

# WEST MARION Messenger

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## Arrest made in downtown triple murder

Three men were killed early Sunday morning in front of a bar across the street from the Ocala downtown square, and a suspect has been arrested.

According to Ocala Police, on June 2, at 12:43 a.m., officers responded to AJ's, 11 E. Silver Springs Blvd., in reference to a shooting. Upon arrival, officers found three men lying outside the business, along the sidewalk, each suffering from gunshot wounds. Two were deceased on scene from gunshot wounds to the head and one was pronounced dead at the hospital shortly thereafter.

Detectives responded and worked throughout the rest of the night investi-

gating these homicides. Since that time, notification has been made to the next of kin and the victims are identified as the following: Benjamin Larz Howard, 23, of Belleview; Jerry Lamar Bynes, Jr., 20, of Ocala; and Josue Santiago, 25, of Ocala.

As part of the investigation, Officer Michelle Green and her K-9 partner Motuck conducted a search in the area. They were able to locate a handgun in a nearby trash bin as a result of this search. The weapon was a 9mm



Lobban

semi-automatic. It has not yet been identified as the actual weapon used in these shootings.

Detectives were able to identify a person of interest, who was contacted and transported to the Ocala Police Department, Major Crimes Section, for interview. This subject, Andrew Joseph Lobban, 31, of Ocala, upon being interviewed by

Detectives Mike Hilton and Jamie Buchbinder; allegedly advised to having shot all three of the victims outside of

AJ's. Lobban advised that they had all worked together as bouncers at the Ocala Entertainment Complex. Lobban advised that one of the victims had recently "punked" him and video taped it then shown the other two victims. They had all laughed at Lobban and teased him about the video, causing him embarrassment. Lobban advised that he had harbored ill will toward the three since this had occurred.

Lobban was placed under arrest following this interview at OPD at approximately 11:44 a.m. He is being charged with three counts of first degree felony murder; and is being held with no bond.

## Stone Creek resident honors her dad as he celebrates his 107th birthday

BY PATRICIA GIZZI  
Stone Creek correspondent

Not many SC residents can honor their father on their birthday or for Father's Day, but Bobbie Seidel is the exception. Bobbie and her husband recently honored her Dad, Jack Silverman for his 107th birthday on June 1.

Bobbie told me that her Mom and Dad had four children - three sons and one daughter, Bobbie. The older two sons are deceased. From the four children are eight grand children and four great-grandchildren.

Bobbie's parents were married for 74 1/2 years before her mom, Alice, died in November 2002.

Bobbie said, "We all grew up in Brooklyn and he lived there in his own house until my mom died. Then we moved him to New Jersey to be near us. I think he was about 95 when he left Brooklyn. He moved to

Florida with us in 2006."

Mr. Silverman worked as a contractor well into his 70s then started a new occupation with antiques and collectables. He was always active in his later years trying to improve his antique business, always looking for an angle to increase his profits according to Bobbie. Bobbie's parents continued the passion of antiques until they were in their 90s.

Mr. Silverman owned a summer house in the Catskills where the entire family gathered every summer. On any weekend there could be at least 10-15 there enjoying the lake and cooking outside. According to Bobbie, this included kids, grand kids, aunts and uncles, in-laws and friends. Everyone was welcome to stay as long as they wanted to stay.

Bobbie remembers her dad as always being active.

Please see BIRTHDAY, Page 5



Jack Silverman celebrates in a party hat.

## School cutbacks planned

With a projected budget deficit of \$29 million next year, Marion County Public Schools notified 261 employees Friday their positions will be eliminated next school year.

This includes 160 first-year teachers, 72 district-funded elementary paraprofessionals, 16 clerk generalists at middle / high schools, and 13 district-funded physical education technicians.

Superintendent George Tomin met with these employees in three separate meetings last Friday to personally deliver this message.

These cuts alone amount to nearly \$4 million. The remaining \$25 million will come from other decisions including:

Not filling Staffing Plan, \$14 million; Exceeding Class Size Limits, \$7 million; Restructuring elementary Art, Music, PE, and Media Services, \$2.2 million; Reassigning other employees, \$1 million.

The district expects \$295 million in revenues for the new budget year, \$13

Please see SCHOOL, Page 5

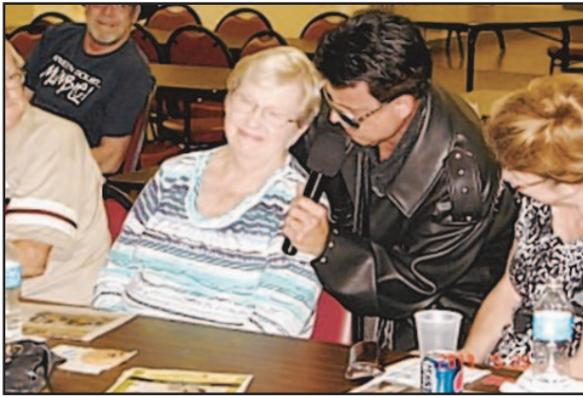


## Sheriff's Citizens Academy

PHOTO BY BARB DEDICS

These are some of the graduates of the Spring 2013 class of the Marion County Sheriff's Academy. Ocala Palms story and more photos on Page 7.

# Fairfield Village enjoyed Memorial Day weekend



Becky Weller thoroughly enjoyed her serenade by Elvis (Rick Chapman).

Beginning at 7 p.m. on Saturday, the Fairfield Village community began enjoying Memorial Day weekend together. That was when the show, sponsored by Rachel Muse, community general manager, began in the FFV Clubhouse.



Fairfield Village  
Priscilla Geissal

Rick Chapman is an accomplished singer, impersonator, and entertainer who had appeared in FFV community before. He was as well received this time as he was earlier and everyone marveled at the consistency of his shows as he brings locals into his act and manages to get excellent performances from them as well.

soring the fun and good refreshments as well.

The evening is full of fun as Chapman incorporates characters such as Ed McMahon, Walter Brennan, Elvis Presley, George Burns, Buddy Holly, Chet Atkins, Dean Martin and others into the show. Some of the characters are impersonated by Chapman, but most of the really funny part of the show comes from the "local" talent as they emulate real characters or some especially unusual characters in the performance.

Then on Monday at 1 p.m., neighbors gathered again at the clubhouse for the SAC sponsored Memorial Day barbecue. As usual, the members of the committee did an exceptional job of putting the fete together. The additional food brought in by those attending was delicious as well so that everyone got more than enough calories for the day.

All those who attended agreed that it was a most enjoyable evening and good way to begin the holiday weekend. Special thanks go to Rachel Muse for spon-

All of us who enjoyed our Memorial Day weekend here at home in Fairfield Village, "the lively place filled with lovely people," agreed that this was certainly another time to recognize and appropriately thank all those who have served and those who are serving now to keep our United States of America "...the land of the free and the home of the brave."



Fairfield Village neighbors line up to enjoy all the great food at FFV's Memorial Day barbecue.

## Outdoor sculpture contest set

The City of Ocala is issuing a "Call to Artists" for the first annual Ocala Outdoor Sculpture Competition. The competition is open to all artists age 18 and older who are working in North America. Each artist may submit up to three works suitable for public outdoor display. Entry deadline is July 31, 2013. Artists will compete for cash prizes including Best of Show, \$2,000; Second Place, \$1,000; Honorable Men-

tion, \$500; and People's Choice, \$500. Additionally, the 10 sculptors whose work is chosen each will receive a \$1,000 honoraria for transportation expenses to bring their art to Ocala. This Ocala Outdoor Sculpture Competition will provide a one year exhibit of 10 outdoor sculptures at Ocala's downtown, Tuscawilla Park from Oct. 18, 2013 through Sept. 21, 2014. This exhibit will stimu-

late residents and guests of all ages through educational sculpture walks, scavenger hunts, docent tours, touch tours, and community celebration. It will demonstrate the power of public art in our city spaces. Visitation to the park will be increased by 40 percent and stimulate commerce in the surrounding redevelopment districts.

The Ocala Outdoor Sculpture Competition is being executed by the City of Ocala in partnership with the Appleton Museum, Fine Arts For Ocala, and Marion Cultural Alliance. It is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture by a specific Cultural Project Grant in the amount of \$10,950.00. There are opportunities for community support through a sponsorship program and outreach programs at special events.

For more information and the competition prospectus, please visit: [www.ocalafl.org/outdoorsculpture](http://www.ocalafl.org/outdoorsculpture)



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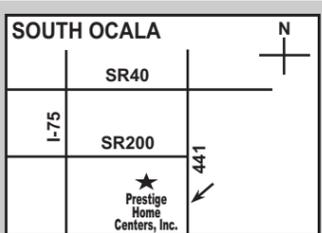
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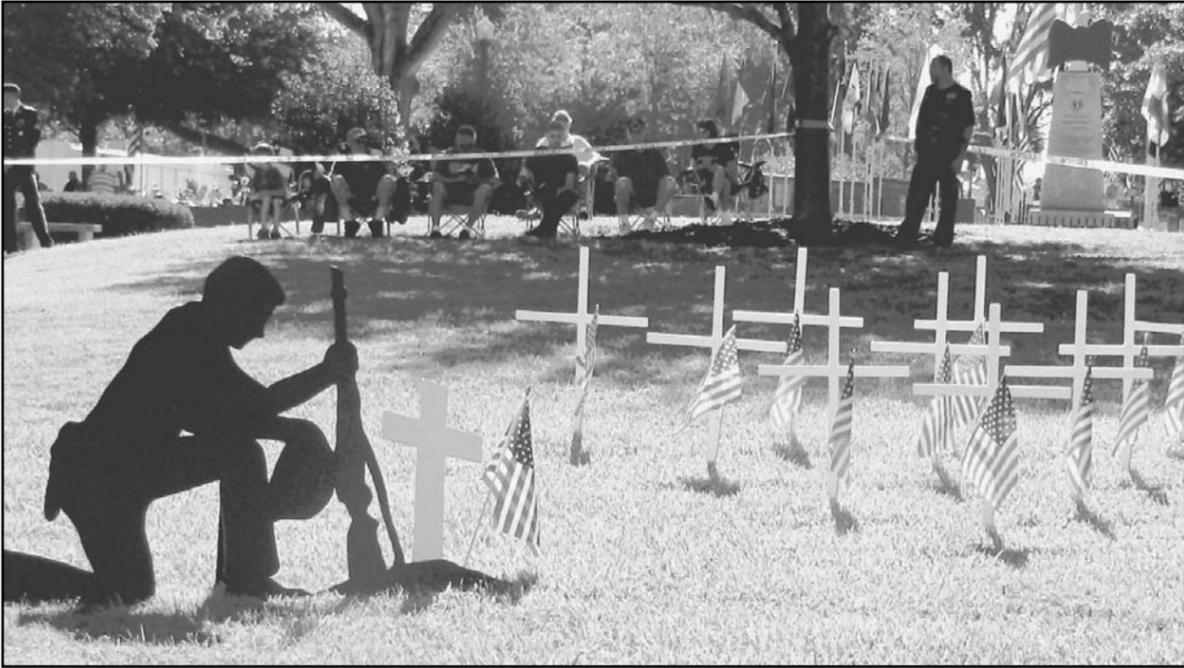
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# Memorial Day observed at Veterans Park in Ocala



PHOTOS BY JIM CLARK

A symbol of a soldier kneeling beside some military graves was a focal point at the Memorial Day ceremony at Veterans Park on Monday, May 27.



Ret. Chaplain Col. Janet Y. Horton was the speaker.



Marcia Muncaster, extreme left, sings the National Anthem.



Kathy Bryant, County Commission chair, gave the welcome speech.

## The many excuses of a man in midlife crisis

Sometimes it is best to err on the side of caution. This, however, has not always been my modus operandi down through the years. In fact, I am not very good when it comes to practicing anything, just ask the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

As of late, though, I have been practicing caution like I was going to Carnegie Hall. I am not very good at it yet, but my goal is to come to the point of perfection in the area of caution as it touches my person, particularly my health and well-being. This may be because I have reached that age when most men go through a midlife crisis.

You can always tell when a man is going through his midlife crisis. He usually wants to prove he is as good at 60-something as he was when he was 20-something. Carelessly throwing caution to the wind, he attempts to do something beyond the energy of his existing body. One sure way to tell if a man is having a midlife crisis is to notice his recent injuries.

Personally, when I was 20 I was not good at anything, which has enabled me to skip my midlife crisis. I am glad to be 60 (OK, maybe I am a tad over 60) because now when I get



**Out to Pastor**  
Rev. James Snyder

tired I can say I am tired and sit down. At 60-something I have absolutely nothing to prove. I am no better or worse than I was when I was 20. It is, as my

wife notes, the ageless wonder of incompetency. The difficulty with growing older is that the old memory juices do not flow as swiftly as they once did. Of course, some of us never had a real gusher in that department anyway. The more memories I have, the less

See SNYDER, Page 7

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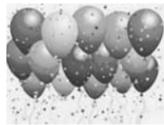
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# Happenings

## Thursday, June 6

### WOW Singles to meet

WOW Singles will meet at the following locations. No dues. Please call after 10 a.m.: 352-861-9487 or 352-291-2762 for more info.

June 6, 12:30 p.m., Kotobuki Japanese Restaurant, 2463 S.W. 27th Ave., near Best Buy.

June 20, 12:30 p.m., Outback Steakhouse, 3215 S.W. College Road.

### Mental illness education

Are you a caregiver of a family member or loved one living with a severe mental illness?

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI of Marion County) will offer a FREE NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program for families, partners, caregivers, friends, and loved ones of individuals living with schizophrenia, depression, bipolar, panic disorder, OCD, anxiety disorder or other serious mental illness. The course helps improve the skills and abilities for caregivers to manage the path to recovery. Many family members describe their experience in the program as "life changing".

The program will run for 12 weeks starting on Thursday, June 6, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the First Baptist Church in Ocala, 2801 S.W. Maricamp Road. Teachers are specially trained NAMI family members and caregivers who focus on the emotional responses families have to the trauma of mental illness.

All course materials are furnished at no cost. The class is limited to 20 students, so please call and register as early as you can. The NAMI Family-to-Family program will also be offered later 2013. If you are unable to register for the June class please call to register for a later program. Registration is required.

To register call NAMI at 352-368-2405, or e-mail to education@namiocala.org.

## Friday, June 7

### Pioneer yard sale

A yard sale will be held June 7 and 8, from 8 a.m. to

4 p.m. each day, at the Pioneer Garden Center, in the Appleton Museum Complex on East Silver Springs Boulevard. There will be many household and yard items at bargain prices, all in good condition.

There will be a special Christmas display, and refreshments will be available. Shop indoors in comfort.

## Saturday, June 8

### Church sale at thrift store

You can rent a space for the church sale at the Crossroads Thrift Store, 7355 S.W. 38th St., Ocala, near West Port High School. Phone is 352-351-1334.

The sale will be June 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vendor space is available for \$5 for a single parking space.

To reserve a space call 352-509-4141.

### ABBA performers at Circle Square

It was 40 years ago when the first pop group from a non-English-speaking country topped the charts and took over the airways. ABBA is Sweden's greatest contribution to the world of music. On June 8 ABBAMANIA: A Tribute to ABBA will transform the Circle Square Cultural Center back to the 1970s.

ABBAMANIA's four performers don't just sound like Anni-Frid, Bjorn, Benny and Agnetha, they look and dress the part too. With costume changes, choreography, a live band and back-up singers, you'll want to wear bell-bottom pants and platform shoes. ABBAMANIA will perform 21 of ABBA's hits including the ones you love to sing along to like "Dancing Queen", "Fernando", "Waterloo" and "Mamma Mia". ABBAMANIA has toured all over the world and thrilled audiences by bringing Abba's unique sounds to each performance.

Tickets start at \$17.

Don't miss the opportunity to be transferred back to the disco era by ABBAMANIA: A Tribute to ABBA on Saturday, June 8 at 7 p.m. at the Circle Square Cultural Center located at 8395 S.W. 80th St., in Ocala. Doors open at 6 p.m. For more information on the 2013 entertainment line-up including times, dates and tickets visit [www.CSCulturalCenter.com](http://www.CSCulturalCenter.com) or call 352-854-3670.

## Sunday, June 9

### Dancing encouraged at jazz function

The Ocala Jazz Society will host an afternoon of music at the VFW hall on Sunday, June 9 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."

The afternoon is \$3.

The post is at 9401 S.W. 110th St., Ocala.

For more info call Diana, 352-237-0234.

## Monday, June 10

### Health care seminar at church

On June 10 at 6:30 p.m., Christ's Church of Marion County's Health Ministry will provide an opportunity to meet Doctor Meghavi S Kosboth. She will hold an informal discussion on Fibromyalgia and Osteoarthritis.

Dr. Kosboth is board certified, specializing in Internal Medicine with expertise in the area of Rheumatology. She has a number of awards including "Patients Choice Award of 2012" and "Compassionate Doctor Recognition 2012." This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the subject.

Please contact Christ's Church of Marion County, 352-861-6182, or sign-up in the lobby, 6768 S.W. 80th St. (off State Road 200), Ocala.

## Tuesday, June 11

### Macintosh users to meet

The Ocala Macintosh User Group will meet on Tuesday, June 11, from 7 to 9 p.m.

At this month's meeting, Dr. Roberto Putzeys will review some of the medical apps available for the Mac and iPad. This will be followed by our monthly tech tips. Meetings are held in the St. George Anglican Cathedral Parish Hall, 5646 S.E. 28th St., Ocala. Visitors are always welcome. For more information about OMUG, visit our website at <http://ocalamug.org>.

## Monday, June 17

### VBS at Our Redeemer Lutheran

A Vacation Bible School will be held at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church from June 17 to 21, from 9 to 11 a.m. each day.

The church is at 5200 S.W. College Road, Ocala.

Everyone is invited. Register at [OurRedeemerOcala.org](http://OurRedeemerOcala.org) (click the VBS tab or call our office at 352-237-2233) Contact Person: Laurie Baluyot. E-mail address: [vbs@ourredeemerocala.org](mailto:vbs@ourredeemerocala.org). Phone number: 352-237-2233.

## Thursday, June 20

### Air Force group to meet

The June meeting of the Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 of the Air Force Association (AFA) will be on Thursday, June 20 at 7 p.m. at the Ocala Regional Airport Administration Building, 750 S.W. 60th Ave., Ocala.

Bring a guest!!

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

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## WEST MARION Messenger

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES & BUSINESSES BETWEEN SR 200 AND US 27

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

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

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

### CONTACT INFORMATION

(352) 854-3986 Fax (352) 854-9277

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

- Editor - Jim Clark
- Circulation - Barbara Jagers
- Inside Sales/Office Coordinator - Michel Northsea
- Advertising Sales - Tom Rapplean and Kristy Kaigan
- Regional Manager - John Provost

### Deadline for news:

Friday 1 p.m. the week before publication.

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Community news and photos must be received by Friday the week before publication. Mail and photos may be left at the Messenger office in Kingsland Plaza. All contributions are subject to editing for clarity, taste, and style.

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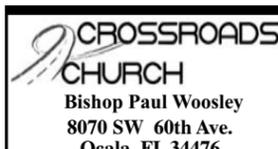
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# BIRTHDAY

continued from Page 1

She said he loves to tell jokes and stories. He was independent up until last year.

How wonderful to be able to honor one's dad. Congratulations, Mr. Silverman on your 107th birthday.

Another Stone Creek resident having a milestone birthday is John Josephs of Buckhead. He was 90 on June 1, the day of Mr. Silverman's 107th birthday. Happy Birthday, John!

# SCHOOL

continued from Page 1

million more than this year. However, this includes \$7 million earmarked for teacher raises and \$4 million for retirement expenses — both mandated by the Florida Legislature.

With projected expenses of \$324 million, the \$29 million deficit resulted in historic moves for the district including layoffs, class sizes, and the elimination of paraprofessionals. The budget process is on-going, and if more cuts are needed, possibilities include district-wide furlough days for employees and pay reductions across-the-board.



John and Barbara Josephs on their 65th wedding anniversary. John also had a birthday on June 1, turning 90.

# Friday Forum talks immigration

Almost three quarters of a million undocumented individuals are estimated to live in Florida, many thousands of whom are migrants and other farmworkers who live a shadowy existence among us right here in Marion County. They provide the backbone upon which our billion dollar horse and agricultural industries prosper and service and construction enterprises rely.

When the Friday Forum next meets for lunch at Buffet City in Ocala on June 14, a panel of three area activists will address their compelling and urgent needs as well as those of employers seeking both skilled and unskilled labor while the larger community is called upon to provide emergency humanitarian support.

Congress, meanwhile continues to grapple with a major overhaul in our immigration laws in light of border security concerns as well as increasing appreciation for the need to integrate into full membership in our society the approximately 11 million undocumented immigrants now living in the United States by providing them with a path to citizenship.

Speakers are Phil Kellerman of Harvest of Hope Foundation, Rev. Bob Miller of the Ocala Farm Ministry and Reina Mendez, former area coordinator for the Redlands Christian Migrant Association.

The luncheon, which costs \$10 payable directly to the restaurant, begins at 11:30 a.m. at Buffet City, corner of State Road 200 and MLK Jr. Blvd.

To RSVP please email FridayForumofMarionCounty@gmail.com or telephone Delphine Herbert at 352-873-9970 or Jan Lentz at 352-425-6219.

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# Quail Meadow resident enjoys Honor Flight to D.C.

What better way to begin the Memorial Day weekend than to have one of our own residents go on the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.

Jack Sheidler was on the plane for the trip last October, but because of mechanical problems, that flight was cancelled. However, last Thursday the plane was here, the weather was beautiful, and over 80 World War II veterans made the trip to our nation's capital.

This flight was the sixth and last Honor Flight from Ocala. Over 600 veterans from the Ocala area have been on the flights from here. Ocala ranks third in the country in the number of veterans honored with this trip.

Each veteran had an assigned attendant with him/her for the entire day. Jack said he was honored to have Sheriff Chris Blair sit with him for part of the flight.

The plane left Ocala International Airport very early Thursday morning (May 23), and returned that evening a little after 9. The flight began with breakfast being served – cereal, fruit, and yogurt. The plane landed at the Baltimore-Washington Airport where the honorees were met by buses. The vets were divided into three groups – red – white – blue. Jack was in the “red hat” group.

The first stop was at the Capitol where they were greeted by Congressmen and a drum and bugle corps. Jack said just standing in the Rotunda of the Capitol was a thrill.

Next stop on the tour was the World War II Memorial; Jack got to see the section in honor of those who served from Ohio (he is from Ohio).

After enjoying a box lunch, it was back on the buses to Arlington National Cemetery. They witnessed a very moving ceremony of the Changing of the Guard, and also the presentation of flowers by family members. Following this, it was back to the busses for the journey back to the airport for the return trip to Ocala.

A hot meal of meatloaf and all the trimmings was served on the return trip. As the plane approached the Ocala runway,

Jack said they could see the flood lights and the hundreds of people waving flags to welcome them home. Also, the Kingdom of the Sun Band was playing and two fire trucks greeted the plane with the honor spray, fireworks lighted the sky, and the ladder truck had the American flag flying from the ex-



**Quail Meadow**  
*Carolyn Slocumb*

tended ladder. Jack said that when he was asked what was the highlight of the trip – his response was “the welcome home” reception at the Ocala airport.

Margene, Jack's wife of 68 years, was right there on the front row to meet her hero.

It was also Margene's 89th birthday, but she said she couldn't have wished for anything more than to see Jack get this trip. Along with Margene, there were about 20 more Quail Meadow residents there to greet Jack.

Quail Meadow had another resident on this trip; Teresa Bachand was one of the assistants on the plane. I must say, this is a night I will always remember.

Jack Sheidler was called to serve in the Navy in September, 1943 and he served until May 1946. Most of his time was spent at Pearl Harbor. He took a short leave in 1945 and went home to marry Margene.

By the way, he still has his original dog tags. After completing his service time, Jack and Margene made their home in Ohio.

Now let me tell you a little bit about Jack and Margene—they have been residents of Quail Meadow since November 2000. After living in several other Florida locations, they have settled in Quail Meadow.

They migrated to the Sunshine State from a small town in northwest Ohio. Margene retired from teaching social studies and geography in a junior high school. Jack retired from the post office. He worked as a clerk for 10 years, and then moved on to a “Rural Route”. He delivered the mail for over 20 years. He said that he and Margene were fortunate to be able to retire from their jobs at the same time.

Jack said that after over 20 years of driving the country roads during rain, snow and sleet, he was ready for the Florida lifestyle. Their favorite hobby is travel. Jack and Margene have many memories of their numerous trips. They have visited all 50 states and most of the National Parks, as well as many foreign countries.



With the Honor Guard in the background, Margene Sheidler welcomes her husband Jack, as he returns from the Honor Flight at Ocala International Airport. Margene was celebrating her 89th birthday.



This was part of the crowd that waited for the return flight.

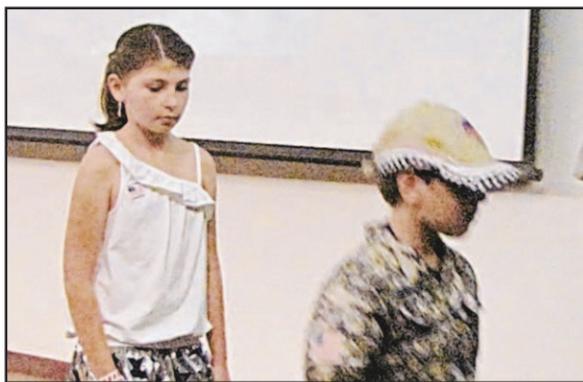
Their favorite form of travel now is either by cruise ship or bus. Several years ago they were members of the Airstream Club and traveled with their own trailer. Margene said that living full time in a travel trailer was just “too close” for comfort. In their “spare” time, Jack and Margene take care of the QM library. They regularly sort the books and duplicates are either donated to the Hospice Thrift Store or the Marion

County Library.

There are several events coming up in the next few days: First Friday gathering is this week.

Come join friends and neighbors at the clubhouse. Next is the QM potluck-birthday party on Monday, the 10th. Bring a covered dish, your table service, and a neighbor for a great evening. We will be entertained by the Golden Troupers. The dinner starts at 6 p.m.

## Honor Flight movie gets local screening



Kinley Nichols and Loyd Adams IV leave the stage after leading the Pledge of Allegiance.



Jim Hilty Sr. is the recipient in the Veterans Pinning Ceremony, getting his pin from Clarise Walker, as Doug Hamilton looks on.



Trey Adams, Honor Flight co-ordinator and hub director, welcomes the audience.

## Film chronicles efforts of volunteers to build program from scratch in Midwest

BY JIM CLARK  
*Editor*

A crowd dominated by a large number of veterans gathered Sunday afternoon at the Appleton Museum's theater to watch a movie about the Honor Flight program.

Ocala's final Honor Flight was last week, at which a number of World War II veterans traveled to Washington, D.C., for a day of visiting the memorials ded-

icated to them and their comrades.

It was a day for memories for the vets, most of whom are in their 80s and 90s. The ceremony and accompanying movie on Sunday brought back some of those memories.

The movie tells the story of four men from the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, area who made the trip from there, and also describes how that area organized the flights.

It was a touching one hour, 20-minute

show which was narrated in part by the men themselves. It described their trip and showed highlights of their visit to D.C.

Before the showing of the movie, there was a short program. Mary Ellen Poe, CEO of Hospice of Marion County, welcomed the visitors who nearly filled the facility.

Students Loyd Adams IV and Kinley Nichols led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trey Adams, Honor Flight coordina-

tor/hub director, and community relations director for Emeritus East, gave the introduction.

“Robin and the Giant” of WOCA played and led the National Anthem, and also sang a song about the Honor Flight.

A Veterans Pinning Ceremony was held to honor Jim Hilty Sr., financial adviser, Edward Jones Investments.

Adams then introduced the film, and the crowd settled back to watch.

# Group completes Sheriff's Citizens and Partnership Academy

**BY BARB DEDICS**  
*Special to the Messenger*

More than 160 citizens recently completed classes offered to the public known as the Marion County Sheriff's Citizens and Partnership (CAP) Academy. Thanks to Sheriff Chris Blair, this the first of many sessions being offered to the public in over a decade.

The three-month sessions started in early March and were held weekly. Citizens (including myself) are proud and honored to have been given this opportunity of hearing and seeing the "inside scoop" of the many departments within the Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO).

Sessions included various speakers from, but not limited to the following departments: Records, Budget, Officer Training, Internal Affairs, Search and Seizure, Surveillance Techniques, Booking, Safety Precautions, Patrol Op-

erations, Bomb Squad Techs, SWAT Team Operations, Violent Crimes, Cargo Theft and Cold Cases. Additionally, tours were given of the MCSO Jail, Inmate Work Farm, Garage and various vehicles, State of the Art Emergency Control Center and the MC Courthouse.

For those interested in attending the next session which will start in August, please contact Carolyn Fender at CFender@marionso.com or Jenifer Lowe at JLowe@marionso.com. These ladies are marvelous organizers and very dedicated to this program. This is truly to your benefit to learn what these men and women do for this county on a limited budget. Are you aware that there are approximately 750 paid employees within the MCSO...and approximately 700 volunteers who serve in various capacities? The volunteers alone save county taxpayers almost \$3 million. You can be sure to learn something new every week.



PHOTOS BY BARB DEDICS

Lt. Joe Wright, Carolyn Fender and Corporal Quinn Sampson .



Barb Dedics, Shirley Bradley, Carolyn Fender and Bob Hartsock .



Citizens Academy members on the bus for the courthouse tour.

## SNYDER

continued from Page 3

I am able to recall them in the innocence of their reality. Like the fisherman who tells the size of the one that got away. Memory seems to add or subtract according to the benefit of the person conjuring up the memory.

A big problem a man in mid-life crisis has is that he does not remember how good he actually was when he was 20, unless of course, his wife knew him at that time. If he could, he would not have to try to replicate it when he is 60. This is one of the unique advantages of maturing. Forgetting always leads to exaggerating. Exaggerating at 60-something leads to injuries. The only purpose of this is to impress people who really are not being impressed.

As we grow older things begin to change, and some things change for the better. When I was 20, I could not admit to anybody that I was tired. I would have been the laughing stock in my community if I would admit any such phenomena. You know what they say about the unlimited energy that young people have. Now that I am in my 60s, I can blame my advancing

years on just about anything.

"I love to do that, but at my age I don't have the energy." This has covered a multitude of sins, for which I am so grateful. Of course, it does have one drawback, when someone in their 80s invites me to go for a walk, what in the world can you say to that?

This next one has to be one of my favorites. "I would love to do that but I have to get home for my afternoon nap." The person will look at me, notice my maturing features and understand that I desperately do need a nap, or something resembling beauty sleep.

I found one the other week that has proved quite beneficial. I was invited to a function during the evening, which turned out to be a rather boring affair. Once the meal was over people were milling around engaged in small talk. Nothing bores me quicker than small talk. Not knowing what to do, I pondered the situation for sometime. Then, like lightning from the heavens, I was struck with a brilliant idea. I went up to my host and said, "I'm sorry, but it is getting near my bedtime and I have strict orders from my doctor to go to bed early. You'll have to excuse me."

It worked like a charm. Everybody understood that a person of my age needs to go to bed early. I do not

know who thought this up, probably Benjamin Franklin, but whoever it was, I owe them a steak dinner at the restaurant of their choice. It has now become part of my get-out-of-boring-situations arsenal.

I was thinking about this the other day another good excuse popped into my head. Somebody invited me to come and play softball. At the time, they caught me off guard and I was trying to wiggle out of such an invitation. Then it dawned on me. "I am sorry, I would like to but my health insurance does not cover that kind of activity." Whether my health insurance would cover that, I have no idea, but neither does anybody else, only my doctor knows for sure.

While I was pondering this, I was reminded of a word from the Proverbs. "Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain" (Proverbs 25:14 KJV).

Whoever boasts to others about their physical prowess is only fooling himself.

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# Opinion

## Our Message

### VA compensation plan near collapse

The common lament among the ranks of our nation's disabled veterans filing for service-connected disability compensation from the VA is, "Delay, deny, wait till I die." As a candidate for the presidency, President Obama pledged to revamp the Veterans Affairs' (VA) claims process. When General Eric Shinseki, a former Army Chief of Staff and highly respected combat wounded veteran, was appointed as the VA Secretary in 2009, he promised to end the claims backlog in two years.

The promises of President Obama and Secretary Shinseki raised the hopes of veterans that the claims backlog would finally be eliminated. Instead, the backlog has gotten intolerably worse.

Internal VA documents obtained by the Center for Investigative Reporting reveal the agency's claims process has virtually collapsed. The number of claimants waiting more than a year for their benefits has exploded from 11,000 in 2009 to 245,000 in December 2012 — an increase of more than 2,000 percent.

Particularly troubling is that the number of veterans dying before their claims were approved has skyrocketed.

Between 2009 and 2012, the number of deceased veterans receiving approval too late for the compensation to help them while they were alive jumped from 6,400 to 19,500.

Three factors in particular have contributed to the VA's inability to fulfill the promises of President Obama and Secretary Shinseki.

Foremost is the VA's antiquated processing system.

After spending more than half a billion dollars on a new computer system the past four years, 97 percent of all claims inexplicably remain on paper. The paper-laden claims process is further compounded by a points system that gives performance bonuses to workers for sending letters to veterans but not for spending extra time reading a claims file.

Despite the VA publicly reporting it has hired 3,300 additional personnel since 2010, staffing at the VA's 58 regional offices only increased by fewer than 300 people due to turnover and the loss of more than

## Editorial

# The annual message to high school grads

*This is a yearly column, updated with latest information.*

This is a big month for many young people in Marion County, as they leave high school and move on to the next phase of their lives.

Graduation ceremonies are scheduled for local high schools, a landmark day for a few hundred young adults who are ready to venture out into the world.

This graduating class has been through a little more than many of us. These young people were first-graders on Sept. 11, 2001, when two planes smashed into the World Trade Center in New York, one hit the Pentagon and another crashed in Pennsylvania, changing the face of America forever.

They are venturing into an uncertain world, one filled with fear of terrorism, one filled with eroding freedoms in the name of security.

Those of us who have lived through many years of strife and conflict — and many years of prosperity and peace, can give some words of advice to the young graduates. Whether they pay attention is up to them, and whether they agree is also up to them. But at least it's a point of view that they can use to steer them in whatever direction they want to go.

With just a few changes from the previous years' columns, here we go:

**1. If you have a chance to continue your education,** by all means do so. In this era, it is almost impossible to advance yourself in the job market without some sort of post-secondary education. It can be college, junior college, trade school or specialized classes, but make sure you learn as much as you can. You've made it through one important period - you've got your high school diploma. Now look to see what else you



## Among Friends

Jim Clark

can do to learn. Your brains are still relatively young — you have a better capacity to learn than many of us old dogs, who find it hard to learn new tricks.

**2. If you go to college,** learn the difference between opinion and fact from your professors. The good ones will make it clear for you — but there are some who will ram their thoughts down your throat, without making it clear that it's what they think, not what the world accepts as truth.

**3. If you haven't already, develop a good work ethic.** When it comes to studying and school assignments, the days of someone looking over your shoulder to make sure you are doing what you are supposed to are over. You're on your own. Your education, or your job, are what you make it. Take a look at employment ads in almost every major field. They'll say things like "self-starter" or "must work well without supervision." Managers in the business world don't want to have to watch every step that you do. Learn to work by yourself with maximum effort. Remember, the world doesn't owe you a living — you have to go out and make your own mark.

**4. Choose your friends wisely.** Hang around with people who have good goals, who want to make a decent mark in this world. There was a great commercial on TV (I can't remember what

product it was for) where one guy in a group of wild young people gets a suit-and-tie job, so the others always want him to buy dinner, because they aren't doing a thing. You will undoubtedly encounter some of these people — steer clear and be your own person. Some years later, these will be the folks who will come to you begging for a job.

**5. Stay active.** There will come a time in your life when you can't exercise like you used to, but that day isn't here yet for most of you. I'm afraid that we are producing a generation of computer-chair potatoes (as opposed to couch potatoes), those who do nothing but sit in front of a computer screen or play with a phone or tablet for all their free time. Get out and do something. You can walk, you can run, you can play a sport, you can swim — just do something. It's good for your mind and your body.

**6. Along that same line, learn how to talk to people, face to face.** There is entirely too much Facebook, "Tweeting," and other social networking going on, but sometimes young people have to talk to someone in person and they don't know what to say, or how to behave. Get off the phone and the computer and speak to people. Someday when you're interviewing for a job, it won't be on Facebook. But someday during that same job interview, your potential boss is going to ask permission to look at your Facebook postings, and all that "cute" little stuff and foul language that some of you might use will come back to haunt you.

**7. Volunteer in the community.** There are all sorts of things that need doing. Some involve some physical work, others involve using your brains to help people. Give something back to the community — show that you care. You never know — someday you may be one of the people who needs help, and maybe there will be folks around who will recall what you did for others, and you'll get some help in return. And don't do it for the glory and the recognition. The best volunteers are those who work behind the scenes, who get nothing out of it but personal satisfaction.

**8. Finally, keep the faith,** and not just religious faith. If you are a religious person, you will be tested. Most of those who are religious find great solace in that faith, so don't let yourself get tempted away from it. But there is another kind of faith, faith in your fellow human beings, faith in the country. Be aware of the times you live in, for sure, but realize there are so many places in the world that are worse off than we are.

While we live in the fear that there could be another attack on us somewhere in the U.S., there are people who live with the very real fear of being blown up every day. While we have medical care available to us when we get sick, there are people who succumb to the least little illness because their bodies can't fight diseases, or they have no access to things as simple as an aspirin.

As you depart from high school, thank your teachers, your counselors, your school employees. They surely don't get rich doing what they do, but almost all of them love their profession. Someday you will realize how good the days of high school were. But for now, you've reached your goal of getting your diploma, which is a job well done.

Congratulations!

Jim Clark is the editor of the South Marion Citizen. He can be reached at editor@smcitizen.com or at 352-854-3986.



## 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.

Please see EDITORIAL, Page 10

# WEST MARION Messenger

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JOHN PROVOST

EDITOR:

JIM CLARK



**ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** Cheer up, Lamb. Your emotional impasse will lift once you allow your highly tuned sense of justice to guide you on what to do about an associate's questionable behavior.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** News about a project you hoped to work on might need more clarification. Take nothing just on faith. Draw up a list of questions, and insist on each being fully answered.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** Giving your time to help others is fine. But don't lose sight of your own needs. Make plans for an energy-restoring getaway with that very special person in your life.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** Congratulate yourself on getting that difficult job done to everyone's satisfaction. This could be the first of many such challenges you might be offered down the line.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)** With your enthusiasm soaring again, you feel ready to tackle a tough new assignment. Good for you! And remember: Don't be too proud to accept help when it's offered.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)** Cupid rules the week for single Virgos eager to make a romantic connection. Meanwhile, Virgo couples experience renewed commitment in their relationships.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)** Home and work issues vie for your attention through early next week. Rely on your Libran sense of balance to keep you from being overwhelmed by either side.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)** Creative projects might have to go on standby as you tackle other matters making demands on your time and energy. Things should ease by the middle of next week.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)** Your energies are high, and so are your aspirations. But be careful not to let work dominate the week. It's also important to spend time with family and friends.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)** It's a good time to set aside your pride and stop nursing those hurt feelings. Instead, consider restoring relationships you want to have back in your life.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)** You might be miffed at not being shown more appreciation for your hard work. But don't brood over it. Recognition comes in its own time and in its own way.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)** With your inner creative juices starting to boil and bubble, this is a good time to launch a new arts-related project, or go back and restart the one you had set aside.

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# Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★**

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging  
★★★ HOO BOY!

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# HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



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

DIFFERENCES: 1. Mailbox is missing; 2. Curt is missing; 3. Necktie is different; 4. Mirror is smaller; 5. Backpack pocket is missing; 6. Number is different.

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

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

INNER LANES

- ACROSS**
- 1 "GoodFellas" co-star Joe
  - 6 London subway route diagram
  - 13 Plate umpire's call
  - 20 "Par —" (stamp on airmail)
  - 21 Religious hermit
  - 22 Wyoming tribe
  - 23 "A Boy and His Dog" sci-fi writer
  - 25 Pronto
  - 26 Bus. college course
  - 27 Aircraft abbr.
  - 28 Star of the silent film "Madame Du Barry"
  - 30 "Dharma & Greg" co-star Jenna
  - 33 Pupil locale
  - 34 Pick — (cavil)
  - 35 In a certain folk singing style
  - 37 Relief pitcher with the 2004 World Series-winning Red Sox
  - 43 Revered one
  - 44 Horse's kin
  - 45 Padlock part
  - 46 Sneaker stringers
  - 47 Even if, briefly
  - 48 Old crone
  - 50 — -di-dah
  - 51 "Got some thoughts?"
  - 53 Old city buried by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius
  - 57 Man-mouse link
  - 58 Additionally
  - 59 Bun seed
  - 60 1965 Yardbirds hit
  - 62 Bad, in Brest
  - 65 Census stat
  - 66 Novocain, for one
  - 70 Twisty curve
  - 73 U lead-in
  - 74 Foray
  - 75 First family as of 2009
  - 79 Coal mines
  - 81 High-fashion inits.
  - 83 Boarding of a jet
  - 85 Derides
  - 88 Before, in verses
  - 89 Hair stiffener
  - 90 Sea, to Fifi
  - 91 Forest feline
  - 92 Dark loaves
  - 94 Greek letter
  - 96 Domicile
  - 97 Native of Fiji or Vanuatu
  - 99 Places to see stars in science centers
  - 102 Back part
  - 103 Lab bottle
  - 104 Bond girl player d'Abo
  - 105 Have practical usefulness
  - 110 Kin of Ltd.
  - 111 In a crowd of
  - 112 Stage names
  - 113 Assorted
  - 119 Tooth puller
  - 120 Unicellular swimmers
  - 121 Romanov royals
  - 122 Chip away at
  - 123 Gets thinner
  - 124 Toss about
  - 4 Gary of "Diff'rent Strokes"
  - 5 How soup is often sold
  - 6 Juvenile
  - 7 Address for a dot-com
  - 8 Minsk locale
  - 9 Oskar Schindler's wife
  - 10 Sea vapors
  - 11 — -Z (thoroughly)
  - 12 Letter-writing friends
  - 13 Attach with brads, e.g.
  - 14 In a florid way
  - 15 "Slither" star James
  - 16 Church nook
  - 17 Sharp taste
  - 18 Blacken on a grill
  - 19 Arizona tribe
  - 24 All-or —
  - 29 More or less even (with)
  - 30 Wharton and Bunker
  - 31 Chinese nut
  - 32 They're often tile-covered
  - 33 Brains have high ones
  - 36 Trilogy, often
  - 37 Spa sound
  - 38 — tai
  - 39 A-F filler
  - 40 Movie units
  - 41 Make blank
  - 42 County whose seat is Newark
  - 45 Hard-hitting carpenters
  - 48 Comic's forte
  - 49 Baldwin and Guinness
  - 50 Greg Evans comic strip
  - 52 Dog tag info
  - 54 Fresno loc.
  - 55 Zip
  - 56 PC letter way
  - 57 Saloon sign
  - 61 In unison
  - 63 Make up for, as sins
  - 64 Slander's kin
  - 67 "Comin' —!"
  - 68 "Good" cholesterol abbr.
  - 69 Spying aid, briefly
  - 70 — salts (cathartic)
  - 71 After then
  - 72 Sword material
  - 76 Recollection
  - 77 Vigorless condition
  - 78 Watercourse
  - 80 "Sisters" co-star Ward
  - 82 Tiny grooves
  - 84 Opposed to, in dialect
  - 86 Politico Paul
  - 87 Most severe
  - 88 Nighttime, in verses
  - 93 Hired lawn maintainer
  - 94 Sugar pill
  - 95 1968 film computer
  - 96 Most difficult
  - 98 Attends
  - 99 — move-ment (military maneuver)
  - 100 Actress Watson
  - 101 Infects
  - 103 Sunshade
  - 105 Get dimmer
  - 106 Intestine divisions
  - 107 Dryer fluff
  - 108 Sol followers
  - 109 F — "Frank"
  - 111 Heavy brews
  - 114 "— comin'!"
  - 115 Judge's field
  - 116 Scull mover
  - 117 Suffix with strict
  - 118 NNE's opposite

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20					21							22							
23				24								25							
			26			27				28	29								
30	31	32				33				34									
35						36				37				38	39	40	41	42	
43						44				45				46					
47			48	49				50			51	52							
53			54					55	56		57					58			
59								60			61		62	63	64	65			
								66				68			69				
70	71	72		73				74					75			76	77	78	
79			80					81	82			83			84				
85			86	87						88				89				90	
91								92	93			94	95				96		
97								98				99			100	101			
105	106	107	108	109						110				111					
112										113	114			115			116	117	118
119										120							121		
122										123							124		

# 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.

	÷		+		11
×		+		÷	
	+		×		9
—		×		+	
	—		×		12
25		15		15	

**DIFFICULTY: ★★**

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

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# EDITORIAL

continued from Page 8

2,000 workers temporarily paid through stimulus funds.

Lastly, with claims processors overwhelmed by an ever-burdensome workload, processing errors have reached a crisis state and a sense of helpless resignation has made the disability compensation claims of veterans secondary to struggling through another workday.

Second only to the Department of Defense in size, the

VA is saddled by a cumbersome bureaucracy, indurate procedures and inadequate staffing. As such, while the federal government has deemed some private corporations "too big to fail," the VA's intolerable claims record argues it may be too big to be fixed.

If the VA claims process is ever going to be fixed, it must be revamped and sufficiently resourced. Furthermore, the VA leadership, from the Secretary on down, must be held strictly accountable for ending this intolerable situation once and for all. Our nation's disabled veterans merit more than hollow promises.

*Citrus County Chronicle*

### African Violet Club to meet

The African Violet Club of Ocala will meet Saturday, June 22, at 10:30 a.m. at the Marion County Sheriff's Office Brian Litz Substation, 9048 S.W. State Road 200, Ocala.

The program includes a photo tour of the African Violet convention. Visitors are welcome.

### Go Figure!

answers

4	÷	2	+	9	11
×		+		÷	
8	+	1	×	1	9
-		×		+	
7	-	5	×	6	12
25		15		15	

### Super Crossword

Answers

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

### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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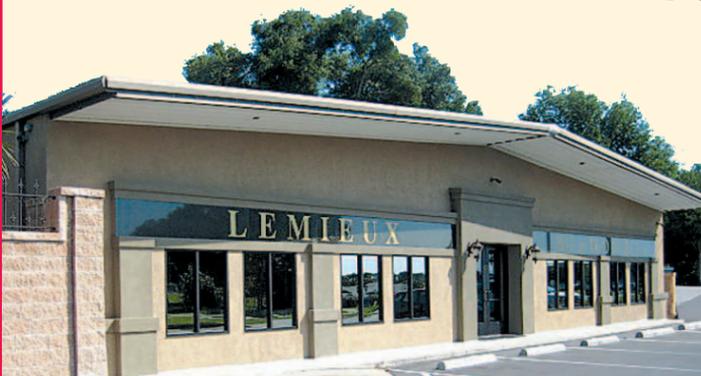
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