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Ellspermann named top principal in U.S.

West Port administrator honored at surprise assembly

Jayne Ellspermann of West Port High School in Ocala has been named the 2015 National Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

The award was announced Tuesday at a surprise assembly at the school attended by Florida Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart, elected state and local officials, students, teachers, and Ellspermann's own family. The announcement came as part of NASSP's celebration of National Principals Month.

During her 10 years as West Port principal, Ellspermann has developed a college-going culture personalized for students. At West Port, lunchtime is often "PowerHour," a student-empowerment initiative Ellspermann launched giving students autonomy over an hour of their school day for academic enrichment, open labs, clubs, and other creative opportu-

nities. Three years of PowerHour has produced a more personalized and successful school environment: course failure has nearly disappeared, the graduation rate has jumped 15 points, and participation in activities has increased seven-fold to nearly 70%.

As well, West Port is an "A" school and boasts the highest test scores in the district. West Port students can also graduate with an associate's degree before graduating from high school thanks to an on-campus college program Ellspermann also spearheaded.

A former law enforcement officer, Ellspermann joined Marion County Public Schools 34 years ago as a high school social studies teacher. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Georgia and a master's degree in education from the University of Florida.

"Jayne Ellspermann believes in

students and pushes them to succeed by convincing them the future is theirs to control," said Superintendent George Tomin of Marion County Public Schools. "Make it a great day or not, the choice is yours" is the standard mantra at WPHS," he added. "Ellspermann supports this student-focused theme by developing and leading dedicated teachers who deliver outstanding instruction and guidance to West Port students."

"Jayne Ellspermann simply sees no limit to her students' potential nor to the school's potential to help them fulfill it," said NASSP Executive Director JoAnn Bartolletti. "Her passion and focus on personalization, academic rigor, and collaborative leadership — hallmarks of NASSP's Breaking Ranks framework for school improvement — keep her moving

Please see PRINCIPAL, Page 12



West Port High School Principal Jayne Ellspermann holds her award.



MARION COUNTY FIRE-RESCUE PHOTO

Marion County firefighters sport pink shirts during October.

Firefighters think pink during October

In addition to fighting fires, responding to car accidents, and other medical emergencies, your Marion County fire fighters are sporting the color pink throughout October in efforts to fight breast and other cancers.

Fire fighters exposed to carcinogens and other chemicals while on the job are disproportionately diagnosed with breast cancer — just one of many cancers linked to the work fire fighters do. With one in eight women diagnosed each year, an estimated 232,340 new cases of breast cancer and 39,620 deaths will be reported in 2013. Among all women affected, 85 percent have no family history.

"Your fire fighters and paramedics work hard to save lives both on and off the job. They are motivated to get involved for many reasons, and often it's because they have been personally

affected by the disease," says Ryan O'Reilly, a fire fighter and paramedic with the Marion County Fire Rescue and secretary of the Professional Firefighters of Marion County, IAFF Local 3169. "We are supporting breast cancer awareness and prevention by encouraging others to give so that no breast cancer patient goes without life-saving treatments or having hope for a cure."

According to Scott Chappell, president of the Marion County Firefighters Benevolence Fund, the charitable foundation of the local fire fighters association, around \$10,000 has been raised in recent years to support families affected by cancer, cancer research, and provide free mammograms to women who may not otherwise be able to afford early detection screenings.

Last year alone, \$3,500 was raised in support of Michelle-O-

Gram, a local charity established in the memory Michelle Standridge, the wife of a Marion County fire fighter who lost her battle to cancer. This charity not only raises money to pay for mammograms, but also helps negotiate prices with radiology centers, which allows women without insurance or the necessary funds to obtain mammography testing as well as breast ultrasounds. For more information how you can help, please visit www.michelleogram.com.

This year, the benevolence fund is also a sponsor of the Dancing with the Angels Ball, an event to help local women affected by breast cancer. The formal dinner and dance is on Saturday, Oct. 11, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Ocala Holiday Inn. For ticket information please call (352) 236-2599

Please see PINK, Page 10

Sheriff Blair releases free phone application

Marion County Sheriff Chris Blair announces MCSO's new, free phone application that will help keep our citizens more in touch with what's going on in our county. Whether you're looking for mug shots, locations of sex offenders or breaking news alerts, this application is a must-download for Marion County residents.

The Marion County Sheriff's Office application has information on missing persons, most wanted, sex offenders, inmates and mug shots, and even a section where citizens can commend a deputy if they feel they went above and beyond in the line of duty. You can submit a tip to Marion County Crimestoppers through this app, either by phoning it in or by text message.

One of the most important features of this app is its ability to send out push notifications for missing persons alerts and for breaking news. This will allow the Sheriff's Office to immediately alert the community with information about critical incidents in Marion County.

It is important to note that the money used to purchase this application did not come out of the taxpayer's wallet. This phone app was paid for with fine and forfeiture money seized from drug dealers.

A video on how to use the app can be found on the Sheriff's Facebook page.

Costume rentals available

Do you have your Halloween costume yet? Tired of dressing up as the same old ghost or witch every year? Ocala Civic Theatre offers lots of great choices in the Costume Shop!

We have thousands of costumes, representing a wide variety of eras and characters: pirates, princesses, French maids, medieval kings, Wild West cowboys, can-can dancers, gypsy fortunetellers, gangsters, nuns, and flappers, just to name a few. The Theatre charges a reasonable rental fee and often is able to include wigs, shoes, and accessories.

Don't wait until the night before Halloween to try to scare up a costume — the deadline to rent a costume is Oct. 28. Rentals are by appointment only. No walk-ins. To make an appointment, call the Costume Shop at (352) 236-2851, ext. 110, as soon as possible.

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If everything goes right, something's definitely wrong

It was a week when everything went just the way I had planned. It is hard to express your feelings when something like this happens because it rarely happens.

The infamous To-Do-List from the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was completed to her ecstatic satisfaction. That never happens. In fact, I finished it in time to have a little of "Me Time." I sat on the back porch with a steaming hot cup of coffee and enjoyed an evening with nothing to do. I am not sure how long I sat there, but my coffee was just as hot as it was on my first sip. I do not know how my wife does those things. I have never enjoyed a cup of coffee more.

I had an appointment across town and in traveling across town I never hit one red light. I think that should go into the Guinness book of records. It has never happened to me before and I was reveling in the deepest kind of satisfaction I have ever known. I got to my destination 20 minutes early. I love early.

After paying all my bills for the week and balancing my checkbook, I had \$100 left over. What in the world, do you do with \$100 left over after paying all your bills? It did not take long to come up with a solution. I decided to take my wife out for supper on Friday night at her favorite restaurant. It was a glorious night on the town and the service at the restaurant was superb.

Never have I enjoyed a more wonderful time on the town. The steak was done to a perfect T, just the way I like it. The waitress kept my coffee cup filled to the brim.

All through our meal, neither cell phones rang nor did we receive a text from anybody. Now seriously, how often does that happen? I checked several times to make sure my phone was still on. I sat back and decided to enjoy our anonymity. It is good to just chill together.

As we came near the end of our delectable evening repast, I was about to mention to my wife what a tremendous week we were having and then...

Then, I woke up. It was all just a dream. A good dream, but a dream nevertheless.

Why is it dreams never come true? Why is it that my dream life is so much superior to my actual life? No wonder as a person gets older they want to spend more time sleeping. I think I am just about there.

For a brief moment, I experienced what a perfect week would look like, even if it was just in my dreams.

A perfect week is not when everything goes our way, because, if everything goes right then you know something is wrong. Call it pessimism if you will or maybe just a dash of reality.

It is when things go wrong that I begin to understand what life is all

about. I begin to understand that nothing is perfect. And, if nothing is perfect, then neither am I. I like that. The only perfect person at our residence is my wife, and I have her word on that and she never lies to me.

Demanding perfection is a rather foolish thing. If I demand perfection from someone, they in turn are going to demand perfection from me. That is more stress than I care to live with, especially at my age.

After over four decades of marital bliss, I have made an astounding discovery that has made my life so much more pleasurable. It took me a long time to come to this, but I sure am glad I have. For many years, I was hard on myself trying to be perfect in everything I did. Then, I got married and all of that went away. It was a struggle at first, but I came to one astounding conclusion that has changed my life and brought me to a point of chilling out for the rest of my life.

In our home only one person needs to be perfect. That one person is not me. What a blessing it is to realize that you are not perfect and you do not have to live up to that standard of perfection. I can be goofy, make mistakes



Out to Pastor
Rev. James Snyder

and act silly and nobody cares. All those years of trying to be perfect were wasted.

Now I have come to the place where I have acceded to the fact that my wife is perfect. I gladly anoint her as Queen Perfection in our humble Castle. All of the burden now rests upon her. She does not need to worry; I am there to support her in that aura of perfection.

The nice thing about all of this is, she does not need much help from me. It is almost like I am retired for the rest of my life with nothing else to do. The burden of perfection does not rest upon my shoulder. Oh yes, the checkbook. After looking at it while awake, I discovered I was \$100 overdrawn.

Solomon understood this when he wrote, "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits," (Proverbs 16:2).

Everything does not have to go right for me to rejoice in the goodness of the Lord.

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Happenings

Wednesday, Oct. 15

MOPS at College Road Baptist

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We are inviting you to a MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) program. We all have times when we need to get away. We hope we will see you there. Also, visit us at Collegeroad.org for more information.

Thursday, Oct. 16

Air Force group to meet

The October meeting of the Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 of the Air Force Association will be held on Thursday, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. at the Ocala International Airport Administration Building, 750 SW 60th Ave., Ocala.

This will be our yearly awards meeting. Several chapter awards will be presented.

If you care about educating people about the importance of a strong Air Force please join us and help.

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

Violinist at Young at Heart

College Road Baptist Church will have Betty Pipkins, violinist, for our Oct. 16 program, at noon. Please bring a dish to share.

Everyone is welcome to join us. Bring friends and neighbors for great fellowship.

Phone is 352-237-5741. Church is at 5010 College Road (Hwy 200).

Friday, Oct. 17

Fish dinners at St. Jude

Our monthly fish dinner is Friday, Oct. 17, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. The menu includes fried or baked fish, cole slaw, French fries, macaroni and cheese, and dessert. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children under the age of 12. Tickets may be purchased at the door of our Parish Hall at 443 Marion Oaks Drive.

French group to meet

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

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

Guests are welcome at any meeting. Call Marie McNeil at 352-854-7397 for more information. Our next meeting is Oct. 17.

Saturday, Oct. 18

Woman's Club bazaar

The GFWC Woman's Club of Ocala will have a Christmas/Holiday Bazaar fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Elks Club and Lodge, 702 NE 25th Ave., Ocala. The 12 expected vendors will offer a variety of items for sale such as handbags, jewelry, arts and crafts, cosmetics, jams and jellies, and specialty teas. Vendors will be providing a gift or gift certificate for a silent auction. Come do your holiday shopping with us!

The event is a fundraiser and proceeds will benefit our many community service projects as well as provide scholarship funds. GFWC Woman's Club of Ocala is a non-profit organization and is affiliated with the General Federation of Women's Clubs, an international organization dedicated to community service. For vendor sponsorship or other information contact via email to jdelk@marykay.com.

Lions yard sale at Bank of Ozarks

The Ocala 200 Lions Club is having a yard sale on Saturday, Oct. 18 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Bank of

the Ozarks, State Road 200 in the Friendship Plaza. Food will be available for purchase.

Arts and craft show

The Queen of Peace Council of Catholic Women will host their annual Arts and Crafts Show on Saturday, Oct. 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parish hall.

Local vendors will showcase one-of-a-kind art and handmade items. Lunch will be available for purchase. Proceeds will benefit numerous local entities. Queen of Peace is at 6455 SW State Road 200, Ocala.

Indoor yard sale at Joy

Joy Lutheran Church, located at SW State Road 200 at 83rd Place, Ocala, will have its annual Indoor Yard Sale and Bake Sale on Saturday, Oct. 18 from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Swenson Hall. The public is invited to donate such items as furniture, tools, gardening equipment and sports related items. Kitchen and housewares, linens, books, and craft supplies are also welcome for donation. Please no clothes, shoes or electronics.

Yard sale items may be brought to Swenson Hall on Wednesday, Oct. 15 from 9 a.m. to noon, or anytime during the day on Thursday or Friday, Oct. 16-17, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Baked goods should be brought on Friday. Please have all baked goods wrapped for sale and labeled, particularly if they contain nuts.

As usual there will be the "vintage" table for the special treasures as well as a craft and quilt section. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. Mark your calendar for this well-known favorite community event and join us for a fun-filled day.

For more information call Edie Heinzen (854-7817) in regards to the bake sale and Patty Corey (854-0660) or Kathy Hoefer (237-6439) regarding the yard sale.

More on Page 10

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

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

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Deadline for news:
Friday 1 p.m. the week before publication.

Member of the Community Papers of Florida

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">I want to get news in the Messenger.</p> <p>Call editor Jim Clark at 352-390-6444 or send by e-mail to editor@westmarionmessenger.com</p> <p>Community news and photos must be received by Thursday the week before publication. Mail and photos must be e-mailed to editor@westmarionmessenger.com. All contributions are subject to editing for clarity, taste, and style.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Deadline for Advertising</p> <p>Classified Reader Ads 2 pm Friday</p> <p>Display Ads 5 pm Thursday</p>
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Fairfield's Home of the Month chosen



Fairfield Village
Priscilla Barnett

Dominick and Margaret (Peggy) Marino's home has been chosen by FFV manager Rachel Muse as the Home of the Month for October. This was a very popular choice since many of the Marino's neighbors felt this couple deserve recognition not only for their home and yard, but also because they are such very good neighbors in all ways.

The comments I heard included, "They are always so caring and helpful." "Both Dominick and Peggy will do anything to help their neighbors." "They are just always very nice and so friendly."

The Marinos moved to Fairfield Village from Albany, New York in September 2006 and they have always loved the community as it seems evident that the community loves them as well.

Back in New York, Dominick owned a printing company and Peggy worked for Fuji Film. They loved their life there but did not like the cold weather so they have always enjoyed the warm weather here in Ocala.

Dominick has always been an avid gardener

which is evident with all the beautiful plants and shrubs in his immaculate yard. Dominick often shares his plants and "green thumb" with his neighbors, and says that he does miss having his big vegetable garden that he had each year in New York. He grew corn, tomatoes, and all kinds of vegetables, along with strawberries and blackberries.

The Marinos are very proud of their family. They have a daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren in Schenectady, New York; and a son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren, who live in Michigan. The smiles of their faces as they spoke about their family made it quite clear that this is a very loving group of people.

Both Dominick and Peggy are avid collectors. Dominick has a big collection of model airplanes hanging from the ceiling in his special room. The antique German helmets really caught my eye along with the scale model of ill-fated Titanic.

Peggy's special passion is for porcelain dolls. Her collection is very extensive and absolutely beautiful. Many are on display in a lovely lighted cabinet and still others are displayed especially in the dining room. Peggy was always a big "Elvis" fan and she continues that today with many different kinds of "Elvis" memorabilia. The dolls and Elvis are kept separate however—each with its own focus.

As a special note, we would like to wish Dominick and Peggy a Happy 49th anniversary. They were married on October 9, 1965. From the smiles on their faces it seems sure that they will celebrate many



Dominick and Peggy Marino's home was chosen as the Fairfield Home of the Month.

more happy years together. Congratulations to an exemplary couple.

It is because of such nice people as the Marinos that Fairfield Village can continue to claim its reputation as a "lively place filled with lovely people."

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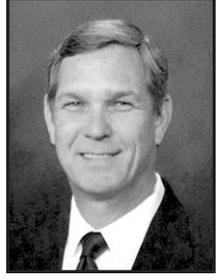


Fifty Veterans joined together yesterday for a group photo. The group represented all branches of the military service. This was a special day for everyone as many residents never met their neighbors with the veteran relationship in mind. This finalized a six month search by me and Maryanne Ellner making a list of over 75 Veterans. The group shown is our Quail Meadow Marines. Standing from left are; Royce Smith, Art Gugliami, Jack Linsky, Alan Clemens, and Samuel Fargiorgio.



Seven Ladies went on the St. Johns River Tours launching out of the Blackwater Inn at Astor Florida. The cruise was excellent and so was the weather today October 9th. Standing from left is Jeanne Kane, Grace Maguire, Carol Sjogren, Dixie Marchant, Nancy Lane, Charlotte Payne, and Pat Talley. Photo is Courtesy of Captain Ernie of the Neptune Star.

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Thirteen Quail Meadow residents met at the clubhouse for pizza, ice cream, and other goodies prepared by Aileen, Bev and Grace. Laughter was the Theme of this spur of the moment gathering. It was truly fun seeing the gang back together. Seated are Jack and Linda Lipsky, Bev and Norm Deschambeault. Standing from left are Brian and Grace Maguire (new residents), Aileen and Stew Trautman (far back), Karen Capper, Maryanne Ellner, Carol Mowrey, Brooke Hamlin and Ron Mowrey.

Celebration of veterans beginning in Quail Meadow

Walked into the bank today and a notice said a holiday was closing the bank on Monday, October 13, 2014. The sign referenced Christopher Columbus, so which president was that, what year? Seems that this guy was said to have discovered America on Oct. 12, 1492 and he was Italian to boot. ABC News reports that Seattle Mayor Ed Murray is expected to sign the resolution to name the second Monday in October "Indigenous Peoples Day" which is the same day our Government recognizes Columbus Day in America. The Italians don't like that change as it is essentially Italian Heritage Day as proclaimed by Ralph Fascitelli, who is an Italian American who lives in Seattle.

OK, wait, it is coming back to me ... Columbus Sailed the Ocean Blue in 14 hundred and 92. He was not a president at all, but another sailor from another country that landed on the

shores of what we call America. That was not mentioned in this article except not only the Seattle people wanted a change but the Native Americans also want credit for Columbus Day simply renaming it "Native Americans Day." Either way, hope you got Columbus Day Sales at retail stores, great deals on furniture.

Veterans Day is on Nov. 11 and we already started celebration of our veterans here in the Meadow. Quail Meadow, I am proud to say, had a great welcome to Veterans Day yesterday, the 8th, with a photo taken by Ron Mowrey who assisted me so I could be in the picture. Maryanne Ellner and I have been working with advertising using the West Marion Messenger to see how many veterans live in Quail Meadow. To date, we have a list of 75 men and women living here who responded. Fifty-one showed up yesterday at the clubhouse to be a part of the group photo. After the group photo



Quail Meadow
Richard Gunther

was taken, we broke our veterans down to photos by service representation being Army, Air Force, Navy (included one Coast Guard), and Marines. We thank all those who attended this event. I can say easily that there was an instant feeling of friendship and social union associated with this new group of men and women that will last a very long time here in Quail Meadow. Due to renovation in the clubhouse, our next meeting will not be until Jan. 16, and the date will be made official in the Messenger by the end of December.

Other happenings going on in our Quail Meadow is a welcome back party held last Saturday, Oct. 4, with 13 residents. They met at the

clubhouse for ice cream as well as other great snacks and desserts whipped up by Aileen, Bev and Gracie who really know how to feed friends. I was told that the theme of the event was laughter, and as to a good time was had by all, can be seen in the photo provided by Maryanne.

Back to QM business. If you did not attend the first informational meeting, the final meeting regarding the merger will be Thursday, Oct. 16 at 6 p.m. At the QRMPOA Board meeting held on Monday the 6th, interior painting of the clubhouse was discussed. Colors are up on the walls as samples for residents to see. Painting will begin Oct. 20. The color change is long overdue and really should look great. More importantly, the board announced one very special meeting that all residents should attend as voting will take place at the annual meeting on Dec. 11. This is dealing with the merger of homeowners into one solid association to handle all the QM property and recreation business at hand. We presently have two boards and two organizations that handle each of these areas. One board handles recreation and the other board handles the property. When you attend the annual meeting a homeowner will be asked to vote on the merger. We all want Quail Meadow to be an ideal community in Marion County. It takes your vote and understanding of what is taking place. What is being explained will be a benefit for homeowners in Quail Meadow.

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Ocala Palms 100 Days of Summer

BY BARB DEDICS

Ocala Palms Operations, LLC hosted "100 Days of Summer" with a Grand Finale featuring Felix DeNeau. DeNeau is well known to captivate audiences by paying tribute to the popular entertainer Dean "Dino" Martin of the 1950-70s era. The Grand Finale consisted of not only popular songs and jokes of that era, but audience participating with dancing, singing along and skits. Mr. "Martin" serenaded several ladies who had birthdays and couples celebrating wedding anniversaries. Earlier in the summer, concerts included: (1) a "beach" party with entertainer Jason

Webb of the Caribbean Chillers, who belted out mainly Jimmy Buffet songs; (2) a concert of the group Northern Sounds, who gave their rendition of a variety of songs and (3) the Bluegrass Swing singers known as Gatorbone Trio.

Ocala Palms residents enjoyed not only the above-named "free" concerts, but numerous appetizers and beverages were provided for them at each concert.

Compliments go out to Ocala Palms Operations, LLC., Social Director Dee Morgan, Clubhouse manager Justin Sanford and the Ocala Palms Planning Committee for organizing these events.



Felix DeNeau as Dean Martin, Dee Morgan and Justin Sanford.



Betty DeGeorge and Nancy Groth.



Bob and Diane Volko.



Lew and Pat Peticca.



Larry and Jan Miller.

More on Page 11

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FREE EVENT

Saturday
October 18, 2014
10 am to 3 pm

Showcasing over 100 crafters and artists from all over Ocala/Marion County, featuring everything from stained glass to jewelry! Plus, enjoy live entertainment by Fred Campbell, Pockets of Clowns and more next door at the Circle Square Commons Town Square.



For more information and to register contact the Recreation Center Office at 854-8707 ext. 7533 or 7530. 8395 SW 80th Street, Ocala, FL 34481 • (352) 854-3670 • www.CSCulturalCenter.com

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- 7 nights - Eastern Caribbean Cruise - **Jan. 10, 2016**

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- 3 nights in Biloxi - **we go twice a month**

Day Trips

- Dec. 02** - Mystery Day Trip
- Dec. 04** - Isn't it Romantic at the Winter Park Playhouse
- Dec. 06** - Singing Christmas Trees / First Baptist Church Orlando (only 6 seats left)
- Jan. 10** - Caught in the Net, Early Bird Dinner Theatre
- Jan. 29** - Crazy for You at the Show Palace

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Opinion

Our Message

Our principal is the best

A couple of years ago, the *Citizen* and *Messenger* ran a story after an interview with some West Port High School students who were going to graduate with Associate Degrees from the College of Central Florida a few weeks before they would get their high school diplomas.

The students' knowledge and self-assurance was evident during the interview, and it was apparent that they had been well-trained during their high school years.

That tradition of graduating students in this manner has continued at West Port and the numbers have grown. It's a testament to the students themselves, the faculty and the administration.

When you walk around the West Port campus, it's easy to think you're at a small college facility. Everything is designed to bring out the best in the young people who go to class there.

Editorial

It takes someone to pull all this together, and in the case of West Port that title belongs to Principal Jayne Ellspermann.

Now in her 10th year, she has built up the academics at this school to a point where it is the envy of many a person in the educational community.

Her work has not gone unnoticed. Earlier this summer, she was named the Florida Principal of the Year, quite an honor in a state with as many schools as the Sunshine State boasts.

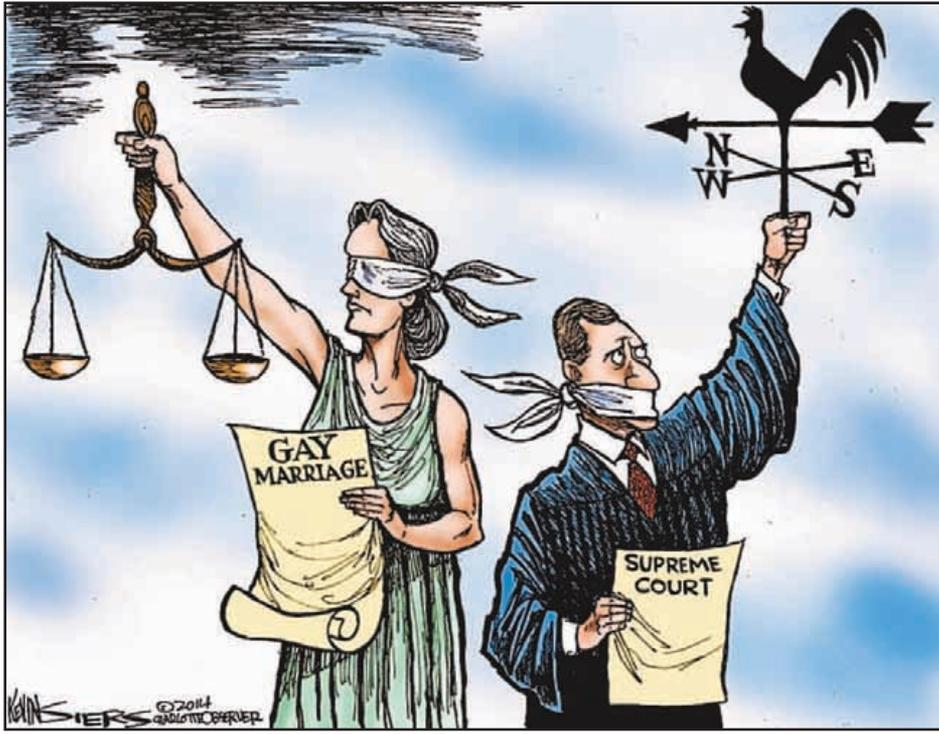
But the recognition did not end there. This week she was named the National Principal of the Year at a surprise assembly at the school in front of many students, faculty members and local and state officials.

We believe it's an honor well deserved.

She has shown that with the proper motivation and guidance, today's young people can become productive members of society. When students graduate from West Port, they know that they have learned under the leadership of someone who cares about them, who wants to see them succeed in all walks of life.

Other schools, whether in Marion County or elsewhere, should take

Please see BEST, Page 10



Note to Crist, Scott: We speak English

Many years ago (back in the Dark Ages) when I was in high school, I took three years of Spanish. My teacher was a member of the religious order at Bergen Catholic High School, at the time called the Irish Christian Brothers. His name was Brother Michael Herman Bradley.

I learned Spanish with an Irish brogue.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not complaining. In our senior year, we had one of the parents bake a cake at the end of the year and we honored him. Brother Bradley, a crusty old veteran, was visibly touched. We liked him and were able to be glad to show him.

Unfortunately, Brother Bradley, who was laughed at for his saying once, when he was upset with us, "You're men now, kids," wouldn't have been proud of me last Friday evening.

I went all over my cable television to find the debate between Charlie Crist and Rick Scott in the governor's race. I found it finally, but it was in Spanish. Sadly, I understood only about one word out of every 20 or so. I found where it was supposed to be in English, online only, but I could not get it to work. So I didn't get to watch the debate.

How dare Crist and Scott agree to a debate that couldn't be understood by most Floridians? That was unforgivable to me, and shows their disdain for the people of this great state.

I heard one broadcaster offer as an excuse that "14 percent of Florida voters are Hispanic." I'm sorry, but the flip side is that 86 percent of Florida voters are NOT Hispanic, yet they were shut out in favor of the 14 percent.

I'm all for the Hispanic voters being



Among Friends

Jim Clark

able to share in the debate in their own language, preferably with the SAP button, but making it hard for English-speaking American-bred people to listen to that same debate is just plain wrong.

I also have to wonder why Adrian Wylie, the Libertarian candidate for governor, is being excluded from the debates. I don't care about the polls showing what percentage of votes he would get... I care about fairness. Wylie is not some wild-eyed fringe candidate who will only get 100 votes total in the state. He will get thousands of votes this November, probably not enough to win, but enough that future candidates will have to take notice.

After the way Crist and Scott shut me out of last week's debate, I'm definitely considering voting for Wylie. People say that it will be a wasted vote, but if enough of us do that, maybe the political parties will get the message that English-speaking Floridians count, too.

And finally, I have to offer an apology to Brother Bradley. Even though it's been 53 years since the late brother had us open our Spanish books, I should have been able to do better.

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

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.

Guest column

Amendment is 'smokescreen'

The Florida Right to Medical Marijuana Initiative, Amendment 2, is on the Nov. 4 ballot in the State of Florida as an initiated constitutional amendment. The measure, upon voter approval, would legalize medical marijuana, but its vague wording prompted a recent Miami Herald article to dub the amendment a "smokescreen" that leaves doctors or caregivers who are negligent in the recommendations for marijuana use without any liability in the case of any mishaps (1)—a statement with which Florida drug treatment center Suncoast Rehabilitation Center agrees. Suncoast maintains that the amendment is a thinly veiled attempt to fast track the legalization of recreational marijuana in Florida and is dedicated to informing Florida citizens on the dangers of marijuana and urges educated voting. Rather than legalizing medical marijuana, Suncoast executives advise the use of non-psychoactive substances that help individuals in need while also keeping public safety and health intact.

While Amendment 2 seems to have garnered some Floridians' support, those who oppose the legalization have cited concerns about seemingly disturbing loopholes in the Amendment:

Amendment 2 does not require a doctor's prescription in order to obtain marijuana because that would violate federal law; only a doctor's recommendation is needed, which is a determination that an individual suffers from an illness or condition that the physician feels the use of marijuana would be appropriate for relief of that symptom.

Furthermore, the issue of liability has been raised; doctors and physicians and growers, dispensaries and smokers - everyone within the marijuana distribution chain are granted full civil and criminal immunity and cannot be held liable for any mishaps. Essentially, this erases any patient protections that the current checks and balances of the legal system offer.

Suncoast Executive Director, Tammy Strickling, maintains that the above technicalities, when combined with the lax parameters put in place by the loosely-worded Amendment, allow for marijuana to be "recommended" for any possible condition—essentially making the drug available to all ages for any type of pain or discomfort.

"There is no age restriction in the amendment, meaning that teens and children will be able to legally purchase pot without their parents' consent. People of any age can be labelled a "qualifying patient" which simply means that they have been diagnosed with a debilitating medical condition or some other condition, and any caregiver can assist the child or teen in getting and using the drug," said Strickling.

But Strickling poses yet another troubling question: will the legalization of marijuana act as an impetus for yet another potential drug epidemic in Florida, the original home of the pill mill? As a state which has yet to ensure that the only people who have access to drugs are those who truly need

Please see AMENDMENT, Page 10

WEST MARION
Messenger

PUBLISHER:

GERRY MULLIGAN

MANAGER:

JOHN MURPHY

EDITOR:

JIM CLARK



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You could be caught in a torrent of advice from well-meaning friends and colleagues this week. But remember, Lamb, you are at your best when you are your own inimitable self.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Expect strong efforts to get you to accept things as they are and not question them. But ignore all that and continue your inquiries until you're sure you have all the answers you need.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Heavier than usual family and workplace duties compete for your time this week. Try to strike a balance so that you're not overwhelmed by either. Pressures ease by week's end.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) It's a good time for the Moon Child to show off your uniquely inspired approach to the culinary skills — especially if they're directed toward impressing someone special.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You might be happy about the re-emergence of a long-deferred deal. But don't pounce on it quite yet. Time can change things. Be sure the values you looked for before are still there.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Try to rein in your critical attitude, even if things aren't being done quite as you would prefer. Remember: What you say now could create an awkward situation later on.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Although you can expect on-the-job cooperation from most of your colleagues this week, some people might insist on knowing more about your plans before they can accept them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Creating another way to do things is commendable. But you could find some resistance this week from folks who would rather stick with the tried-and-true than try something new.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You usually can keep your aim focused on your goal. But you might need to make adjustments to cope with unsteadiness factors that could arise over the course of the week.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) News arrives about a projected move. Be prepared to deal with a series of possible shifts, including starting and finishing times, and how much the budget will actually cover.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) A new relationship needs time to develop. Let things flow naturally. It could be a different story with a workplace situation, which might require faster and more focused attention.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Accept a compliment without trying to troll for any hidden reason beyond what was said.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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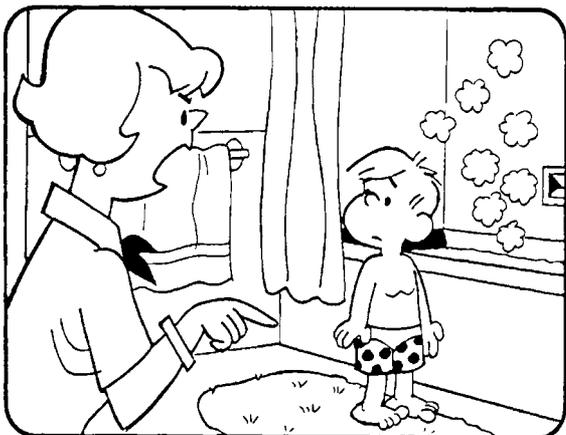
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ 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. Glasses are missing. 2. Bracelet is missing. 3. Curtain design is missing. 4. Bath mat is different. 5. Shower head is missing. 6. Boat is missing.

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G	U	Y	S	L	T	D	I	A	O	H	N	D

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

"I LIKE YOUR STYLE"

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| ACROSS | 1 Decorated military pilot | 7 Teacher of Jewish law | 12 Enter private land | 20 More wicked | 21 Israeli leader — Sharon | 22 Puerto — (Mexican resort) | 23 Take part in a Halloween tradition | 25 Dollar, in slang | 26 Big —, California | 27 Wilt | 28 Stage lighting technique | 30 Dovish murmur | 32 Barely visible | 36 Porkpie, e.g. | 37 Actress Chase | 38 Thick-piled 96-Down | 40 Partakes of | 41 Runway guess: Abbr. | 43 Prolific inventor Nikola | 44 Pindar's H | 45 Ends early, as a mission | 47 Suffix with priest | 50 Rough figure | 53 Developing fetus, slangily | 56 Captain of Verne's Nautilus | 57 "E:60" ailer | 58 Tidal mouth of a river | 59 "Gosh darn!" | 62 Arabian nation | 64 Dr. Seuss' — -am | 67 One- — (biased) | 68 — -Z | 69 What a burnt child does, in an old proverb | 73 Propyl ending | 74 Not a single soul | 76 Pet dog in "The Thin Man" | 77 Like pets | 78 Title in Uncle Remus stories | 79 Not stored on disk, say | 82 Mystery writer — Stanley Gardner | 84 It flows to the Rhine | 86 Nickname of Utah | 89 Berate loudly | 93 Wood and Wynn | 94 Wrist-related | 95 Quadri- less one | 97 Wipe the chalk from | 98 Singer Folds | 99 Toys — (kids' chain) | 100 Second man on the moon | 103 Moneyless | 106 100-yr. stretch | 107 Sea east of Greece | 108 Former jet to the U.K. | 109 Like the languages Hebrew and Somali | 113 Gear part | 115 Astonishment | 117 Yardstick | 118 Region between the Adirondacks and Catskills | 123 Prison term | 124 Utah city | 125 Realm | 126 Give rise to | 127 Skulking sort | 128 Not as great | DOWN | 1 Bug trappers | 2 Affirms | 3 Hearty beef cut | 4 Sitcom ET | 5 Co. biggies | 6 Typo list | 7 Ice-T's music | 8 Dada artist Jean | 9 Cartoonist Keane | 10 Muscular | 11 She visited Rick's place | 12 Premiere-to-finale period | 13 "Something to Talk About" singer Bonnie | 14 Salts' saint | 15 Untidy sort | 16 Ashy-faced | 17 "You're — pall!" | 18 Inventory | 19 Kraft coffee brand | 24 Golden — (senior) | 29 Abu — (emirate) | 31 Leering | 33 Foil's relative | 34 Fish snarer | 35 Skewers, e.g. | 38 Mlle. who's canonized | 39 Showed up | 40 TV's "— Montana" | 41 Ordinal number suffixes | 42 Menacing fly | 46 No. on a map | 47 Dodgy type? | 48 Tranquil | 49 Beat poet Gary | 51 Love, in Lima | 52 Bulky book sort | 54 Suddenly rich | 55 Yes, to Yves | 57 See 72-Down | 59 Ulm's river | 60 Made right | 61 Snaring loops | 63 Motorist's gp. | 65 Allot | 66 "— tree falls ..." | 69 Contraption | 70 Pillers | 71 Computer since 1998 | 72 With 57-Down, bangs into from behind | 75 "Ixnay" | 78 Vandykes and goatees | 80 Politico Bayh | 81 Article in Ulm | 83 Stop bugging | 85 Film segment | 87 Butter knife, frequently | 88 Tease | 89 Shirt tag info | 90 Trumpeter Wynton | 91 So to speak | 92 A fifth of fifty | 96 Wall-to-wall, for one | 98 "Jane Eyre" novelist | 101 Baseball Hall of Famer Wheat | 102 Words after many fiction book titles | 103 Out-of-date | 104 Many a time | 105 Chimp cousin | 106 Mythical enchantress | 107 Oak starter | 110 Yemen port | 111 Shore grains | 112 Little demons | 114 Clue is one | 116 Leering sort | 119 Sod buster | 120 Gardner of films | 121 Moo shu pan | 122 Hi-fi platters |
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123									124						125				
126									127						128				

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.

	-		x		27
÷		x		-	
	x		+		17
x		-		x	
	x		÷		14
21		10		16	

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

2 3 4 5 6 6 7 8 9

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Sunday, Oct. 19

Chamber Music Society concert

The Marion Chamber Music Society (MCMS) proudly presents "The Magic of Strings" featuring internationally acclaimed DUO-B, husband and wife cello and violin team, Dr. Philip and Hiro Borter, on Sunday, Oct. 19 at 3 p.m. at Queen of Peace Catholic Church (6455 SW State Road 200 in Ocala). Admission is free.

Jazz Society to perform

The Ocala Jazz Society will be performing on Sunday, Oct. 19 from 2 to 5 p.m. at VFW Post 4781 across from Oak Run.

The band performs on the third Sunday of each month, playing jazz, Big Band, Dixieland and songs from the past. \$3 donation for Hospice, info: 352-237-0234.

Brunson to speak

Christ's Church of Marion County will host Drexel Brunson, PH.D., President of Empower Resources International,

and former pastor of First Assembly of God church in Ocala, as quest speaker. Drexel is well known in our community, having served on the Sheriff's Advisory Board for Marion County.

He has travelled internationally building churches, schools and administering humanitarian aid in countries around the world. Everyone is welcome to hear his inspirational message. 10:30 a.m.

Christ's Church Of Marion County, 6768 SW 80th St. (off SR 200), Ocala, 352-861-6182 or <http://www.ccomc.org/>

Monday, Oct. 20

Legion post to meet

The Ralph J Green American Legion Post 354 will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, Oct. 20 at 1 p.m. in the community room of the Sheriff's Brian Litz Building, 9048 SW State Road 200.

Try to arrive early to enjoy light refreshments and comradeship with fellow veterans.

For more information, please telephone Commander Jerry Cassatt 352-322-5966.

AMENDMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

them, the likelihood that medical marijuana will be any different is slim to none, per Strickling.

Suncoast officials say that today's marijuana has the highest THC levels ever seen—marijuana sold in pot shops as "medicine" is testing at THC levels in the mid 20% range, which is much higher than marijuana sold on the street, and dwarfs levels seen nearly 40 years ago, when the average THC potency was 1.37%. Because marijuana users can suffer from difficult withdrawal symptoms, such as irritability, decreased appetite and anxiety, treatment can be a critical first step—and the number of people seeking help will likely grow as marijuana continues to be the illicit

drug of choice among American teens and adults, per Strickling. Statistics show that daily or almost daily marijuana use increased from 5.1 million Americans in 2007 to 7.6 million in 2012. (2)

Strickling maintains that the key to stemming the rise of a potential epidemic is by limiting, rather than increasing, access to drugs such as marijuana.

Furthermore, public education about the potential dangers of drug abuse is critical.

For people currently struggling with addiction, treatment is the first step in helping them to reclaim their lives from substance abuse and returning them to being healthy and contributing members of so-

ciety.

As a drug treatment facility (<http://www.suncoastrehabcenter.com/?kmas324>) that accepts clients from across the nation, over 90 percent of Suncoast's clients tried marijuana first before using other drugs, and another 60 percent list marijuana as being used concurrently with another drug of choice.

Suncoast's medical team designs treatment programs to physically address the malnutrition created by drug abuse, and the facility's counseling team tailors client therapy to help provide insight into the past—all intended to help addicts confront life better, and without reverting to drugs.

To learn more about the Suncoast Rehabilitation Center and its rehab programs, visit <http://www.suncoastrehabcenter.com/?kmas324>.

Suncoast Rehab Center is in Spring Hill, with a 76% success rate, Suncoast Rehab Center provides long-term residential treatment, intensive sauna detoxification, life skills and cognitive therapy and counseling.

BEST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

notice. We feel that young people want to learn, want to better themselves, and only need the guidance that a good school and a good faculty can provide.

Jayne Ellspermann has put together an action plan that provides the proper leadership for our students. We join others in congratulating her on her award.

PINK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Everyone is at risk for breast cancer. The two most important risk factors are being female and getting older. Most women diagnosed with breast cancer have no other known factors. To help reduce your risk, be sure to maintain a healthy weight, eat a diet rich in fruits and vegetables, exercise and limit alcohol consumption.

However, to help minimize the effects of this disease early detection is key.

Your professional fire fighters encourage everyone in this community to participate in breast cancer awareness and prevention activities.

For more information regarding the Marion County Firefighters Benevolence Fund fundraisers, please visit MCFBF.org.

20 YEAR TRADITION

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Thursday & Friday October 23 & 24, 8am - 4pm
All Saturday Oct. 25, 8am - Noon

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Furniture, many household items, great clothing sale & many unique items. Donations will be accepted at the PODS in the back of the church parking lot on Saturday, 8am 'til noon Oct. 18. After that, all donations can be made at Stanfield Hall.

Please refrain from donating goods that are not operative or unsaleable merchandise.

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Go Figure! answers

6	-	3	x	9	27
÷		x		-	
2	x	6	+	5	17
x		-		x	
7	x	8	÷	4	14
21		10		16	

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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

Personals RN Seeks Room for Rent with Bath 352-359-2122	Schools/ Instruction Bene's International School of Beauty ★ NOW ★ ENROLLING Cosmetology Day & Night School Barber Night School Massage Day & Night School Nail & Skin Care Day School Starts Weekly Introducing ✦ NAILS Night School Mn-Tues-Wed 5P-9P ✦ SKIN Night School Mn-Tues-Wed 5P-9P Campus Locations: • NEW PORT RICHEY • SPRING HILL • BROOKSVILLE 352-293-2707 or 866-282-2383 www.benes.edu ★★ ★ START A CAREER IN A YEAR LET US WORK FOR YOU! WEST MARION MESSENGER CLASSIFIEDS GET RESULTS! CALL TOLL FREE 1-877-676-1403	Furniture Mattress Liquidation 50% - 80% OFF RETAIL WHY PAY MORE? (352) 484-4772 Garage/ Yard Sales OCALA SUMMERGLEN Community Garage Sale OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Sat. Oct. 25th, 2014 8am to 2pm LET US WORK FOR YOU! WEST MARION MESSENGER CLASSIFIEDS GET RESULTS! CALL TOLL FREE 1-877-676-1403 Rent: Houses Unfurnished South Ocala 3bd/2 ba. walk in closets, living/dining open floor plan, all tile floors, 2/1 also available (352)572-9471 (954)931-5811 Real Estate For Sale PRIME FARM LAND ROMEO FLORIDA Two 40 Acre Parcels CALL (850)453-9958	Real Estate For Sale PUBLISHER'S NOTICE: 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.	LET US WORK FOR YOU! WEST MARION MESSENGER CLASSIFIEDS GET RESULTS! CALL TOLL FREE 1-877-676-1403	Recreation Vehicles WE BUY RV'S, TRUCKS, TRAILERS, 5TH WHEELS, & MOTOR HOMES Call US 352-201-6945	Vehicles Wanted BUYING JUNK CARS ★ Running or Not ★ CASH PAID-\$300 & UP (352) 771-6191	Vans CHRYSLER 2012 Town & Country Wheelchair van with 10" lowered floor, ramp and tie downs Call Tom for more info 352-325-1306	Tree Service STUMP GRINDING CALL JIM FOR FREE ESTIMATES (218) 289-3767
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PRINCIPAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ever forward to find creative ways to ensure each student in her school is known and well served.”

The search for this year’s national principal of the year started in early 2014 as each state principals association selected its state middle level and high school principals of the year. From this pool of state winners, a panel of judges selected three middle level and three high school finalists. A separate panel then interviewed and rigorously reviewed the finalists’ applications to select the national winner. Each finalist received a \$1,500 grant, and the national winner will receive an additional grant of \$3,000. The grants will be used to improve learning at the school.

For more information about the Principal of the Year program, please visit www.nassp.org/poy.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) is the leading organization of and national voice for middle level and high school principals, assistant principals, and all school leaders from across the United States and more than 36 countries around the world. The association connects and engages school leaders through advocacy, research, education, and student programs. NASSP advocates on behalf of all school leaders to ensure the success of each student and strengthens school leadership practices through the design and delivery of high quality professional learning experiences. Reflecting its long-standing commitment to student leadership development, NASSP administers the National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, National Elementary Honor Society, and National Association of Student Councils.



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West Port Principal Jayne Ellspermann, escorted by Superintendent George Tomin, walks down a hall through a sea of high school students.

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