second, people need to know exactly what they are looking for. The government is not mandated to provide information for what is commonly called "fishing expeditions." If you want a public record, you need to be specific.

Third, and this is on the public's side, there is no requirement that a

Please see EDITORIAL, *Page* 10

WEST MARION
Messenger
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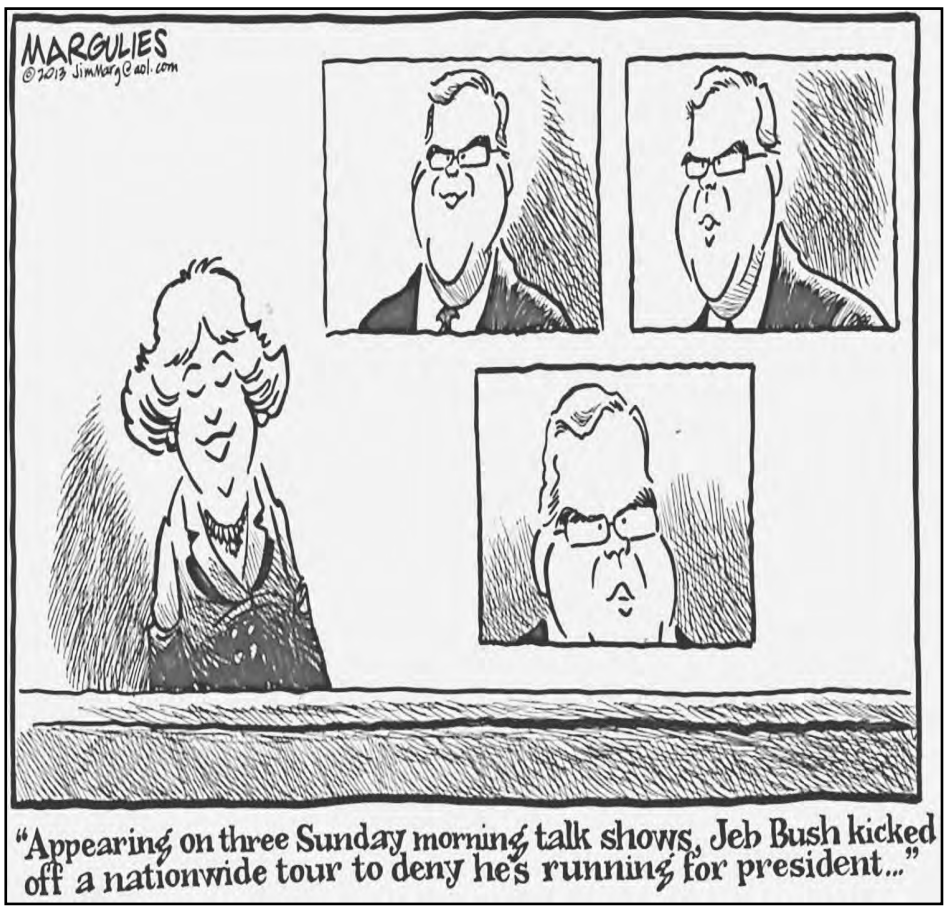
JIM CLARK



Want to vote? Prove you're a U.S. citizen

Among Friends
Jim Clark

Recently, I had to renew my driver's license. I gathered together my material, including my birth certificate, to prove my citizenship, and went to the local office. Except for being forced to get new glasses, which was probably overdue, it went smoothly.

This week, the U.S. Supreme Court was scheduled to take up an Arizona case which involved voter registration.

In 2004, Congress passed a registration law, commonly called the "Motor Voter Act," which mandated, among other things, that people had to be given the opportunity to register to vote when getting a driver's license.

Arizona went a step further, requiring proof of citizenship before you could register to vote.

That brought a howl of protest from civil rights groups, immigration groups, etc.

I don't understand why.

If the law says you have to be a U.S. citizen to vote, why shouldn't you have to prove it? This is just another step to prevent voter fraud. Nothing more, nothing less. But the conspiracy theorists see a plot in every regulation.

Naturalized citizens can show their papers. It's a little more difficult for them, since it apparently is illegal to copy those papers, but it's not impossible. If government was smart (there's a thought), it would register new citizens to vote at the time they take their oath. It would be a "Motor Voter" law without the motors.

There are only five states that have this requirement, and Florida is not one of them. But if the Supreme Court upholds the Arizona law, maybe it would be wise for Florida to consider this law.

I've always been a little annoyed when they made me show a photo ID to vote, but I realized it's designed to prevent fraud. And since you have to show proof of citizenship to get a driver's license, which is the most common type of photo ID, I have no problem with that.

Voter fraud is what made politics get a bad name, especially decades ago in places such as New York and Chicago. The joke, of course, was that people were told to "vote early and vote often."

Frankly, I wouldn't be surprised if the high court overturned the Arizona law …that seems to be what they do best, is vote against common sense.

A decision is expected sometime in July. Maybe I'll be surprised, but I'm not holding my breath.

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 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 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.

Your letters

Money problem solved

We are told government needs more money, even though we are taking in more taxes than ever before. This fact supports our not raising taxes on any individual or business. It does mean we have to face the reality that we are spending too much, so the only answer is to cut spending. We don't even have to cut worthwhile programs, we can save billions by getting rid of the following:

No more benefits for any illegal, period! No more food stamps, free housing, free medical care, or tax refunds (how can anyone by definition get a refund when they don't pay in anything?) . This also applies to anyone who gets these "refunds" without paying taxes. We have to stop making it so attractive to live off others, and insist on individual responsibility. This obviously doesn't apply to the truly needy, it applies to those who "work" the system so successfully they are often better off than the average worker.

Stop paying for unwed mothers' doctor and hospital bills! Demand she give the name of the father and hold him and his family responsible. Not only will this save tax dollars, it will cut down on illegitimate births. Too many young men are walking away from these new born babies, so don't allow it to happen. It simply means, you play, you pay.

Don't expect others to pay your way. I don't ask you to pay for me, don't force me to pay for you. That's not charity, it's theft! It is easy to support government "freebees" when using someone else's money. For example, if you want someone to have free health care, you pay for it and deduct it as a charitable deduction. That is charity!

We will go bankrupt if we don't stop spending money we don't have, and I admit I don't know how bad it will be when this happens. Today's America is not the land I grew up in, we wanted freedom more than security, and we believed in individual responsibility.

Wayne Rackley
Ocala

Weighing in on guns

OK, so I'll weigh in on guns. I don't own a gun and I have never fired one that didn't begin with the words cap or water. In fact I have passed on the opportunity to hunt because hunting should be left those with experience.

I grew up in Brooklyn and worked in Manhattan from 1957 to 1980. I do not recall ever hearing a shot being fired in those 40 years. I did have several bombs go off within earshot. The anti-war and anti-oil people at work. These events were so common that they were rarely reported in the news. Then there were the many events where whole neighborhoods were burned to the ground by race rioters. Those neighborhoods were allowed to burn because the police and fire responders were under attack from rooftops by anything that wasn't nailed down. Guns need not apply.

Next I lived in the Chicago area. Nothing has changed in the 30 plus years since then. Ten people a week are murdered in Chicago. I doubt any are killed by legally owned guns. The only thing that will stop the killing is for the police to wade in with guns blazing. That, of course is not an option.

It pleases me that many of my current neighbors are proficient in the use of handguns. I hope prospective felons are paying attention.

Bill Riola
Ocala

Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) This is the week to finish your project and then bask in your well-earned approval. (And if you like, you also can say "bah" to all those detractors.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) The bold Bovine could find a new opportunity too intriguing to be ignored. But don't charge into it. Go slowly so you see how things develop as you get more involved.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might try to soften your stand on that important issue. A little more flexibility actually could get you what you're looking for. A new friend enters the picture mid-week.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your inner voice is on the mark when it advises you to tackle that family problem now! The sooner you're able to come to terms with it, the better it will be for everyone.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Someone reveals important news about a long-time associate. But before you decide how to deal with this information, make sure it's reliable, and not simply self-serving.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Some intensive soul-searching early in the week can help you reach a decision by week's end that should please both you and the other person involved. Good luck.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) The possibility of a career change is intriguing. Learn more about what it can offer and what it cannot. Weigh everything. And ask questions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Work is your priority this week as you try to make up for lost time. Expect help from someone who cares about you. Things take a welcome turn by the weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A health problem causes some anxiety early in the week. But prompt medical attention soon eases everyone's concerns. Enjoy an arts-filled weekend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) As much as you might resent it, a changing situation could require you to adjust your plans accordingly. The good news: An associate agrees to cooperate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) That old problem is finally resolved, just in time for you to take on a new work-related project. This one could be the super door-opener you've been looking for.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) The early part of the week presents some difficult hurdles. But once you get over them, you can start to focus on matters that are more important to you.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are respected for your honesty and your dedication to doing the right thing, no matter how difficult that might be.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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		9			4	3		

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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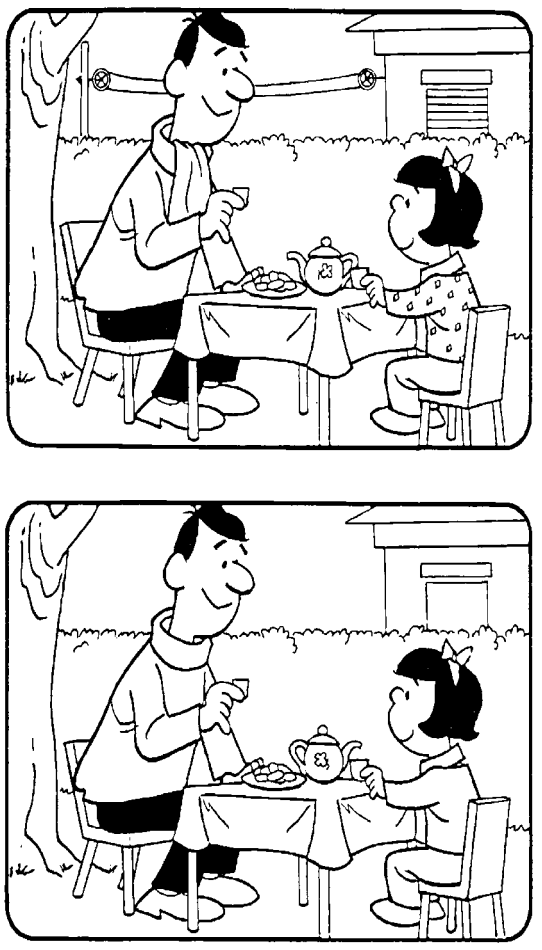
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



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CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

DIFFERENCES: 1. Clothesline is missing. 2. Chair is lower. 3. Napkin is missing. 4. Teapot is reversed. 5. Blind is missing. 6. Sweater design is missing.

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

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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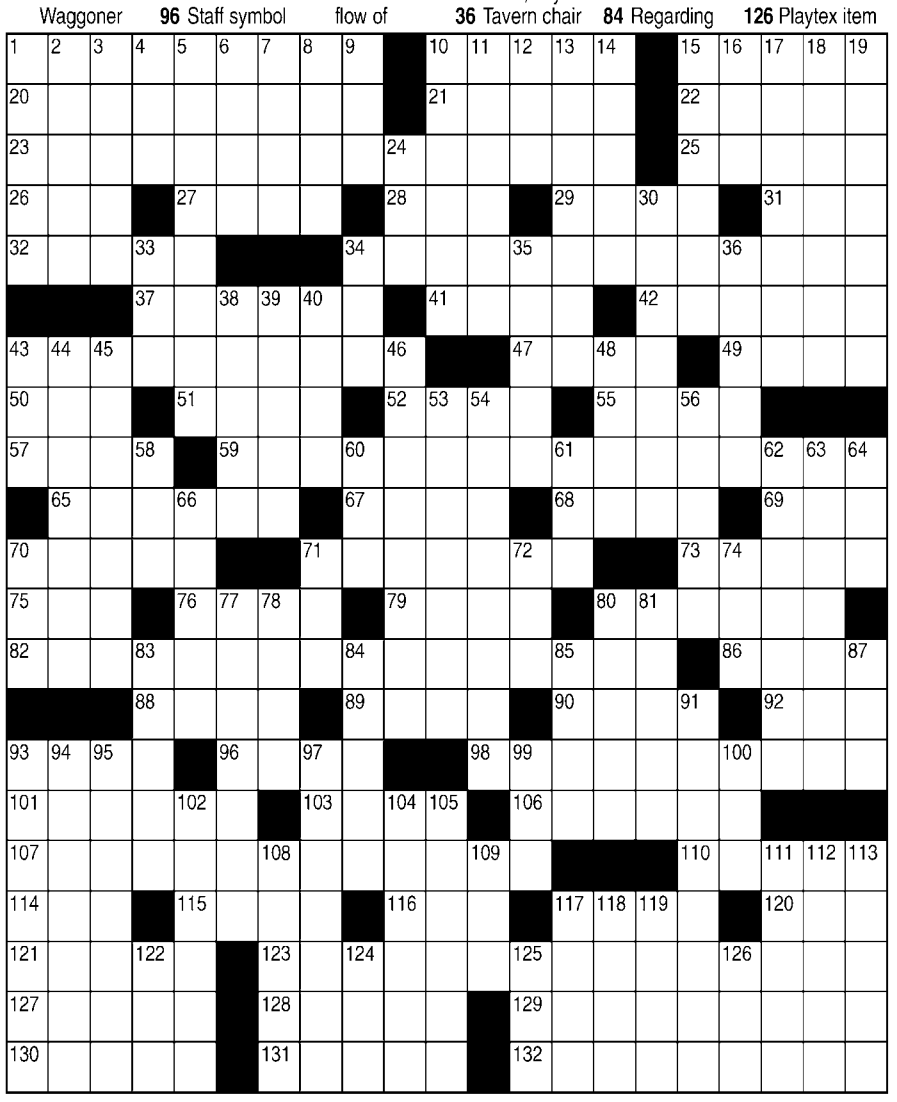
Super Crossword

WILLIAM VII

ACROSS
1 Dilapidated condition
10 Hawaii-born U.S. president
15 Acute
20 Unlike death and taxes?
21 Marsh bird
22 One healing
23 Former Philippine president going around something?
25 Baseballer Pee Wee
26 "A," in Arles
27 Scriptwriter Ephron
28 "— minute!"
29 Mambo king Puente
31 Had food
32 "Who Said Gay —?" (song from "Can-Can")
34 Tender of Andean animals?
37 Lummox
41 — -mell
42 Many-acred home
43 Things keeping baby sheep from straying?
47 Actor Waggoner
49 Newspaper opinion piece
50 Prefix that means "egg"
51 Caustic cleaners
52 Zaragoza's river
55 — buco (veal meal)
57 Spilled the beans
59 Medusa's activity?
65 Not open
67 At the acme
68 See
69 Cow noise
70 Proclaims, biblically
71 Wicked
73 High-tech greeting
75 Flurry
76 "Friday Night Fights" airer
79 Idi of infamy
80 Car houser
82 People trying out covered wagons?
86 Turn to mush
88 Hammered item
89 Word repeated after "qué"
90 Big name in synthesizers
92 HDTV brand
93 Walked
96 Staff symbol
98 Silky fabric worn by a primate?
101 Stop up again, as a wine bottle
103 "S'il — plait"
106 Portable PC
107 Be cleverer than a famed candy man?
110 Ivy League Philly sch.
114 Simple card game
115 Spot for a mail slot
116 67-Across, in poetry
117 Neighbor of N. Dak.
120 "— do not!"
121 Conveyed via a conduit
123 They're hidden in seven long answers in this puzzle
127 Pianist's exercise
128 "The stage —"
129 Absolve
130 Turf again
131 Unfeeling
132 Velodrome competitions

DOWN
1 Block the flow of
2 A former Mrs. Trump
3 More tender
4 Singer Ocasek
5 He played TV's Al Bundy
6 Old El — (taco brand)
7 Shortened form, for short
8 Kovalchuk of the NHL
9 Salesperson, for short
10 Response to a great retort
11 "— Mucho" (1944 #1 hit)
12 Meyers of the screen
13 Every 30 days or so
14 Hollywood's Dickinson
15 Young haddocks
16 Color tone
17 Hiker's guide
18 Paraphrase
19 Dressed up fussily
24 Suffer
30 Sticky pine product
33 Diminish
34 Zodiac beast
35 Sterling silver, say
36 Tavern chair
38 Singer Crystal
39 Plant — of doubt
40 "Hey ... you"
43 Ton
44 Guacamole base
45 Hundred cubed
46 One next to you on a plane, e.g.
48 Soft throws
53 Plant that flowers
54 Act of retaliation
56 More cunning
58 Point
60 Hokey actor
61 Wiggling fish
62 Mental pictures
63 Electric razor brand
64 The Almighty
66 The Beatles' "— Woman"
70 Baglike part
71 Verb suffix
72 Pantry raider
74 Vid shooter
77 Stay with, as a decision
78 Gallup —
80 Aggregation
81 After — (kind of)
83 Fund
84 Regarding
85 Samms or Watson
87 Khaki
91 Fly ball's antithesis
93 Touring actor
94 Bring back together
95 Ink squirter
97 Earth's highest peak
99 Tarzan actor Ron
100 PC software
102 Relieved (of)
104 Golf tourney
105 Kind of pony or pooch
108 Pueblo builders
109 Prior to, in poetry
111 Computer of the 1940s
112 Nick of "Affliction"
113 Butler on "The Nanny"
117 Skirt type
118 "How are you?" reply
119 Goose of Hawaii
122 Tokyo, previously
124 Bear, in Madrid
125 Neighbor of S. Dak.
126 Playtex item



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Average time of solution: 63 minutes.

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.

	×		+		19
+		÷		×	
	−		×		10
×		+		+	
	×		+		22
22		10		9	

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 3 4 5 6 6 8 9

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EDITORIAL FAIRFIELD

continued from Page 8

person identify themselves to get a public record. "Public" means public. If an office official asks for your ID, and if the material is important to you, you should ask to see a supervisor, and if that isn't successful, get an attorney.

There are a couple of positive bills and some negative ones filed in the Legislature this session. Keep an eye on them. You should make sure that public records continue to be open to all. If your legislators fail you, and don't worry, we'll let you know, then you should take it out on them …at the ballot box the next time around.

continued from Page 6

bors that this extremely talented gentleman produces musical miracles that would rival those of masters in great halls, but I had no idea just how unbelievable his talent and his virtuosity really would be. As mundane as this might sound, the word that came to my mind over and over was simply, "WOW!"

As it turns out, Floyd's musical enthusiasm is also rivaled by his engineering expertise.

He has a degree in Electrical Engineering and worked for a number of years for E-One designing electrical systems for firefighting equipment.

Although he "officially" retired in January of 2011, Floyd stayed on for three extra months to finish projects that he had been working on.

That fact did not surprise me because it is so obvious that he puts his heart into every project he tackles whether that be at home or as a part of his professional career.

By asking some pointed questions, I found out some very interesting background information from this unassuming neighbor.

Floyd is originally from Saginaw, Michigan but moved to Miami (Hialeah area) in 1953. His electrical engineering degree is from Florida Atlantic.

All of his life, he has been interested in music playing the drums, guitar, and accordion along with the piano and organ. His grandmother was "instrumental" in his love for the organ and he got his first one in 1964,

Floyd studied music for four years with a wonderful master (Mr. Heaston in Hialeah) whose degree was from the Vienna School of Music.

In addition to his engineering career, Floyd enjoyed his musical interests by doing some professional music "gigs" as well. He played the organ for the Presbyterian Church of Hollywood Hills, Florida, the famed Hollywood Roller Skating Rink, the Eastern Air Lines 702 Lounge, and for the Wemetco Palm Springs Theater …just to name a few.

I noticed some very interesting photos, plaques, and trophies and was quite interested to find that Floyd was also a roller skating champion as well.

I am still trying to figure out how he has had the time to develop all his many interests and talents.

A beautifully intricate model of the Titanic revealed his model making ability as well.

What else does he do? Custom designs all over his home show that his interests are unlimited. The completely redesigned cabinetry in this kitchen is unique and exceptional.

I was so inspired by his artistry and creativity that I wanted to go home and start a project immediately.

I had a fantastic morning being treated to a private concert. I could not have even imagined in my wildest dreams that such beautiful music would be possible in a private home.

I am trying to encourage Floyd to open all his windows and doors and treat our entire neighborhood to an "indoor-outdoor musical concert" on some Saturday or Sunday afternoon or early evening.

What a treat that would be for all of FFV!

We could become even more "lively and lovely" with Floyd Gorham's musical entertainment as we welcome springtime to Fairfield Village.

Read the classifieds

This week's puzzle answers

Go Figure!

answers

3	×	6	+	1	19
+		÷		×	
8	–	6	×	5	10
×		+		+	
2	×	9	+	4	22
22		10		9	

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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QUAIL

continued from Page 2

month of March or April as per the Gregorian calendar. Hence, Passover is also considered a spring festival which begins on the night of the full moon after the Vernal Equinox falling on the 14th day of Nisan.

Another tradition followed by the Jews is that the Nisan month would not start until the barley gets ripe. Passover this year begins at sundown on March 25 and ends April 2. This is a very sacred Jewish holiday. The first and last days of the Passover week are considered the most important. In the Orthodox and Conservative Jewish communities, no work is performed on those days. Passover is a Jewish holy day that commemorates the escape of the Hebrew (Israelite) people from enslavement in Egypt.

The book of Exodus tells of the ten plagues that YHWH (God) inflicted upon the Egyptians before Pharaoh would release his Hebrew slaves. The last plague was the killing of all of the firstborn sons, including Pharaoh's son. The Hebrew people were instructed to mark the doorposts of their homes with the blood of a spring lamb. Upon seeing this mark, the Spirit of the Lord passed over these homes without killing the first born sons – hence, the term, "Passover".

When Pharaoh freed the Israelites, they left in such a hurry; they couldn't wait for the bread to rise. In commemoration of this, during the Passover week, no leavened bread is eaten. In Jewish homes, the Passover Seder (meal) is observed on the first night.

This is a very special meal with required foods prepared to be eaten along with the required (4) cups of wine. It is also necessary for a member of the family to recount the story of the Exodus from Egypt. For more on this event in history, read the book of Exodus in the Bible.

Jan Johnson and Pat Talley.

SPCA

continued from Page 5

Market itself lasts from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. You can visit the website at www.CircleSquareCommonsFarmersMarket.com for more information. Our books are a bargain at .25 and .50 cents each for most of them. Please stop by when you see us and help us help the animals.

Adoption News

Who's afraid of a little black cat? Well, many of us, it seems. According to shelters and fosters around the country, the most difficult animal to place for adoption is a black cat. Whether from fear or superstition, or from the fact that black cats don't photograph as well as their colorful brethren; the poor black feline is the last to be adopted and the first to be euthanized countrywide. Even our wonderful cat expert Arlene, is having trouble placing her black cats. All her other cats of varying stripes and colors have been placed. Sadly, she will get a phone call to adopt a cat or kitten, and as soon as the person hears the pet is jet black, they hang up without even wanting to see them. Pumpkin needs a home of her own to ease her distress. Please call Arlene at 352-875-9761 to meet Pumpkin or one of the other black cats or kittens to see if one is right for you. Don't let old wives tales keep perfectly lovely and loving cats from having the wonderful home they deserve. Think of them as chic and elegant companions that make you look slim when they sit on your lap.

Animal Center Needs Foster Families

The Marion County Animal Center is in continuous need of foster families for young, sick, or injured animals. You usually only need to foster for a short period of time – say up to four weeks – until the animal is old enough or well enough to go back to the shelter system. You can find more information on fostering at http://marioncountyfl.org/AnimalCenter/foster.aspx. You can also contact the shelter at 352-671-8700 or email them at animalservices@marioncountyfl.org. The shelter is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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.

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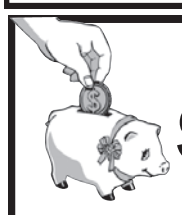

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