

WEST MARION Messenger

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McCall takes reins as School Board chair

Beth McCall, the newest member of the Marion County School Board, now serves as the board chair for the next year. Board members unanimously elected her.

Electing a vice chair, however, proved to be more difficult. Board members tied when it came to whether Angie Boynton or Kelly King should sit in the number two spot. The vice-chair tie was prompted by Board Member Nancy Stacy's absence from the annual reorganization meeting.

Board members tabled electing a vice chair until the next night's board meeting.

That's when Stacy cast her vote for Angie Boynton.

Marion County voters elected McCall to the board last year. Her election as chair also marks her first-year anniversary as a School Board member.

McCall represents district two, including 10 schools in Southeast Marion County.

As chair, she will lead twice-monthly School Board meetings and year-round work sessions and serve on various leadership boards throughout the community.

Boynton was first elected to the School

Board in 2010 and again in 2014.

She represents district four, including seven schools and the Student Services department.

Other members of the Marion County School Board include Nancy Stacy (district one), Bobby James (district three), and Kelly King (district five).

By unanimous vote, board members also approved the same meeting schedule as in years past – holding board meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays monthly at 5:30 p.m. at 512 SE Third St. in Ocala.



Beth McCall



PHOTO BY PRISCILLA BARNETT

Fairfield Village Thanksgiving

The Tom Turkey who showed up in Fairfield Village managed to survive unscathed during Thanksgiving 2017. See column on Page A10.

AAA: Oil hits 2-year high; upward pressure evident on gas prices

Look for a bounce back week for gas prices, which have declined for the past two weeks. Prices at the pump should increase this week, as a high stakes OPEC meeting draws near.

Florida gas prices averaged \$2.46 per gallon, on Sunday. The state average is 3 cents less than a week ago, yet remains 46 cents higher than this time last year.

- The most expensive gas price averages in Florida are in West Palm Beach-Boca Raton (\$2.58), Miami (\$2.56), and Homosassa Springs (\$2.54)

- The least expensive gas price averages in Florida are in Pensacola (\$2.37), Jacksonville (\$2.40), and Pensacola (\$2.37)

Representatives of OPEC, Russia, and other oil producing countries will meet on Thursday to decide whether to extend an agreement to reduce oil production levels by 1.8 million barrels per day. The current agreement expires at the end of Q1 2018. Preliminary reports are that the agreement could extend through the end of 2018. News of the potential extension helped crude oil reach \$59.95 per barrel - the highest

daily settlement since June 2015. WTI rose nearly \$4 last week; an increase that would often result in a 10 cent increase at the pump.

“When oil prices rise, it becomes more expensive to produce gasoline,” said Mark Jenkins, spokesman, AAA - The Auto Club Group. “Prices at the pump are poised for an increase of 3-5 cents, based on current fundamentals. However, the oil and gasoline markets are likely to be volatile this week, and prices could face additional upward pressure as we creep closer to the OPEC meeting.”

Highs and Lows of 2017

- National: the highest average price for gasoline was \$2.67 on September 8; the lowest was \$2.23 on July 5.

- Florida: the highest average price in was \$2.73 on September 9; the lowest was \$2.13 on July 17.

- Georgia: the highest average price was \$2.76 on September 12; the lowest was \$2.08 on July 5.

- Tennessee: the highest average price was \$2.60 on September 10; the lowest was \$1.99 on July 5.

First Friday Art Walk is this week throughout Ocala downtown area

The First Friday Art Walk returns to downtown Ocala Friday, Dec. 1 from 6 to 9 p.m. and will include the following special performances and activities:

- 6 to 9 p.m. –

Live music by Macey Mac on the main event stage located at the downtown square near the gazebo.

Macey is a 13-year-old artist who channels a unique combination of Lee-Ann Rimes, Janis Joplin and Aretha Franklin.

- 7 and 8 p.m. – Enjoy modern fusion and gypsy-style belly dancing with swords, hula hoops, fire props and fire breathing by Belly Artist Dance Studio.

- Free hands-on art activities for all ages will be provided throughout the event by the Appleton Museum of Art, Painting with a Twist, Marion County Public Library, Karate America Ocala, Animis Foundation and the Discovery Center.

Local artists will be working throughout this event creating artwork, portraits and caricature drawings on-site.

Additional art activities will be available at Ocala Homes and Farms Realty located at 108 E. Fort King St.

The First Friday Art Walk occurs from 6 to 9 p.m. on the first Friday of each month from September through May annually. Located within Ocala's historic downtown, event festivities include over 30 artist displays, live entertainment, free family art activities and extended shopping hours.

For more information, please contact the City of Ocala Cultural Arts Division at 352-629-8447 or artwalk@ocalafl.org or visit www.ocalafl.org/artwalk.

Navy vet honored

On the morning of Friday, Nov. 17, more than 20 friends and neighbors of Ellie and Donald Dunne, Lot #240, Sweetwater Oaks, gathered in their home to hear a representative from the Veteran's Administration present Donald with a pin and a certificate commemorating his service in the United States Navy. Donald entered the Navy in 1956 and served aboard the cruiser, USS Macon.



'A Fight for Freedom: Attack on Fort King' this weekend

The City of Ocala Recreation and Parks Department will host 'A Fight for Freedom: Attack on Fort King' Saturday, Dec. 2 and Sunday, Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fort King National Historic Landmark located at 3925 E. Ft. King St.

This two-day event will include a

re-enactment of Chief Osceola's attack on Fort King and the demise of Indian Agent Wiley Thompson, an event that led to the start of the Second Seminole War. The event will also include a Seminole village and soldier's encampment to show what life was like back in the 1830s. Those in attendance will ex-

perience time-period crafts, traditional skills workshops, food, drinks and games, such as tomahawk throwing and horseshoes.

“This year's event is special because, in addition to the re-enactment and

See FORT on Page A4



Above, the crowd at the dinner/auction. At left, Afghan that was auctioned.

Getting ready for the holiday season at Quail Meadow

The feasting of Thanksgiving is over and now it's time to get ready for Christmas and Hanukkah. The Clubhouse is decorated and ready for the First Friday gathering. This takes place this Friday, beginning at 7 p.m. This is a "snack" party – in other words, bring snacks to share, and of course BYOB. Poppi (R Music 4 You) will provide music for dancing/listening pleasure. Invite a neighbor and come join us for this end of the year party.

The Thanksgiving dinner and auction was attended by 70 residents and guests. Chef Charles did an excellent job with the turkey and all the trimmings. I don't think anyone went home hungry. The auction got very interesting when Stan Elliot and his grandson got into a bidding war over one package! Stan finally won out, but he gave the package to his grandson. The final item to be auctioned was a beautiful handmade crocheted queen size spread made by our own Linda Pel-



Quail Meadow
Carolyn Slocumb

letier. I'm sure the one who received it recognized all the many hours it took to make. A big thank you to Linda for this great donation. All money from the auction will be used for activities that are enjoyed by all QM residents.

The December calendar is beginning to look full! It begins on the 1st with the party. On Thursday the 7th, at 6 p.m. the QMPOA Annual Meeting is scheduled – this is for all QM homeowners. Food will be provided, so you don't have to eat before coming to the meeting. This meeting is when many important items (board members, budget, etc.) are voted on to be accepted or rejected. December 8th is the Ladies Luncheon at the

Braised Onion restaurant: please call Grace Maguire to make reservations. December 15th the Red Hot Fillies will be gathering at the Chefs of Napoli for lunch. If this isn't enough to fill your calendars, I'm sure there are other events not mentioned here.

Many residents have expressed their disappointment in the absence of Bingo at the Clubhouse. If you would like to

assist in starting up this event, please contact Brian Maguire, or any of the QMPOA board members.

Don't forget to get your doggie pictures ready to be displayed at the January party. This will be a "Year of the Dog" party on Jan. 19th. More information about this event will be in the Reporter and in this article in a few weeks.

Ocala chapter of Hadassah reinstated

The Florida Central Region of Hadassah announces with pride the reinstatement of the Ocala Chapter of Hadassah. The newly formed group will meet on the first Monday of the month at 10 a.m. at Bank of the Ozarks, 8375 SW Highway 200. The next meeting will take place on Dec. 4. Attendees take the elevator to the left as you enter the building to the second floor and are asked to park in the back as not to disturb bank business.

The following officers have come forward to lead the group:

President: Judi Siegal

VP Membership: Michele Garelick
VP Fundraising: Margo Young
Teresa McCabe, Roz Shapiro, Sandra Shafkowitz, Julie Sachs
Programming: Connie Lundy
Ethel Delman

New and former members of Hadassah are cordially invited to join and support our worthy causes. For further information, contact:

Judi Siegal: 352-237-8277, morrobay03@embarqmail.com or Michele Garelick: 352-854-0725, myshell7174@gmail.com

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PALS Club at Stone Creek

At the recent Veterans Day Celebration, members of the PALS Club did the serving. Their presence made the evening a more enjoyable one for the veterans. Clubs working together on projects or helping one another makes for community spirit.

Linda Fiorella, president of PALS club gave an introduction on how the PALS club (Pets and Animal Lovers of Stone Creek) was helping the Veterans. The Veterans Club gave a donation to the PALS club for the warrior dog project. PALS will be donating to the Warrior Dog Foundation, which supports retired war dogs with lifelong care, rehabilitation, and socialization for the rest of their lives. The donation will help this organization provide

such care - many of these dogs return home with severe PTSD, or may not be suitable for immediate adoption. Sometimes, if they are not adoptable, they are slated for euthanasia. The Warrior Dog Foundation steps in to save these dogs. With proper training, socialization and care, some are adoptable into good homes. Those that are not adopted are provided with lifetime care at the Warrior Dog Foundation's kennel facility. The dogs are cared for and treated like heroes, which they are, for the rest of their lives.

19 PALS volunteers helped to serve dinner. They were Diana Fister, Michael Short, Doris Gamelin and Rod Broker, Charles and Gloria Salvaggio, Sue Kennedy, Sue Labine, Sue Roth, Laura Mueller, Di Mi-

chelson, Erin Willhite, Barbara Wright, Al & Maureen 'Mo' Cox, Gary and Joyce Shoemaker and Bob and Linda Fiorella.

Linda Fiorella gave a short story of being a proud wife to Bob, US Navy Vietnam era vet. Her brother was a Korean vet, her godson was a vet from the first Gulf War and two brothers were WW11 vets. Her father, a newly arrived immigrant from Italy, served in WW1. He joined the US Army to fight for his new adopted country. He fought in the trenches of France and was legally blinded from mustard gas. He became a disabled vet. Linda remembers from an early age, her father's teaching of the meeting of Veterans Day. She said, each year as Nov 11th approached he would ex-



Stone Creek
Patricia Gizzi

plain how WW 1 ended on the 11th hour - of the 11th day- of the 11th month when they signed the Armistice Papers, ending WW1. To him, it would always be Armistice Day, even when they changed the holiday here in the US to Veterans Day in the 60's.

Years later, when he was diagnosed with cancer, Linda said, "It was early November, and my father once again reminded me that in a few days, it would be November 11. I said, "Yes Pop, I know, it's Veterans Day, which is really Armistice Day." That turned to be our last conversation, for he passed the next night, Election Night, 1972. Linda goes on to say, "Fit-

tingly, my father was buried three days later with a military salute on November 11th. When I looked at my watch, it was the 11th Hour - of the 11th Day - of the 11th month. I don't know how he did it, but somehow, I believe he did. That was 45 years ago." With emotion in her voice, Linda said it was a privilege to be among so many veterans. She showed pictures of her dad and some of the heroic dogs who served our military today and over the years. Thus, the donation from the Veterans Club for the PALS service will help these dogs. To learn more about this organization or to donate, you can go to warriordogfoundation.org.



Linda's Dad 'Pop' in World War 1.

Linda would like the Stone Creek Community to know of their upcoming event on January 20, 2018. It will be the 1st Annual Furball with an elegant dinner and dancing to live music provided by Pure Magic, Stone Creek's own band. So mark your calendars.

Poor as I am, all I can give is thanks

It was a pre-Thanksgiving evening and the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were enjoying some hot cider tea. Nothing goes down quite as nice as a hot cider tea.

It was rather a quiet evening and I happened to glance over at my wife and saw her staring into space as it were. It concerned me because I knew that's what she did when she was thinking about something.

The problem that faced me was simply this. Was she thinking about me or something else? If it's me, I'm probably in trouble. If it's something else, I'm probably in trouble. No matter which side of the fence I'm on, I'm in trouble.

I was tempted to ignore the situation and continue the silent evening but something inside me would not let me sit still. I don't know what it is about us husbands, we don't know when to shut up and we don't know when to speak up. If only we could do the opposite of what we're thinking at the time, we probably could get along much better with the opposite side of the fence.

"What are you," I asked her quite simply, "thinking about so strongly?"

Continuing to stare into space, she was silent for a few moments and then she said, "I'm trying to figure out what gifts we should get for our family."

Say what? I haven't even demolished the Thanksgiving turkey yet and she's thinking about Christmas gifts.

That is the way with my wife. She cannot let a day go by without thinking of something three weeks or two months down the road. She cannot sit still and enjoy the moment.

I, on the other side of the fence, am able to sit down and enjoy this silence of the moment. I do not have the jitters to get up and do something. I have the calm, relaxing feeling of just sitting and enjoying the moment.

I knew what was going through her mind; all of the

members of our family and what they like to get at Christmas time. On my part, I cannot come up with all the members of our family without asking questions to someone across the room. I recognize them when I see them, but I always forget one or two when I'm trying to think about the family.

That is the difference between my wife and me. She can keep a list of the family in her head for months, yea even years and know exactly what they would like for Christmas and even for their birthday. I don't even know their birthdays and have to be reminded by my wife.

Here we were, just a few days away from Thanksgiving and the wife is thinking about Christmas.

It seems to me that there is a reason why Thanksgiving comes before Christmas. Thanksgiving is a time that we give thanks sometimes for the turkey in front of us. Sometimes, for the turkey in the family, if you know what I mean.

I said very cautiously to my wife, "Just relax and enjoy the evening and wait until after Thanksgiving to work on your Christmas list."

She came down out of her staring across the room and began staring at me one of those stares that I've experienced so many times in life. "I must," she said most dramatically, "try to figure out what I'm going to get my family for Christmas."

I flashed a smile back at her and cuddled up to the silence for a few more moments.

One thing I can say about her, she is very generous when it comes to giving, especially at Christmas time.

As for me, my focus is on Thanksgiving. It's coming up very shortly and when it does, I want to be ready to enjoy every bit of that Thanksgiving dinner.



Out to Pastor
Rev. James Snyder

I know that around the table will be a variety of family members.

I know that some of them will be very chatty about what's going on in their life.

I will smile and nod most generously, but my focus is on Tom the Turkey.

As my muse took me a little bit further down memory lane, I began to see and appreciate the difference between Thanksgiving and Christmas. I know they are about a month apart, but there's a bigger difference than days when it comes to Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Christmas is when you spend a whole lot of money buying Christmas presents for everybody in your family even those that, well, how can I say it, is not on your nice list.

Thanksgiving is quite different. Once I get beyond the turkey, I begin to realize that the purpose of Thanksgiving is simply to give thanks.

Christmas costs a lot, especially out of my wallet, but Thanksgiving costs more but in a different currency.

See PASTOR on Page A5

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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, Golden Hills

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

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Member of the Community Papers of Florida

<p>I want to get news in the Messenger Call Editor Jim Clark at 352-854-3986 or e-mail editor@westmarionmessenger.com Community news and photos must be received by Thursday the week before publication. All contributions are subject to editing for clarity, taste and style.</p>	<p>Deadline for Advertising</p> <p>Classified Reader ads 2 p.m. Friday</p> <p>Display Ads 5 p.m. Thursday</p>
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Happenings

Friday, Dec. 1

Car show and chicken barbecue

Car Show and chicken varbecue dinner will take place at Ocala West United Methodist Church, Friday, Dec. 1 from 5 to 7 p.m.

The car show will be in the parking lot next to the pavilion. The Men's Fellowship will be offering chicken barbecue to eat in or take out prices: \$8 for 1/2 chicken dinner with baked beans, coleslaw, and roll, \$6 for 1/2 chicken only or 1/4 chicken dinner. Boy Scout Troop 707 sponsored by OWUMC will be selling hot dogs with chips and a drink for \$4.

Ocala West UMC, 9330 SW 105th St., Ocala (352) 854-9550.

Saturday, Dec. 2

Chess Club to meet

The Freedom Library Chess Club will meet from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2. The library is located at 5870 SW 95th St., Ocala.

All players are welcome! Call 873-2276 for information.

Sunday, Dec. 3

German American Club

The German American Club of Marion County will hold a Christmas dinner dance on Sunday, Dec. 3, at noon at Marion Oaks Community Center. A ham dinner will be served at 1 p.m. Music will be provided by Europa Band. Formal attire is requested. Tickets are \$20 per member or \$25 per non-member and may be purchased by calling Mary Wisecup at (352) 789-6499.

Thursday, Dec. 7

Toast to the Arts

The Ocala Art Group is proud to present its annual "A Toast to the Arts" - the art gala of the season, Dec. 7, from 5 to 8 p.m. Artists from Ocala and around the state of Florida will be showing their best artistic works as they seek recognition and awards for Best of Show, 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, three honorable mentions, a People's Choice Award and cash rewards.

Due to renovations at the Appleton Museum, the "A Toast to the Arts" gala event will be held in the large conference room in the Marion County Main Library, 2720 Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala. The public is encouraged to attend and support these talented artists. The artwork will remain on display for 30 days.

For more information, please contact Jim Hunter, President, at devon948@live.com or Rose Maerkl, webmaster at paintingsbyrose@gmail.com.

Saturday, Dec. 9

First Congregational Cookie Walk

The annual Holiday Cookie Walk at First Congregational Church, UCC Ocala, 7171 SW Highway 200, will be Saturday, Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. to noon.

For info call: 352-854-2872. There will be delicious homemade cookies. Grab a bag and select your own from many kinds for the season! Come and browse new items this year!

Ocala 200 Lions Club Flea Market

The Ocala 200 Lions Club will be holding a Flea Market Dec. 9 from 8: a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Bank of the Ozarks - 8375 SW Highway 200, Ocala. There will be a variety of vendors on hand as well as food available for sale. You are invited to join us for our fundraising event and flea market before the holidays.

As always, all proceeds generated by the Lions Club will be used for community projects throughout the year. The Ocala 200 Lions Club is still collecting used eyeglasses and hearing aids and this is a great time to drop them off. For more information call: 352-861-2730.

Sunday, Dec. 10

Christmas concert

The On Top of the World Concert Chorus will present an encore performance of their winter concert entitled "All-American Christmas" on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 5200 SW College Road. This concert will include a collection of Christmas songs all by American composers. This is a free concert but a good will offering will be collected.

This concert is open to the community and all are welcome to attend. For information contact 352-854-8718.

Chamber Music 'Encore'

For this year's special "ENCORE" programming, The Marion Chamber Music Society welcomes back Dr. Ben Pila, classical guitarist, in concert at Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 6455 SW SR 200, Sunday, Dec. 10, at 3 p.m.

Last year, Ben proved an extremely popular artist, and many audience members asked that he be returned. This year's program will feature spiritual-based holiday favorites, among other outstanding classical guitar works.

Marion Chamber Music Society concerts: Always Exceptional, Always Free. For more information, visit our web: www.marionchambermusic.com or call 352 867-1340.

Chanukah luncheon

Congregation Beth Israel of Ocala and Temple Beth Darom will hold a joint Chanukah luncheon and party on Sunday, Dec. 10 at noon at Candler Community Center at On Top of the World.

The program will feature a catered box lunch by Too Jays as well as Chanukah festivities including door prizes, games, raffles, and seasonal songs led by Rabbi Karen Allen and congregant Judi Siegal. The cost of the luncheon is \$18 and reservations must be made by Dec. 3 to Sonia Peterson. Please contact Sonia for choice of either pastrami, corned beef,

tongue, turkey or veggie wrap sandwich. (353.307-3662 or Skp7@embarqmail.com)

Tuesday, Dec. 12

Christian Women's Connection Luncheon

Ocala Christian Women's Connection invites you to the lovely "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas" Luncheon Dec. 12, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at The Hilton Of Ocala Ballroom. Doors will open at 11 a.m.

The Special Feature is "Deb's Adornments" Jewelry and Clothing. Guest Speaker is Ellen Gee from Orlando sharing how "Love Wins." Admission is \$20. Please RSVP for lunch and free child care to Claudia 228-2126 or Eve 732-7053 by Dec. 6.

Thursday, Dec. 14

Rainbow Springs Garden auction

The Rainbow Springs Garden Club will host its annual Chinese Auction on Thursday, Dec. 14 from 1-3 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge 136, 20751 Powell Road, Dunnellon.

Admission is \$15 and includes 25 auction tickets, door prizes, and finger foods. Additional auction tickets are available in cards of 25 for \$10. Themed baskets, including home, garden, foods, pets, jewelry, books, and holiday themes, will be awarded to winning ticket holders.

Proceeds from this, our only fundraiser will benefit select local charities. The public is invited to this fun-filled afternoon of holiday camaraderie, music, and refreshments.

Sunday, Dec. 17

Jazz Society to perform

The Ocala Jazz Society invites you to join them on Sunday, Dec. 17, from 2 to 5 p.m. for their monthly performance of Swing, Big Band, Dixieland, 50's and all your favorites.

We look forward to seeing you at the smoke free VFW Post 4781, 9401 SW 110th St., across from Oak Run.

The band performs on the third Sunday of each month.

A \$3 donation for Hospice is appreciated. info: 352-237-0234, ocalajazzsociety@yahoo.com

FORT

Continued from Page A1

history festival, we will also have the grand opening of the newly reconstructed Fort King," said Keifer Calkins, Outdoor/Historic Resource Program Coordinator. "This re-enactment, as well as the entire mission of the park, is to explain and interpret the very complex history of the Seminole Wars in Florida. We encourage residents and visitors to come and learn about our local and state history and share the important history of Fort King and the birthplace of Ocala."

Admission to this event is \$5 per person. Veterans, active military and children ages five and under are free.

Guests are encouraged to park at the Duke Energy power line field located between NE 43rd Avenue and NE 44th Ave-

nue on the north side of E Fort King Street, approximately a quarter-mile east of the Fort. A shuttle will be running continuously throughout the event for pick-ups and drop-offs.

The only parking that

will be available at the Fort will be for handicapped or disabled guests only.

For more information, please contact the City of Ocala Recreation and Parks Department at 352-368-5533.

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\$129pp

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Dade City's Annual Runabout Festival
Sat, Jan. 27, 2018 - \$34pp

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Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday school classes for children and adults. 10:30 a.m. morning worship service. 6 p.m. evening worship service.

We have a staffed nursery available during the worship service.

We offer the following studies throughout the week:

Monday-Women's Bible study at 10:30 a.m.

Thursday-Girl Scouts 6 p.m.

Tuesday AA from 5 to 7 p.m. Every-3rd Tuesday of the month (September-June) Christian Women's Fellowship at 10 a.m.

Wednesday-7 p.m. we offer 3 different adult Bible studies.

You do not need to be a member to attend any of our Bible studies or services. Visitors are always welcome at Southwest.

Christmas program Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 16 and 17 at 6 p.m.

Southwest Christian Church exists to equip Christians with a mind that knows the word of God, a heart that seeks the character of God, hands that do the work of God and feet that share the grace of God. Southwest Christian Church, 9045 SW 60th Ave. (south off SR 200) 352-861-9080.

Joy Lutheran Church

The new church year begins on Advent Sunday, Dec. 3. Advent is the time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. The term is a version of the Latin word "coming."

During Advent there will be the usual Sunday worship services of 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. The service and sermons will have the message within the theme of "Moving Toward the Manager."

On Wednesday each week there will be a brief 2 p.m. service without communion. We will continue our Wednesday evening casual service at 6:45 p.m. service with communion.

All are welcome to attend the Advent

services. Joy Lutheran Church is at 7045 SW 83rd Place at SR 200, Ocala. For more information call (352) 854-4509 ext. 2.

Crossroads Church

We have some very new and exciting ministries starting up for the Winter.

The Single Point Ministry (for singles) will be planning a Christmas caroling event the 2nd Friday in December (12/08) at TimberRidge Rehabilitation & Nursing Center, with hot cocoa or coffee and dessert served in Crossroads' Youth Center afterwards. (Julian & Jean Scott)

Our Seniors Ministry will be held on Saturday, Dec. 16 at noon. This will be a pot luck dinner with a Christmas theme. Please invite your friends for fun, food and fellowship.

Sunday, Dec. 17 will be our Christmas Celebration with a choir and our Crossroads Kids to bring us into the Christmas season.

Our regularly scheduled services on Wednesday, Dec. 27 and Thursday, Dec. 28 will be cancelled for the Christmas holidays.

Men's Breakfast, normally scheduled for the 1st Saturday of the month, will be cancelled for December.

Women's Ministry, normally scheduled for the 1st Saturday of the month, will be cancelled for December.

We have Craft Classes (knitting & crocheting) every Monday, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Mondays - Monday Night Bible Study at 6:30. Topic - "The Trinity"

Tuesdays - Intercessory Prayer Meeting at 9 a.m.

Wednesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays - we have Nursing Home ministry at multiple agencies.

Wednesdays - Family Training Hour at 7 p.m. This includes Crossroads Kids, Crossroads Nursery & Crossroads Youth Ministries.

Thursdays - Our Spanish "Estudio Biblico" at 7 p.m.

Sunday Services - Sunday School, 8:30 a.m.; Worship Services at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and our Spanish Service at 1 p.m. Nursery Ministry provided for all services.

Crossroads Church, 8070 SW 60th Ave. (south off of SR 200) 352-291-2080.

See our new website at www.ourcrossroads.church for up to date calendar events.

COMMENTARY

Distancing himself from Trump

BY RICH LOWRY

Special to the Citizen

Ed Gillespie went from potential vindicator of Trumpism to "cuckservative" in the space of a couple of hours.

The Virginia Republican, campaigning for governor in a treacherous political environment defined by an unpopular president of his own party, ran the only race he reasonably could. He distanced himself from Donald Trump personally, hoping to lessen his losses in heavily Democratic Northern Virginia, while hitting some Trumpian notes on crime and immigration to appeal to the president's base.

Gillespie looked to be gaining fast on Democrat Ralph Northam. Former Trump adviser Steve Bannon, the self-declared keeper of the Trumpist flame, believed Gillespie had cracked the code by fashioning a "Trumpism without Trump."

At least that was the party line until Gillespie lost on Nov. 7. Then he became an establishment tool who had betrayed Trumpism and the president.

The hypocrisy of the Bannon faction

aside, the Virginia race revealed a problem with the Trumpism-without-Trump construct -- namely, that it's not really possible.

First, it's not going to be convincing to Trump-haters. Ed Gillespie is not the slightest bit Trumpy. He is earnest, wonky and friendly. When he distanced himself from Trump, it was credible because he hadn't been close to Trump to begin with. He had never met him, and all of Trump's support on Twitter was unsolicited.

None of this made the slightest difference to voters in Northern Virginia, where Northam racked up margins bigger than Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. These people weren't showing up to send a message to Gillespie, the otherwise unthreatening candidate who happened to run a barrage of negative ads against Northam (not the first time this has happened in electoral politics). They were showing up to send a message to Trump, whom they believe is a clear and present danger to all that they hold dear.

See LOWRY on Page A7



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PASTOR

Continued from Page A3

For Christmas, I have to work out a budget and I'm always, or should I say my wife is always over budget.

However, Thanksgiving is different. Thanksgiving is giving thanks and that has no monetary value on it at all.

Giving thanks is a good thing as David points out, "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy

name, O Most High" (Psalm 92:1).

No matter how much coin I have in my pocket, giving thanks is the richest thing I could possibly give.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of

God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

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Photo: iStockphoto.com

Prevent for a Day
 The holiday season is a time of joy and celebration, but it can also be a time of stress and anxiety. To help you stay calm and focused, we've compiled a list of tips and tricks to help you prevent for a day.

Stay Organized
 Make a list of all the tasks you need to complete, and prioritize them. Delegate tasks to family members or friends. Use a calendar to keep track of deadlines.

Take Breaks
 Don't forget to take breaks throughout the day. Step away from your work for a few minutes to stretch, walk, or just relax. This will help you stay energized and focused.

Helpful Holiday Recipes for the Home Chef

ABOUT THE RECIPE
 With everything that goes into creating a full holiday menu for guests of different ages and palates, taking on that task can be a challenge for any host. However, simple recipes that please the masses can help make life easier for home chefs. From the main dish all the way to dessert, plus the drinks in-between, put these recipes to the test to help make your holiday gathering a breeze. Put your adult guests at ease with a smooth, easy-flavored cocktail, followed by a main course made sweet thanks to this turkey brine. As things come to a close, finish off any leftover appetites with a quick cookie recipe. To help make your holiday hosting easier, find more tips and recipes at Culinary.net.

Raspberry Cranberry Cocktail
 This refreshing drink is perfect for the holidays. It features a mix of raspberries and cranberries, giving it a festive and healthy twist. The recipe is simple and easy to follow, making it a great choice for home chefs.

Cranberry Orange Brine
 This brine is a game-changer for turkey. It adds a sweet and tangy flavor to the meat, making it more enjoyable to eat. The recipe includes cranberries, orange juice, and other natural ingredients.



Photo: iStockphoto.com

A Savory Cranberry
 This savory cranberry recipe is a delicious way to use up any leftover cranberries. It's a simple recipe that can be prepared in minutes. The recipe includes cranberries, onion, and other ingredients.

How to Cook the Turkey
 This guide provides step-by-step instructions on how to cook a turkey. It covers everything from brining to roasting, ensuring you get the best results. The recipe is easy to follow and includes helpful tips.

Simple and Delicious
 This recipe is a simple and delicious way to enjoy cranberries. It's a great option for those who want a quick and easy recipe. The recipe includes cranberries and other ingredients.

LOWRY

Continued from Page A5

So as a sheer political matter, there can be no such thing as Trumpism without Trump, or Anti-Trumpism without Trump, or Anything Else without Trump.

It is difficult enough for a candidate to run away from a conventional president of his own party; it is going to be even harder with a president who dominates the media to an extent no other president has, and courts – nay, enjoys – radioactive controversies.

In theory, Trumpism without Trump is the right direction for the GOP. It should learn from his populist, nationalistic appeal while avoiding its (and his) excesses.

In practice, Trump himself is going to loom all the larger in the party.

He is the main issue in American politics, and he may be the only Republican fit to weather the storm – he has a proven ability to turn out his voters, he doesn't have to win elections in nonpresidential years, and his persona works for him, if not for anyone else. If the worst comes and Republicans lose both houses of Congress next year,

Trump's importance will be further magnified as the only Republican standing between Democrats and unified control of the federal government.

In that circumstance, Republican voters would probably be much more willing to embrace Trump without Trumpism, rather than the opposite.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

McSwain marks 10 years

The First Congregational United Church of Christ of Ocala celebrated 10 years of leadership with Rev. Dr. H. W. McSwain, Senior Pastor.

On Nov. 12, members of First Congregational UCC Ocala were joined by Herb Katz and other members of Temple Beth Shalom for a celebratory service. Members of Central Florida Master Choir joined the Chancel Choir, directed by Dr. Cory Alexander, who also sang a solo.

During the service Rev. Dr. Dana Knapp, Moderator of the Church Council, reflected on the "essence of Hal," his unique ability as a Pastor and as a person to critically look at himself and the Christian community as a whole. He repeatedly asks the question: "Why do Christians always think they have to exclude people to make themselves right? Do they think they have the truth and nobody else does?" Other religions and world thinkers offer a lot of wisdom that Hal draws from and integrates in his teachings and Interfaith activities.

He consistently calls out injustice. A year after his installation, under leadership of a membership study task force, fully supported by Hal, the congregation officially became an Open and Affirming church. Welcoming LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) persons into the full life, ministry and sacraments of the church (e.g. membership, leadership, employment, marriage). The church now participates in the annual Ocala PrideFest and is a strong advocate of LGBT rights.

Hal has been instrumental in the Discussion Groups attended by interested members of the con-

gregation and guests who come from other churches to engage in lively discussions on Bible, ethics, world religions and other pertinent topics using books/videos. The emphasis is very much on academic integrity to foster and promote critical thinking.

Hal consistently encourages the membership to remember their responsibilities as Christians to be ministering beyond the church doors. Whether it's providing food for the poor through its mission activities or relief for hurricane victims; or getting out to vote in national elections; speaking out when we see or hear about social injustices; anytime we could be doing something, Hal reminds us of our responsibility as members of the United Church of Christ – without hesitation.

Week by week Hal provides the congregation with sermons that evoke



Hal McSwain and Cory Alexander.

thoughtfulness, sometimes laughter, or "amens" from certain quarters in the room, and challenges to the status quo. They may include a story from Hal's past that makes the message more alive and relevant or just gives a little more insight to the person Hal is beyond the title, The Rev. Dr. H.W. McSwain, Senior Pastor. Whether he's preaching or teaching or sharing a cup of coffee, Hal is focused on the ministry of God's love as it is reflected through the grace and justice of Jesus Christ and our willingness to share those truths.

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Opinion

Our view

Kill the bill, save the trees

When a legislator introduces a statewide bill to address a local issue that piques him, it is almost always bad legislation.

Senate Bill 574, which would prevent local authorities from enacting or enforcing ordinances to protect trees, was introduced after a Sarasota legislator was irked because he had to get permits to clear a lot. It is predictably bad legislation.

If approved, this legislation would nullify tree ordinances statewide. As written, it would stop local authorities from making rules regarding tree trimming, tree removal or tree harvesting and give this authority to the state.

The bill was introduced by state Sen. Greg Steube, who had to pull a permit to clear a lot and then pay to have the debris removed when he built a three-car garage on his Sarasota property.

It appears that Steube is willing to use his position as a state senator to settle grudges regarding local issues. Earlier this year, he introduced a bill to get the Legislature to put on the 2018 ballot a constitutional amendment to limit local school board members to two terms.

This was apparently introduced because he wanted to replace moderate Sarasota school board members with more conservative ones.

Many local jurisdictions have local ordinances designed to protect the tree canopy.

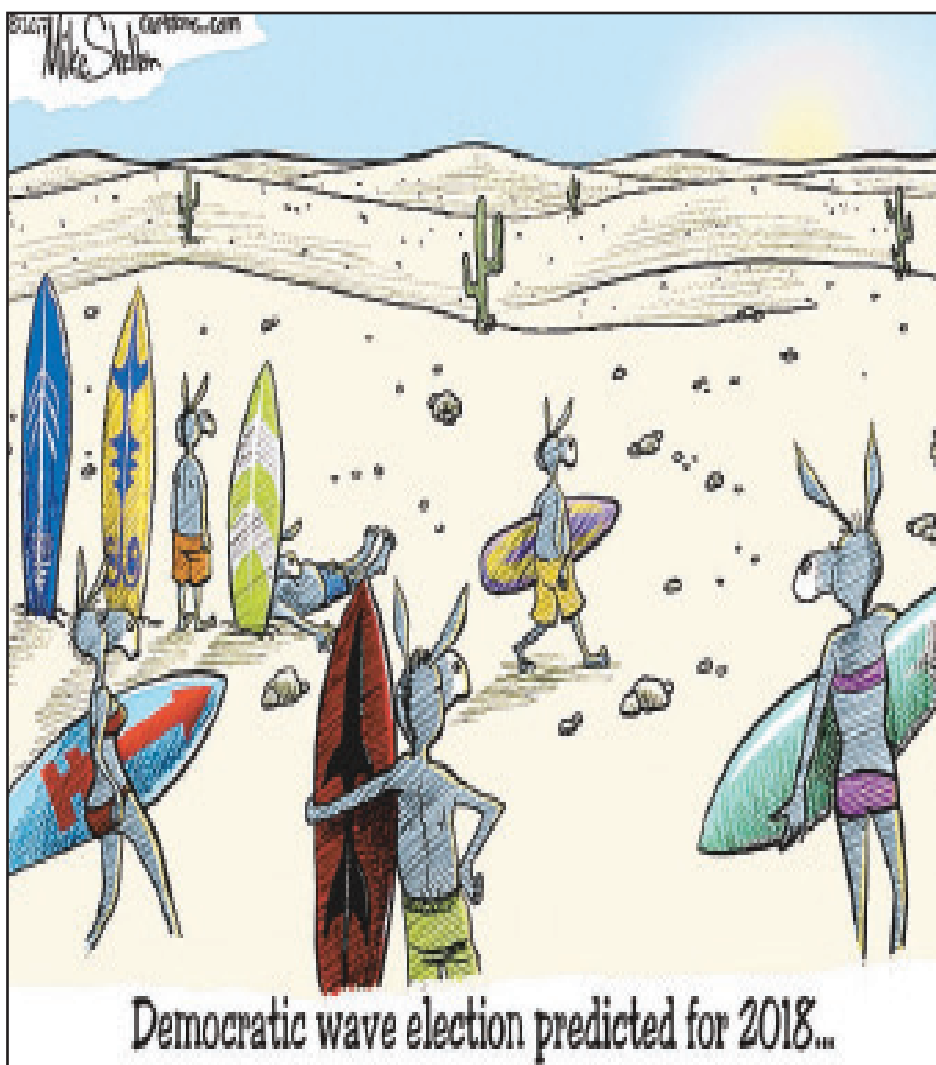
These contribute to both the aesthetics of the town, and to the preservation of local wooded areas that are home to a variety of wildlife.

A state law forbidding local officials from enforcing these ordinances is an extreme example of overreach by state officials interjecting themselves into local issues.

This is why officials in many towns with tree ordinances, such as Jacksonville and Tallahassee, have gone on record opposing this legislation, as have more than 1,000 Friends of Florida, a statewide nonprofit that monitors land management and other environmental issues.

Getting irritated by having to file for a tree removal permit is a poor basis for making a law that affects the ability of localities across the state to regulate tree removal. This is bad legislation introduced for the wrong reason. It needs to die a quiet death.

Citrus County Chronicle



Your letters

Flu shots

I read your commentary reading flu shots with interest because I too am someone who refuses to get them. My mother got them religiously starting in the mid 1970s and every year also ended up with flu-like symptoms afterward, such as you're experiencing now. When I'd question her as to why, her reason was because if she does come in contact with the bug and comes down with the flu, it won't be as bad. That logic has never set well with me, so that is my reason for passing on the idea. To this day I've never had the flu and I contribute it all to using sanitary wipes on the handles of shopping carts at my local grocery stores.

Now, I'd like to go one step further regarding immunizations and bring up the Shingle shot.

My husband got one two years ago after debating on it for about a year. All went fine for him, which was a godsend because you know how you men are when you get ill. I'm sure your wife will agree when I write, you're not fun to be around. He badgered me for a year to get one also. I kept telling him no because I'm not interested in putting unknown serums into my body and I'll deal with Shingles should I contact them. From the time he was inoculated, it seemed Terry Bradshaw was popping up on the tv screen, looking at me straight in the eyes and telling me to "Get the shot". Between him, my husband and the people sitting with Terry, I felt as though I was surrounded by "You must get the Shingle Shot" people, so one day I couldn't take them screaming at me anymore and I caved.

We happened to be shopping at Winn-Dixie and I found the courage to do it. I asked the Pharmacist all the pertinent questions. Will I need a booster, are there any side effects and if so what are they. He said I wouldn't need a booster, there are minimal side effects but only affect 1% of the population (sounds like the flu shot percentage, doesn't it?). He also said in his 18 years of giving the shot out, he'd never known of anyone having side effects to which I replied, "You've never known me. If there's a side effect, I'll get it".

I got the shot at about 3 in the afternoon and around 10 that evening, my left upper arm where the injection took place blew up as though a bunch of bees had lunch on me. I shot a dagger-type stare at my husband who quickly turned his eyes to the tv. (It's a good thing Bradshaw's commercial wasn't on at the time because I wanted a piece of him too).

I grabbed an ice pack from the freezer and headed to the bathroom in order to rummage through all cabinets to see what I had that could possibly help with the now plum-size, rock hard, burning lump that had developed. I've always had good luck with Coconut Oil so that was my topical of choice. Between the Oil to keep the skin supple as it expanded and the ice to keep the swelling down, the redness at bay and pain away, I was able to keep things under control. Come bedtime I couldn't sleep in a normal position because the arm had to be elevated.

Therefore, I wrapped it loosely with an Ace Bandage and in order to keep it from coming off during the night, I cut one of my husbands favorite socks in half (part of his punishment) and used the upper part as a sleeve. I damn sure wasn't cutting one of mine. Three to four days later all was back to normal. But that's not all.

See LETTERS on Page A11

With college football, chaos rules

It's no secret that I'm a sports fan, which is short for fanatic. I've written many times about my "Wait 'til next year" philosophy of the Mets.

There are a couple of other things to know: First, I follow college football and basketball closely and I'm a Notre Dame football fan and a Florida Gator basketball fan (it's complicated); second, I don't like the NCAA football playoff system; and third, I love chaos.

The playoff system has a four-team playoff for the title. However the NCAA lists five so-called power conferences, meaning that at least one champion will be left out.

This year, you have Georgia vs. Auburn in the SEC; Wisconsin vs. Ohio State in the Big 10; Oklahoma vs. TCU in the Big 12; Miami vs. Clemson in the ACC and Stanford vs. USC in the Pac 12. Of those games, I'd throw out the Pac 12 winner, and the other four winners would advance.

But wait! Sitting in the wings is Alabama, which lost only one game, to Auburn, all year and was at the top most of the season. That team is probably better than most of the teams in the title games. Does it get in and someone else gets eliminated?

I'll throw in another team: Central Florida. If UCF beats Memphis in the American Conference game, UCF will be undefeated. Of the list above, only

Jim Clark
Editor



Wisconsin is unbeaten. What do you do with the Knights?

Of course, I'd like to plug my team, but no three-loss team has ever been considered. Notre Dame plays the toughest schedule -- there are no UABs, Troys or Mercers like there are on some of the title teams. The three Irish losses are to Georgia, Miami and Stanford, all of whom are in conference finals.

So who gets in? I'll be rooting for the lower-ranked team in each case, and for UCF. I want to see the selection committee squirm a little.

Of course, this could all be solved if there were an eight-team playoff instead of four. Eight is good enough for Division 3, Division 2, Division 1-AA and the NAIA. Why not in Division 1?

But the NCAA has bowed to television and stuck with four. And now they've boxed themselves into a corner.

Did I mention I love chaos?

Jim Clark is the editor of the West Marion Messenger and 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 by e-mail to editor@westmarionmessenger.com.

WEST MARION
Messenger

PUBLISHER:
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EDITOR:
JIM CLARK

Thanksgiving is about traditions; tell the writer about yours

I'm sure that basic traditions are universal for most American families even if they are manifested in very different ways. The Thanksgiving holiday is "the favorite holiday" for most of my immediate family.

Back when we were all living in the Rome, Georgia, area, Thanksgiving was a very big deal even to the youngest children. We gathered at my parents' 47 acre homeplace, ate fantastic food, watched football, played games, chased children around outside (weather permitting), ate more delicious food, and then practiced the Morris family tradition we all eagerly anticipated. The traditional drawing of names for our family's Christmas gift exchange.

It was never really about the gifts...it was about the "anticipation" of the event that would happen in the late afternoon on Christmas day once each family had celebrated individually at their respective



Fairfield Village
Priscilla Barnett

homes.

But for all of us, on Thanksgiving, it was about the secrecy of the names drawn by each of us. There was usually a very reasonable monetary limit on the price of the gifts, so the actual value was in the thought put into the exactly right gift for the family member whose name we each had drawn.

The anticipation would build toward Christmas af-

ternoon when we would gather again at Mamaw and Dandy's large home to open these gifts together.

Does your family have special holiday traditions? Over the next couple of weeks I will be soliciting input from our Fairfield Village neighbors to write about these special family times to share among ourselves.

If I do not see you personally, please call or text me at 352-414-8945 or e-mail me at priscillabarnett27@gmail.com with your contribution to our shared family fun holiday traditions.

Let's enjoy each other's special fun or unique memories this 2017 Blessed Holiday Season.

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas from the "lively and lovely" Fairfield Village community.

Editor's note: See photo on Page A1.

Super Crossword

Answers

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Go Figure!

answers

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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Red Hat Fillies

The Nov. 16 weather was just perfect for the Red Hat Fillies of Ocala Palms to have their luncheon held outdoors. The luncheon was held at The Grille at Stone Creek and hosted by Linda Schlueter. Everyone enjoyed the tasty food and the festive Thanksgiving theme. *Photos by Cathy Donohue*



Cathy Donohue and Carol Bergstoll.



Carol Yount and Kathy Gustafson, standing, and Marie Roser and Dianna Hayford seated.



Some of the ladies in attendance were Dianne Higgins and Nancy Jensen.

More photos on Page A12



Carol Pellett and Judy Duby.

LETTERS

Continued from Page A8

About a month and a half after that ordeal, I was taking a shower and while drying off I felt a bit of a pain on my right butt cheek.

My husband doesn't have the capability to describe things properly to me so I grabbed my camera, walked into the living room, handed it to him, bent over and told him to take a picture for me. That caused question marks to float above his head until I told him why. I then uploaded the photo into the computer and there it was, a Shingle pox. Another one of my dagger-type looks went to him which caused him to leave the room in a hurry. It took 3-4 days of rubbing Coconut Oil on it for the thing to go away. To this day I'm happy to report there's never been another breakout.

My husband doesn't have the capability to describe things properly to me so I grabbed my camera, walked into the living room, handed it to him, bent over and told him to take a picture for me. That caused question marks to float above his head until I told him why. I then uploaded the photo into the computer and there it was, a Shingle pox.

Another one of my dagger-type looks went to him which caused him to leave the room in a hurry. It took 3-4 days of rubbing Coconut Oil on it for the thing to go away. To this day I'm happy to report there's never been another breakout.

I know my experience wasn't with the flu shot, but I did want you and your readers to know that with any inoculation, side effects do exist no matter how small the percentage. Also as a side note, the Shingle shot is NOT a guaranteed one-shot deal. A person can still get Shingles but as my mother said about the flu shot, "It just won't be as bad as if you didn't have the shot".

Get well soon,
Dana Kaczmarek
Ocala

More on flu shots
I look forward to reading your commentary every week and have since I moved to Marion County in 2015. I took a flu shot every year for 21

years while serving in the U.S. Army. Back then, I had no choice. Once I left the military, you couldn't pay me to get a flu shot. Neither does my wife and our physician brings it up every year when we make our check up during the month of December. But we po-

lately refuse it. Neither one of us has ever caught a cold or the flu. Thank God.

God bless you and thanks for your commentary.
Happy Thanksgiving,
Martin Burgos
Ocala

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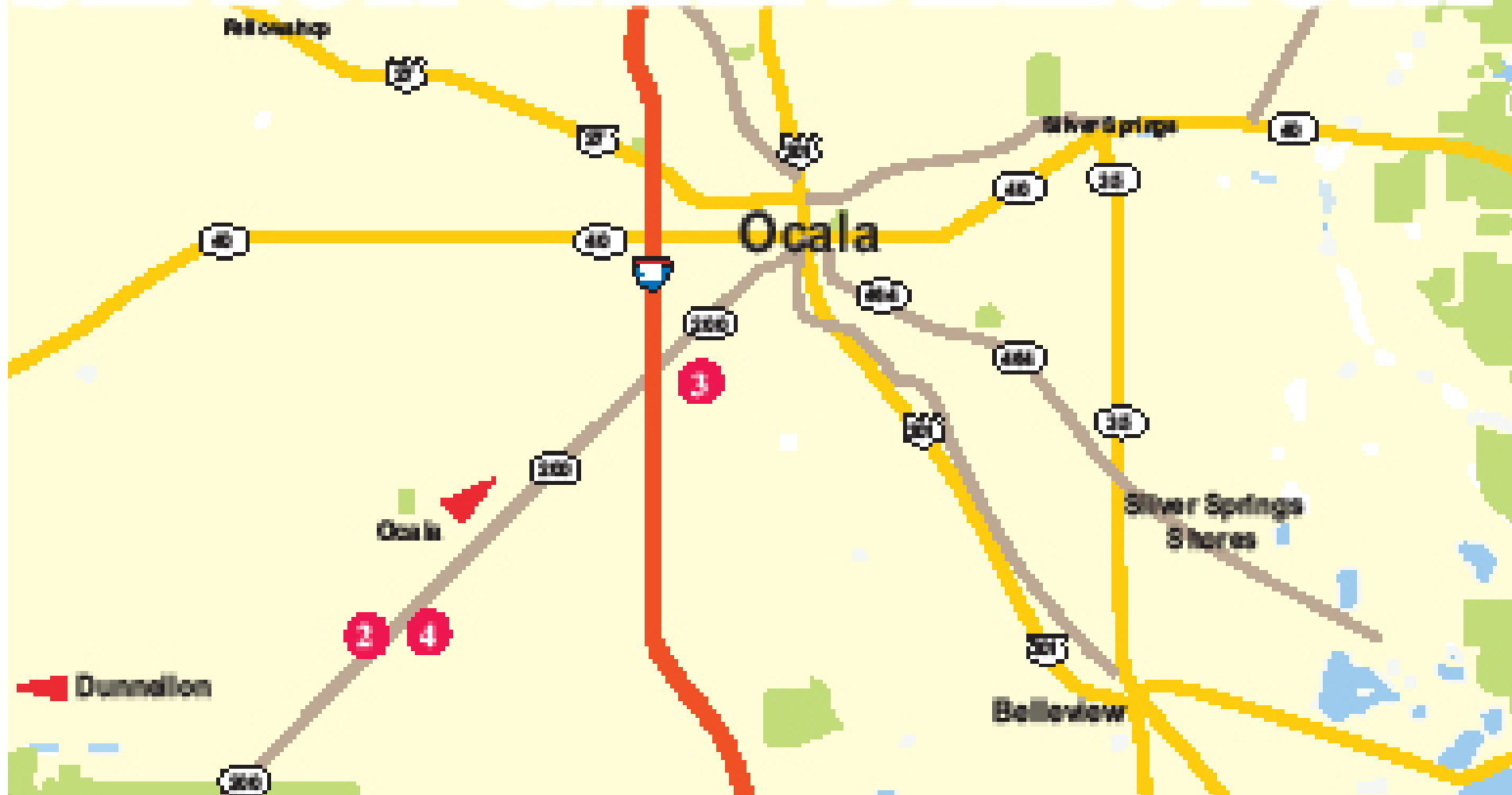


Linda Schlueter and Diane Peterson.



Nancy Myron and Angie Fischetti.

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