

WEST MARION Messenger

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES & BUSINESSES BETWEEN SR 200 AND US 27

Munroe CEO tries to clear up lease issue

BY JIM CLARK
Editor

In the wake of the defeat last year of a tax that would have kept Munroe Regional Medical Center with local operators, outgoing Hospital CEO Steve Purvis explained the current status of the hospital.

Munroe is entering into a lease agreement with Health Management Associates, which operates 73 hospitals,

including 23 in Florida, according to Steve Purves, who is leaving Munroe for a job in the Phoenix area at the end of August. "This is a half billion dollar transaction," Purves told the State Road 200 Coalition on July 15.

Purves said current employees will be offered a chance to stay on for a year ..after that it would be up to hospital officials to decide who they will keep. "There are a lot of details we're working through now."

He said the "most vulnerable" are the senior leadership staff of the hospital.

Purves addressed recent stories that HMA was in the news because of complaints of some of its former employees and stockholders. "It's all noise as far as this transaction is concerned." He said that some people were not happy with the stock performances, and that the CEO of the company is leaving. "That's created a lot of buzz."

He commented that "the issue is not

new." He said that a "couple of people" saw the opportunity for financial gain by making the complaint that the hospital told staff to admit patients rather than keeping them for observation, so that more insurance payments could kick in.

Purves said that because HMA is a private company, their board meetings and paperwork would not be subject to Florida's Government in the Sunshine and public records laws.



PHOTO BY PRISCILLA GEISSAL

Curry Andrews watches work on the tree that fell at his home.

Tree damages two homes in Fairfield Village

BY PRISCILLA GEISSAL
Special to the Citizen

On Monday afternoon, July 15, at about 2 p.m., Curry Andrews, 94, of Fairfield Village, walked down the sloping driveway to his mailbox. As he was walking back up toward his home, he heard a "crack" and stepped back just in time to see half the huge tree in his front lawn fall directly in his path. "The tree split in a gust of wind," Andrews said, "And just came crashing down."

"I think I was very blessed not to have been hit. The

house can be replaced somehow.

"Thank goodness my neighbor, Tony Lucas, was outside too, because the tree hit his house also."

Both Lucas and Andrews are counting their blessings, although both home were extensively damaged.

Neighbors flocked to help the 94-year-old Andrews, who is described by a neighbor as "just the sweetest man you could ever want to know."

Andrews was featured a little over a year ago, highlighting his work in raising funds for the "March for Babies," formerly the March of Dimes.

Developer wins zoning, with conditions

BY JIM CLARK
Editor

Miami developer Enrique Suarez has obtained his zoning change, but faces a long list of conditions and got a stern warning from one Marion County commissioner.

At the zoning portion of Tuesday's County Commission meeting, the board approved the request of Suarez to zone more than 50 acres as a planned unit development (PUD), a switch from the current R-1 (residential) zoning.

The property is north of Alejandria Estates, east of Cherrywood, south of Meadow Glenn and west of Woods and Meadows.

The change would allow smaller lot sizes, enabling Suarez to build on 219 lots, with a minimum of 6,000 square feet. Under the R-1 zoning, the minimum lot size is 10,000 square feet.

Commissioner David Moore objected, asking for a compromise at 8,000 square feet, but no other board member took him up on it, and the zoning change passed, 4-1.

Commissioners reminded the audience that under R-1, Suarez could start building immediately. He would have to have the larger lot sizes, but would not face any of the restrictions imposed by county officials. Chairman Kathy Bryant told the crowd that they might be better off with the PUD zoning.

A town meeting was conducted by Suarez on Friday, July 12, at the Freedom Public Library. The overflow

Please see ZONING, Page 3

Retail gas prices climbing

Retail gas prices jumped another 10 cents across the Southeast last week and the upward trend is not expected to slow down anytime soon. If price trends follow those of 2011 and 2012, motorists could see gas prices rise until mid-September.

Decreases in oil inventories, tensions in the Mideast, and a jump in fuel demand pushed the price of crude oil to a 16-month high. The other factor that has the market on edge and the potential to drive gas prices even higher is peak hurricane season, which is right around the corner. The mere threat of a storm can cause wholesale prices to spike.

"Motorists need to prepare themselves for increased pump prices," said Jessica Brady, AAA spokeswoman, The Auto Club Group. "We're likely to see a lot more volatility in the market as peak hurricane season approaches. The average cost for a gallon of gas in the Southeast could climb upwards of \$3.70 to \$3.80, or higher if a storm disrupts refineries along the coast or in the Gulf of Mexico."



Visiting the airport

Members of the Ocala Marion County Chamber and Economic Partnership look over a helicopter from the 41st Rescue Squadron at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia. The event was a mixer at Tradewinds Cafe and Landmark Aviation at Ocala International Airport.



The ladies at the luncheon.

Help is being sought

Jo Stone, a Quail Meadow resident, has asked for help in collecting items needed at a shelter in Kabul, Afghanistan. Jo's niece is stationed there and sent the request to her parents, who in turn, passed the information on to Jo. Since we are a very caring community, Jo thought that some of you would like to participate in this project. Jo will collect the donations at her home and then her brother will ship them to his daughter. Please call Jo at 352-867-5478 for

more information. Following is an excerpt from the letter received from Jo's niece:

"A group of US Service Members are collecting donations for a school and several shelters in Kabul, Afghanistan, and we need your help. We are supporting an elementary school called Anna's Educational Center. She has 300 students, mostly in the 1st thru 3rd grade, and her students come from the poorest families in Kabul. We have also reached out to a program called Women



Quail Meadow
Carolyn Slocumb

for Afghan Women. The organization provides shelters for battered women and children, as well as children whose mothers are in prison. At any given time they provide services for 150 children and 80-100 young women. The most needed hygiene items include: band aids, Vaseline, moisturizer, hand sanitizer, tooth brushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, small hand towels, room freshener and personal hygiene supplies. The most needed school supplies include: construction paper, pens, pencils, crayons, markers, composition notebooks (not hole-punched or spiral bound), and book bags. The most needed children's clothing includes: shoes, sandals, socks,

blankets, and kids clothing of all sizes. Children's toys are always welcomed; especially jump ropes, soccer balls, and any other playground toys. Please do not send toys that require batteries or a power cord, as these kids don't have access to either."

The ladies of Quail Meadow enjoyed a great lunch at Bianca's last week. It was great to see several new residents join us for the outing. As you know, we in QM enjoy getting together to eat. The next luncheon will be August 9th at The Apple Restaurant.

Attention Red Hatters: Dottie Hefferon has invited us to her home for a "tea" on July 31 at noon. Info, call Pat Talley or Carolyn Slocumb.

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ZONING

continued from Page 1

crowd at the library meeting rooms got Suarez to agree to some of the conditions, and these were incorporated Tuesday in the final motion.

The crowd was considerably smaller at Tuesday's meeting, and the rhetoric, for the most part, was toned down, although some continued to object, and others complained about items that Suarez had already agreed to fix.

Among the conditions laid down as part of the zoning change were building of a privacy fence behind the recreation area at the south end, which adjoins Alejandria Estates; A "9-11 gate" only at the north end of Alejandria's 56th Avenue, which would only be used for emergency vehicles; participation in sign funding for Alejandria Estates, conducting a traffic study and a possible signal at the corner of 100th Street and 62nd Avenue Road, which would be the main entrance to the development; compliance with the county's new Land Development Code; and various privacy fences and buffers around the property.

After members of the crowd spoke, Bryant asked staff members for the answers to some of the questions and gave some answers herself.

Suarez had talked about the possible upgrading of 56th Avenue, and had mentioned pro-rating the cost. Alejandria residents had taken that to mean they would have to pay, but Suarez said he was talking about cost-sharing among those in his development. Bryant commented that Suarez "has no authority to do anything and pro-rate the charge."

One speaker had noted that at the Friday meeting, Suarez had changed the number of lots from 222 to 290, and staff members agreed that this is what they heard.

However, Suarez, who speaks with a heavy accent, said that he said "219," and not 290.

Suarez was supposed to have a new plan and engineering prior to the town meeting, but this had not been done.

When discussing the motion to approve, Commissioner Stan McClain warned, "I encourage you to get your work done" and live up to his deadlines with the county.

Suarez now has to come back in six months with more detailed plans, which the county will review, before he can move to the construction level.

Bryant told him and the audience, "There are a lot of issues that are going to have to be resolved."



Happenings

Thursday, July 25

Meet the county administrator

The League of Women Voters of Marion County will present a "Meet the County Administrator" event on Thursday, July 25, and Live Oak Hall, Master the Possibilities Education Center, 8415 S.W.80th St., at 4 p.m.

Dr. Lee Niblock will discuss the duties of the office of county administrator and answer questions.

The event is open to the public.

Hawthorne open house

Marion County Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors will be present for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 4 p.m. on Thursday, July 25. Afterward, Hawthorne Health and Rehabilitation, 4100 S.W. 33rd Ave., Ocala, will be unveiling its spacious state-of-the-art AJ's Fitness Center and Bounce Back Rehabilitation gym until 7 p.m.

Come meet its team of expert clinicians who are dedicated to helping patients recover from a variety of illnesses, injury, or following a surgery. Refreshments and tours of the luxuri-

ous Bounce Back suites will also be provided. Please RSVP 352-237-7776 or email marketing@hawthornevillageofocala.com.

Saturday, July 27

Concert band's two-day event

The Kingdom of the Sun Concert Band, under the direction of Les Muncaster, announces its July "By Request" concert series scheduled for Saturday, July 27 at 2 p.m. and Sunday, July 28 at 3 p.m. Concerts are held at the Marion Technical Institute (MTI), 1614 S.E. Fort King St., Ocala. Musical selections include: "Selections from Fiddler on the Roof," "Memory" (from the musical "CATS"); "Moon River," "God Bless America," "Star Trek Symphonic Suite" and others. Our annual "By Request" performances feature selections requested by you, our audience members. All performances are free and open to the public.

For more information, call 352-624-9291 or visit our website at kingdomofthesunband.org.

Please see HAPPENINGS, Page 4

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Sunday, July 28

Bowling party for Temple B'nai Darom

Temple B'nai Darom is holding a Bowling Party at AMF Galaxy East, 3225 E. Maricamp Road, on Sunday, July 28 from 5 to 7 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person and includes shoe rental, two games of bowling, a pizza party

and door prizes.

For tickets or information, contact Elaine at 352-789-5617.

Tuesday, July 30

Breast cancer group to meet off site

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. Room 235, (Multipurpose Rm) at 1 p.m.

Our meeting on Tuesday, July 30, will be a luncheon off site at Stone Creek Grille at 1 p.m. in Stone Creek Community, 9676 S.W. 62nd Loop. If heading east on State Road 200 you would turn left on Southwest 80th Avenue and go about three miles. Turn left into Stone Creek Communities which will be on the left past Sholom Park. Please call Gail Tirpak at 352-291-6904 if you have not signed up and would like to attend.

Monday, Aug. 5

Civic Chorale begins rehearsals

Marion Civic Chorale will begin rehearsals for its 27th season on Monday, Aug. 5, at 6:45 p.m. at St. George Anglican Church, 5646 S.E. 5th St., Ocala, and new members are always welcome. Call 352-537-8833 or visit <http://MarionCivicChorale.tripod.com> for more information.

Sunday, Aug. 11

German American Club anniversary

The German American Club of Marion County will

hold its 16th anniversary dinner/dance on Sunday, Aug. 11, from noon to 6 p.m., at the Marion Oaks Community Center. Dinner will be served at 1 p.m. and includes pork schnitzel, mashed potatoes, gravy and green beans. Music will be provided by Joan and Jess! Bring your own beverage. Semi-formal attire is required. Tickets are \$16 per member and \$20 per non-member. For tickets, call Barb Hartmann at 352-751-4207.

Tuesday, Aug. 13

Mac user group to meet

Ocala Macintosh User Group will meet Tuesday, Aug. 13 from 7 to 9 p.m.

N.C. Sizemore reviews local repair facilities for the Mac at this month's meeting. Tech tips will follow his presentation.

Meetings are held in the St. George Anglican Cathedral Parish Hall, 5646 S.E. 28th St., Ocala. Visitors are always welcome. Check our website at <http://ocala-mug.org> for additional information.

Thursday, Sept. 5

CERT training announced

A new Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training will begin Thursday, Sept. 5, at the Marion County Sheriff's Office, 692 N.W. 30th Ave., Ocala. This is an eight-session training, which is available either as an afternoon class, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. or as an evening class, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The afternoon and evening classes run concurrently and attendance can be mixed, depending upon availability. Only one

Please see HAPPENINGS, Page 12

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

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

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

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

CONTACT INFORMATION
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- Editor - Jim Clark
- Circulation - Barbara Jagers
- Inside Sales/Office Coordinator - Michel Northsea
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Deadline for news:
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<p>I want to get news in the Messenger. Call editor Jim Clark at 352-854-3986 or send by e-mail to editor@westmarionmessenger.com</p> <p>Community news and photos must be received by Friday the week before publication. Mail and photos may be left at the Messenger office in Kingsland Plaza. All contributions are subject to editing for clarity, taste, and style.</p>	<p>Deadline for Advertising</p> <p>Classified Reader Ads 4 pm Friday</p> <p>Display Ads 5 pm Thursday</p>
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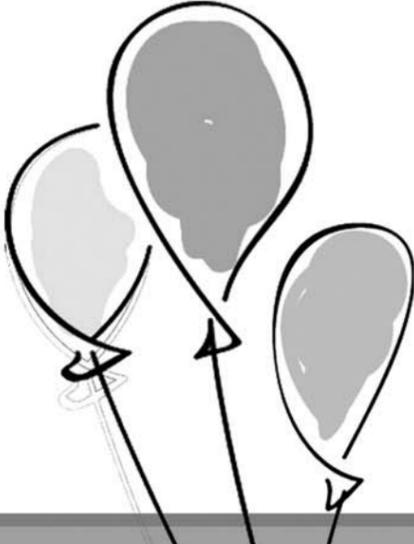
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Suggestions for Serving Seafood

With so many seafood choices it can be difficult to know how to pick the freshest catch. Here are some tips to ensure you're choosing the best at your next visit to the market or fish counter:

- **Milk Does a Salmon Good** — Milk tenderizes salmon and removes any frostbite or fishy taste, so try defrosting salmon in a container of milk for a fresher flavor.
- **Float On, Mussels** — Mussels love to float. If a mussel sinks to the bottom of a container filled with water, throw it away — it's a sign of a bad mollusk.
- **"R" for Really Fresh** — Oysters taste best when they are harvested during colder weather. For a good rule of thumb, enjoy them during months with an "R" in the name, for example, September through April.
- **In the Red** — Quality tuna should be deep red with no "rainbow" coloring, which is a sign of old fish.

From the SEA to Your Table

FAMILY FEATURES

Few things better capture the feel of summer than the three S's: sun, sand and, of course, seafood. Welcome the warm weather and embrace the fresh flavors of the sea with simple, yet delicious, coastal-inspired dishes.

Always a family favorite due to its versatility, seafood takes on a plethora of flavors — from spicy to buttery and beyond. These Crispy Crab Cakes with Spicy Remoulade will make your mouth water with every savory crunch, while smooth, Creamy Risotto with Asparagus and Shrimp will richly impress even the pickiest of palates.

A Perfect Pairing

Any sea-inspired fare pairs perfectly with a crisp, dry white wine, such as the flavorful Albariño from Martín Códax. With origins spanning back to 12th century Spain, the flavorful Albariño possesses tropical fruit aromas and bright citrus flavors. Also known as the "Wine of the Sea," this wine is the perfect accompaniment to any seafood dish. Consider serving this winning combination at your next outdoor gathering or dinner party and you're sure to receive countless compliments.

Whether you're looking for small bites or a heartier entrée, eat sea-to-table this season and take advantage of what summer has to offer. For more information, please visit www.martincodax.com.



Grilled Salmon with Hazelnut Butter

Yield: 4 servings

Hazelnut Butter:

- 3 tablespoons butter, softened
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped hazelnuts, toasted
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped scallions
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice

Salmon:

- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 4 salmon fillets, each about 6 ounces

Combine all ingredients for Hazelnut Butter in bowl; set aside. Sprinkle salt and pepper on both sides of salmon. In a preheated grill pan, grill salmon, skin side up, for four minutes. Flip salmon, topping each fillet with 1 tablespoon of Hazelnut Butter. Cook for 4 minutes until salmon flakes easily with fork. Serve with sautéed green beans.

Crispy Crab Cakes with Spicy Remoulade

Yield: About 16 crab cakes

Spicy Remoulade Sauce:

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons capers, chopped
- 1 teaspoon coarse-ground mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon hot sauce

Crab Cakes:

- 8 ounces lump crabmeat, drained and flaked
- 1 cup finely chopped red bell pepper
- 1 large egg
- 1 tablespoon grated horseradish
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 cup cracker crumbs
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil

Combine all ingredients for Spicy Remoulade Sauce into large bowl. Set aside.

In large bowl, combine crabmeat, red bell pepper, egg, horseradish, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Fold in 1/4 cup of cracker crumbs. Form crab mixture into 2-inch cakes, about 1/2 inch thick. Dredge cakes in remaining cracker crumbs. Heat 2 tablespoons oil in nonstick skillet over medium heat. Cook crab cakes until golden, about 2 minutes per side. Serve with Spicy Remoulade Sauce.

Creamy Risotto with Asparagus and Shrimp

Yield: 4 servings

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 pound large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 4 cups vegetable broth
- 1 bunch asparagus, trimmed and cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 1 large shallot, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 cup Arborio rice
- 1/2 cup Martín Códax Albariño wine
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- Salt and pepper

Heat oil in 12-inch skillet over medium-high heat and cook shrimp, stirring occasionally. Remove shrimp once they are almost fully cooked.

Bring vegetable broth to a boil. Once boiling, reduce heat to a simmer. Add cut asparagus to broth and cook for 2 minutes. With slotted spoon, remove asparagus and set aside with shrimp.

In a 3-quart saucepan over medium-high heat, cook shallots in butter until translucent. Stir in rice to coat the grains and cook for approximately 1 minute. Add in Martín Códax Albariño and stir until wine is absorbed by rice. Once absorbed, stir in vegetable broth 1/2 cup at a time. Note: each 1/2 cup must be absorbed completely before the next one is added. Continue to stir the risotto to keep it from sticking and repeat with remaining broth until all has been added. Stir in shrimp and asparagus and heat through. Add Parmesan cheese and drizzle with olive oil. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve immediately.



Falling trees and bobcats

On Monday afternoon, July 15, right at 2 p.m., our soon-to-be 95-year-old beloved Curry Andrews walked down the sloping drive of his lovely home to his mailbox just as he does nearly every day. As Curry proceeded back to his carport to sit and read that mail, he heard an ominous "CRACK!"



Fairfield Village
Priscilla Geissal

In his own unique language, Mr. Andrews, a WWII U.S. Army veteran told me, "I said to myself, 'About face!'...just in time to keep from having that big old tree hit me as it fell like in slow motion crashing down on my home and on the Lucas's carport. It landed right where I had been standing just before I did the 'about face.' I feel very blessed to have been spared."

As we talked more about what I have always called "my favorite Fairfield tree" and the special memories it holds for Curry and his deceased wife, Miriam, we remarked that it quite obviously was more than 100 years old...maybe close to 200 based on the estimates made by the arborists who saw the tree and the remaining section still standing at the time of our conversation.

In a somewhat melancholy way, Curry said, "That big tree was my Miriam's favorite, and we talked about how it had been on this earth longer than either one of us, and we wondered if it could talk, what it could tell us."

In his own philosophical way, Curry said, "I am just very glad that Tony (Lucas) was outside too and wasn't hurt. The house can be replaced...people can't."

The following day, after the first part of the "big tree" had been removed from the Andrews' home and the home sealed from the elements, a tree removal company came to take down the remaining

part of the beloved tree. Because I am fascinated by human beings who are trained in very dangerous work, I spent almost 2 hours watching that beautiful home to birds, squirrels, and other small creatures with perhaps 200 years of history be taken down

I could not help thinking, "Two hundred years to grow up; 30 seconds to crash down destroying property and memories because of an unexpected gust of wind; 2 hours to be taken down...safely...by 5 men with a bucket truck, an end loader, a dump truck and two big chain saws."

The irony was not lost on me or many others who stopped to offer Curry Andrews any help he needed along with their grateful prayers that he was not injured.

Being a retired 40+ year English instructor from northwest Georgia, I could not help musing to myself how much that beautiful senior Grandmother/Grandfather Oak Tree symbolized human nature to me personally.

I often pointed out to my students, my own children, and my grandchildren that it takes many years to establish one's station in life, but only a few moments to destroy



Some of the damage caused by the falling tree.

one's reputation and/or lifestyle with a bad decision. Just a thought...albeit a rather deep one...perhaps like the roots of that senior Fairfield Village tree.

On a different kind of cautionary note, many of us have recently spotted a very large bobcat roaming

Please see EV, Page 11



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Opinion

Our Message

Common sense and the agenda

We're not sure who sets the County Commission agenda or how they do it, but last week's zoning part of the agenda had two flaws, one major and the other inconvenient.

First was the next-to-last zoning item. Here's how it was labeled: "130705SU Summur LLC, special use permit in A-1, 160 acres."

That was it.

Now ask yourself, what was this special use zoning issue about.

You would never know it without going into the backup material, but this was a permit to allow construction of a new high school in Marion Oaks, adjacent to the southern boundary of SummerGlen.

Granted, if you read the backup material, it gives you all the particulars about the case, but you had to click the backup PDF, and you had a choice of two, to get to the meat of the subject.

If the subject line on the agenda had said, after the "160 acres," "to construct a high school in Marion Oaks near SummerGlen," it would have been instant information for the public that wants to know what is going on in the county.

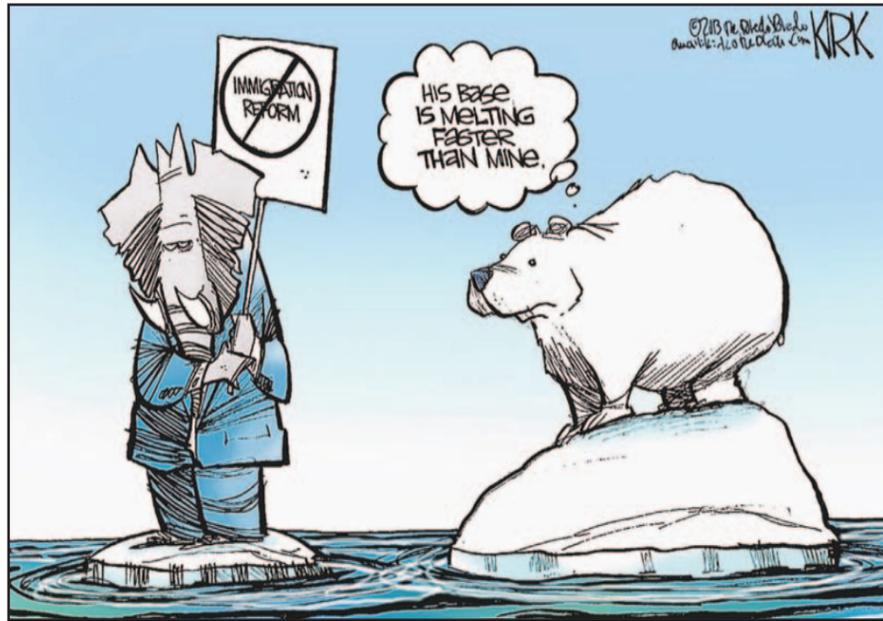
The public records law was not violated in this case. But the duty of the county to keep the residents properly informed surely was. Citizens shouldn't have to wade through all the legalese of backup material to find out one simple thing ...what is this land to be used for?

The second problem, to us, concerned where this item and the following item, the rezoning of 55-plus acres in southwest Marion County were placed. The rezoning had already been heard a couple of times, the developer was told to come back with a plan, he had held a last-minute meeting with the residents of the area who turned out in force. This item, though, was last on the zoning agenda. The people who were there, and there were many, had to sit through a discussion of more than an hour on the new high school, which isn't even going to be built for at least 10 years.

And please don't tell us that items are put on the agenda in order of being received. This rezoning was continued from a hearing in May.

So to those county officials who put items on the agenda, please use some common sense when setting up the next meeting. Give a little consideration to the constituents who have to sit there and listen to all this stuff. Just because you might have to be there for the whole thing, doesn't mean they should be forced to listen.

Editorial



UF player barking up the wrong tree

The University of Florida has another football player in trouble, something that has seemingly grown into an epidemic.

This time it was linebacker Antonio Morrison. And why was he arrested? He was accused of barking at a police dog.

No, you didn't read that wrong. He was barking at a police dog. And now he's in the doghouse, sort of, with the Gator football program.

Over the weekend a deputy was investigating a disturbance near a hotel and club on Southwest 13th Street in Gainesville. The time on the Alachua County Sheriff's report was 3:43 a.m. You know, the time when most decent Americans, other than those who have to work overnight, are home asleep.

Morrison walked up to the police car and started barking at the dog, which, of course, barked back (Morrison says the dog barked first ...that was his excuse).

He was told to wait, refused to cooperate and was arrested because he interfered with the deputy who was trying to investigate his original call.

A few weeks ago, Morrison, a 19-year-old sophomore from Bolingbrook, Illinois, was accused of battery for allegedly punching a bouncer at a nightclub, who refused to allow him in at a discount rate.

After this weekend's incident, he's facing a two-game suspension. Two games? Gee, don't be too rough on the guy. That means he'll miss games against Toledo and Miami. While the Hurricanes' game could be considered a big one, it's not an SEC contest. Morrison could be back for the league opener against Tennessee.

But there are other questions that have to be raised. Why is a football player out at nearly 4 in the morning. Don't coaches have curfews any more? And don't tell me it's because it's summer. If he's here, and not in Illinois, that means he's probably taking advantage of his scholarship, and should be sub-



Among Friends

Jim Clark

ject to some rules.

What about the fact that he's 19 years old and was involved in a fight with a bouncer at a nightclub. Should we pass a state law that you have to be 21 to even enter one of these establishments, much less be served a drink?

Undoubtedly, other colleges have the same problems with their athletes. But Florida is supposedly an elite football program, and the standards should equal that standing in the community. It makes you wonder if there's a leadership problem at the university that, one of these days, is going to blow up in somebody's face.

Why do players behave this way? The cynic among us might answer, "Because they can." But it's much more than that. Players are given celebrity status in the community, and they feel that deserves special treatment.

And why do they feel entitled to that? Well, we all have to take the blame. Every time you buy a Gator hat, pay for a Gator license plate, or even sit down on Saturday afternoon and watch the game, you are making those players feel like they are the most important players in the world.

We'd like to see the players kept at home in the wee hours, behaving more like adults than little children.

The only good thing to come out of this is Gator fans now know they have someone who can bark back at that University of Georgia mascot, you know, the bulldog, when they take the field in Jacksonville.

Guest column

Diabetics on Medicare need information

BY TERRY BLANKENSHIP

If you have diabetes and are on Medicare, you have an important decision to make – and make fast.

You have probably heard that Medicare changed the system through which you get your diabetes testing supplies on July 1. So unlike before, when you could order supplies from thousands of mail order companies, only 18 companies can provide you with your testing supplies today.

There is little question that this new system will be better in the long run. The government will save money and you will see your co-pay and deductible amounts decrease. For example, patients who tested one time a day before July 1 have an average co-pay of approximately \$14.47 on their testing supplies. Now that July 1 has passed, for the same order, the co-pay will decrease to approximately \$4.49. This is a savings to you of almost 70 percent! The actual cost may be even lower or no cost at all if you have secondary insurance.

Yet despite these significant benefits, in the short term this new system is causing confusion for patients who must change providers. They don't know where to begin. And this makes them vulnerable to scammers who might see an opportunity to trick patients into giving personal information.

At Diabetes Care Club, we have heard these types of concerns from people who call searching for a new provider. They are rightly apprehensive about moving to another company and don't know exactly what questions to ask.

Patients wonder what matters most when choosing a provider. And, of course, the answer to that question depends on what the patient values most. Still, after years in the diabetes care industry, I believe there are some key points that patients and their caregivers should consider before selecting a provider to trust with their healthcare needs.

How much experience does the provider have? A provider should have a proven record of excellence in distributing diabetes supplies and responding to large numbers of customers. If you receive a call or email from a provider and are unsure of their legitimacy, it is important to check your sources before providing any personal information. Medicare will not call patients about this change so if you receive a call claiming to be from Medicare, it is a scam.

Is the provider big enough to handle more customers without disruption? A provider should be able to explain in detail how it plans to handle the thousands of new customers it will begin to receive now that the deadline has passed.

Is diabetes the provider's main focus? Ideally, a provider should make diabetes care its top priority rather than spreading its resources over a range of medical issues.

What ordering options does the provider offer? A provider should allow patients to order testing supplies by phone, email, or online and offer con-

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.

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.

Writers will be limited to one contribution per month. The deadline is one week prior to each Wednesday's issue.

Send letters to: The West Marion Messenger Editor, 8810 S.W. State Road 200, suite 103, Ocala, FL 34481; or e-mail editor@westmarionmessenger.com.

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Messenger

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GERRY MULLIGAN

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EDITOR:

JIM CLARK



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) With new facts to work with, you should feel more confident in moving ahead. But continue to do so at an unhurried pace so you can spot details you might otherwise miss.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Taking on that new workplace project could be one of your smarter career moves. Expect a surprising show of support from someone who had always been a critic.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might feel you're too busy to undertake a new responsibility. But check it out before making any decisions. What you learn could persuade you to change your mind.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You feel quite content enjoying all the comforts of home right now. But the urge to travel grows stronger, and by week's end, you could begin packing your bags.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) A hectic period begins to ease up, but that doesn't mean the Fine Feline can do much catnapping these days. You need to finish those old tasks and prepare for new ones.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Expect to get some good news about your financial situation by week's end. But it could still be too early to rush out with a long shopping list of things to buy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Your management skills make an impression on some workplace VIPs who might be looking for someone like you to take on an upcoming project. Good luck.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Meeting a former adversary might be unsettling. But time has softened hard feelings, and you could be on the brink of starting a relationship.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A troubling situation close to home might cause you to change your travel plans. But getting all the facts before you act might cause you to reconsider.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) You might be quite alone right now in deciding to support a major workplace shift. But others will join you as new information supports your bold move.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) A former co-worker returns with news that could persuade you to reassess recently made plans. Be sure to consult with a trusted colleague before you act.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Your motives behind a recent decision could be called into question by a rival. But once you present the facts, doubts are resolved. Enjoy an arts-rich weekend.

BORN THIS WEEK: While you love being the center of attention, your generous heart allows you to share the attention with others.

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. Bow is different. 2. Hand is concealed. 3. Beads are missing. 4. Sign is smaller. 5. Tail is replaced by paw. 6. Glasses are missing.

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S	R	B	I	J	E	T	L	O	E	Y	C	A
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6	8	6	4	6	4	8	6	8	4	8	4	4
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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

C[N] DOUBLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Least distant
 - 8 "Mr. Mom" co-star
 - 16 Prefix with physics
 - 20 Accept the opinion of
 - 21 Was very meaningful
 - 22 Word after New or golden
 - 23 Compound in Turns
 - 25 Part of FYI
 - 26 "It's —" ("See you then!")
 - 27 Put a flaw in
 - 28 Run- (pioneering rap trio)
 - 29 Fats Domino's "Whole — Loving"
 - 30 Departs in a ship
 - 32 Man — cloth
 - 35 Wrinkle-free textile fiber
 - 36 Previous to, in odes
 - 37 What women film directors and producers break through
 - 40 Satisfied sigh
 - 42 — the finish
 - 43 Lifting tune
 - 44 — dixit
 - 45 "Pony Time" singer
 - 51 Gorilla researcher
 - 53 Delhi money
 - 54 "Buddy" star
 - 55 Greek consonants
 - 57 "All in the Family" in-law
 - 61 Kill — killed
 - 62 Rumble
 - 63 Former rival of Best Buy
 - 65 Salt Lake City student
 - 66 Robert Frost, e.g.
 - 67 Requiring no prescription: Abbr.
 - 68 Scientist — Hubbard
 - 69 Pooh-bah
 - 70 School cutups
 - 73 "— Herr"
 - 74 Sprint
 - 75 Valorous
 - 76 Revolting
 - 77 Bem's river
 - 78 All wound up
 - 79 "And quickly!"
 - 81 Numismatist
 - 84 1995-2007 NFL lineman
 - 87 Warren — "Uncle"
 - 89 Courtroom declaration
 - 90 Sturdy tree
 - 91 British newspaper puzzle
 - 96 Sis's sib
 - 99 Loose overcoat
 - 100 Like Jack Sprat's diet
 - 101 Rocked on the brink
 - 104 Violinist
 - 105 Chairman of China
 - 106 "— for Innocent" (Grafton novel)
 - 107 Not just stout
 - 108 "Here we are — olden days ..."
 - 109 Tendencies of a social group's behaviors and beliefs
 - 114 Congregate
 - 115 Using indirect references
 - 116 City noted for miracle cures
 - 117 Give lip
 - 118 Sticky strips with poison
 - 119 Tortilla treat
 - 31 Sore
 - 32 28.35 grams
 - 33 Criticism
 - 34 Like a tribal emblem
 - 35 Mockery
 - 38 Security claims
 - 39 Spain's El —
 - 40 Busy as —
 - 41 Prez Lincoln
 - 45 Stoop low
 - 46 Rush violently
 - 47 Sustain
 - 48 Barbarous
 - 49 Actor
 - 50 Karel Capek play
 - 52 Env. alert
 - 56 Hard: Prefix
 - 58 Bon — (playboy)
 - 59 "Yea, verily"
 - 60 2002 Lucy Liu sci-fi film
 - 62 Sioux shoe
 - 63 Dol. units
 - 64 One of four archangels
 - 66 Greek consonants
 - 67 Above
 - 71 Their bulbs produce
 - 72 Female WWII server
 - 73 Colorful parrot
 - 74 Unit of cards
 - 77 "— of robins ..."
 - 78 Brewed drink
 - 80 Lobbying gp.
 - 82 — Lund Laszlo
 - 83 Miner's find
 - 84 Shrieks
 - 85 Shrinking Asian lake
 - 86 Africans of small stature
 - 88 Rand — (map maker)
 - 92 Bronze-hued
 - 93 Discover by digging, as a pig
 - 94 Ear-related
 - 95 Outcome
 - 96 Starr or Lee
 - 97 Lay dormant
 - 98 Ukraine city
 - 102 Doughnut's shape
 - 103 Critic Roger
 - 105 Meditate
 - 106 TV Soprano player Robert
 - 109 Half — latte
 - 110 D.C.'s home
 - 111 Put a tear in
 - 112 "Hail, Cato!"
 - 113 Kanga's joey

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117																				119

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	+		÷		1
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	×		-		20
×			-		÷
	×		-		6
4		21		1	

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 3 4 5 7 7 8 9

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Apple fritter: the fruit of my choice

Our country, so it seems, runs on choice. The more choices we have the better we like it. Most people in America pride themselves on the ability to make their own choices.

"Freedom of Choice," is the cry you hear all around our country these days. Yet, most people do not have the freedom of choice they think they have. Somebody is influencing the choices they make without them realizing they are being influenced.

That is called marketing. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were watching television the other night, trying to watch a favorite TV program. Finally, from an end of the room that was not my end, came an exasperated sigh. I tried to ignore it, but you know how that works.

The exasperation seemed to accelerate and I knew that if I did not acknowledge it in some way, well, I think you know what would happen.

It was in the middle of some commercials and so I turned to her and said, "What's got you in such pain tonight?" At her age I did not know if there was some medical something or other going on.

"These commercials," she moaned so painfully, "I can't stand all these commercials!"

I must say I was a little bummed out about all the commercials myself. I think every one-hour program is devoted to 30 minutes of commercials. Most of those commercials are for things I have no interest in. Or, they are played at a very inappropriate time.

It never fails if we are having our supper while watching television there are 79 commercials for diarrhea. Is this really a major problem in our country today?

Getting back to my wife and the commercials, I responded as cheerfully as I could, "Well, my dear, somebody has to pay for our television viewing privilege."

I felt a cold yet burning stare in my direction. "Can't they run those lousy commercials when I'm not watching TV?"

Someone once said that silence is golden and right then I cultivated a golden moment.

Commercials are a way in which manufacturing companies influence our choices. Every product has 100 different companies marketing the same product. I have not done too much research but the little I have done I discovered that the same company makes the same product but sells it under a different name.



Out to Pastor
Dr. James Snyder

There are two categories of products. There is the name brand, which cost a fortune. Then there is the generic brand, which is only a fraction of what the name brand cost. It is the same product, made by the same company, but advertised by difference venues.

This is where choice comes in. Some people choose the high-priced product because they think it is better. Some of us choose the low-price product because we know better.

One night as we were watching television, it seemed most of the commercials had to do with dieting of some kind. There were high calorie diets, low-carb diets and diet that really did not make sense to me.

Watching all of those dieting commercials, I did not see one that I would die for.

Every one of those commercials assumes everybody watching wants to lose 297 pounds. Personally, I have lost the same five pounds for over 30 years. I lose five pounds and then by golly, three weeks later I find those five pounds, at least they recognize me.

Anybody can lose weight; it is all a matter of choice. Personally, I do not plan to lose any sleep because I cannot lose weight. I think it is going to be rather funny if when we go to heaven everybody is fat. Wouldn't that be something? We plummet ourselves almost to death trying to lose weight and get to heaven and everybody is fat.

It all boils down to choice. It all boils down to the fact that most people think they are making their own choices. Those of us who are on the husband side of the marital equation know we do not make our own choices. Our choices are made for us by our "better half." Why do you think we get married?

Please see PASTOR, Page 12

MEDICARE

continued from Page 8

venient hours for customer support.

Does the provider accept "assignment?" All mail-order providers must accept assignment, which means they cannot charge more than the prices set by Medicare.

But retail outlets like pharmacies do not have to accept assignment and can charge more. It is important to ask to make sure you are not paying added costs.

What products does the provider stock?

A quality provider should offer a wide range of products so that pa-

tients can get a product that best meets their needs.

Does the provider handle all the paperwork? A quality provider will handle any paperwork associated with Medicare, saving patients time and effort with these confusing forms.

Does the provider deliver on time and for free? Patients should expect their provider to cover the costs of shipping and guarantee that testing supplies will arrive on time and in proper condition.

I also recommend that patients and their caregivers visit www.NationalDiabetesSupplyFinder.com,

a website that helps people find the names of all 18 providers authorized by Medicare and link to their services. Additionally you can contact Medicare directly.

My hope is that by arming people with a few key questions and more information, we can help them make a seamless and stress free switch to a provider they trust. In that way, they will be able to rest assured after July 1 that their supplies will be waiting for them in the mailbox, just as always.

Terry Blankenship is vice president of patient care at Diabetes Care Club.

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Citizen

FFV

continued from Page 7

in the FFV community. For some weeks now, there has been trash scattered if that trash had been put out in plastic bags the evening before the morning trash collection. Much speculation about the culprit(s) had included a rather large black dog that is unfamiliar to our community. Now we are wondering if the bobcat gets a treat or a full meal after it rips open a neighborhood trash/garbage bag.

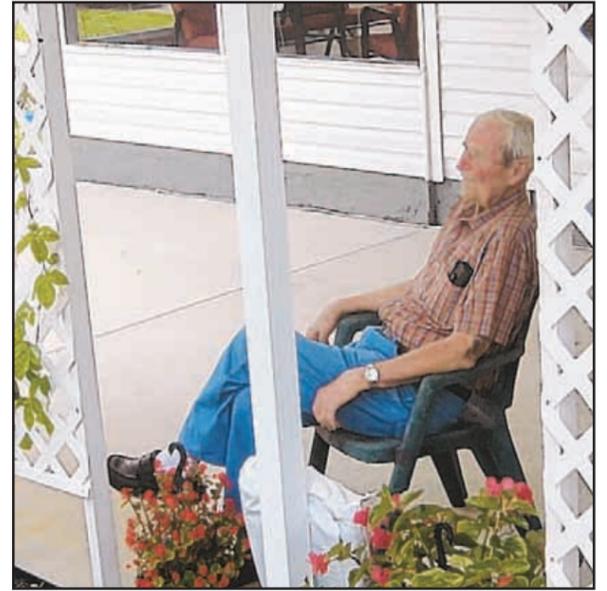
No one had mentioned a wild animal or animals until the bobcat was seen strolling at quite a leisurely pace in some yards, ambling around a couple of retention ponds, and even—by me and 2 friends in the carport of one of our neighbors' home. I would suggest that is a very comfortable "BOB" cat or "BOBBIE" cat, as the case may be.

Several neighbors have expressed concern especially about our single ladies who are sometimes out in our quiet neighborhood after twilight with very small dogs that would hardly be more than a "snack" for a hungry wild creature.

A call to Marion County officials by a group of neighbors who actually have seen the bobcat numerous times did not provide the response that had been hoped for. The ladies were told that "Someone can come and shoot it..." which is not at all what is desired at this point. The bobcat has not harmed any living "pet" creatures YET that we know about. It was hoped that it could be trapped and relocated so that it could go on with its life and the little dogs in FFV would not be jeopardized. According to the unidentified person at the wildlife agency, their guidelines for "relocation" require that there be a volunteer who owns 40+ acres of land who agrees to have the creature released on his/her personal property.

If someone can give us help with this unsafe situation with the bobcat, or can give a viable suggestion, call me, Priscilla Barnett Geissal, at 352-694-6251 and I will pass that information along to our HOA.

Those of us who enjoy living in FFV, the "...lively place filled with lovely people..." hope to be without the danger of falling trees and big prowling bobcats. We express our thanks to the Marion County Sheriff's Department for extra security while the Andrews' home has been under repair. We appreciate our public servants who do such a good job.



Curry Andrews sits and watches the removal of the tree.

Go Figure! answers

5	+	4	÷	9	1
-		x		-	
3	x	7	-	1	20
x		-		÷	
2	x	7	-	8	6
4		21		1	

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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.

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

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



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PASTOR

continued from Page 10

My wife is a great one for fruit and vegetables. Every day of our life is fruit and vegetables. To mix things up a little bit one day it will be vegetables and fruit.

She prepares the fruit and then invites me to make a choice. I am sure she did not see all of this in any television commercial; at least I hope she hasn't. She is proud of the display of fruit choices she has for me.

She is also concerned about my diet. Much more than I am. I do not think my diet is so important that both of us should be concerned about it. If she chooses

to be concerned about my diet, that is her choice.

I choose to be a little more cavalier when it comes to dieting.

Actually, and do not tell her I said this, but my fruit of choice is the humble Apple fritter. It has everything my heart desires and a few things my body desires, too.

I like with David said, "Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Psalms 37:4 KJV). It is all a matter of choice, that is, making the right choice.

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

HAPPENINGS

continued from Page 4

class can be missed in the 8-session series and the CPR and last class is mandatory.

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

Consider this opportunity to learn how to form or join a CERT group in your community by signing up for this no-cost training program. For more information and for an application, contact Bob Conn, Trainer, at 352-812-0853. All applications must be in by Aug. 17.

Saturday, Oct. 5

Knights planning golf tournament

The Knights of Columbus, Council 9649, is having its Annual Queen of Peace Charity Scramble Golf Outing at Stone Creek Golf Club on Saturday, Oct. 5 (rain delay date is Saturday, Oct. 12).

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. followed by a shotgun start at 8 a.m. Registration fee is \$65 per person and includes a packet of free items, complimentary morning coffee, golfers buffet lunch, and golf with cart.

Door prizes and a chance to win Hole-in-One prizes including \$10,000 or iPad or 2 airline tickets to any city in the continental U.S. Proceeds will permit the Knights to continue their support of Marion County charities. Contact Fred Roberts prior to Sept. 21 at 352-502-3093 for details and registration form.



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