



# WEST MARION Messenger

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## The debate over guns

BY DELPHINE HERBERT  
*Special to the Messenger*

Stating that "we see the future and it is now" West Port student activists Maurice Gilbert and Afreka Ebanks are among the many Ocalans joining Parkland survivors and young people everywhere in militating for increased safety in all our public institutions through more stringent restrictions on the purchase and control of widely available weapons of war and more mental health counseling and treatment.

Panelists before the overflow crowd at the March 9 Friday Forum came up with concrete proposals for gun controls and school safety as Beth McCall, chair of the Marion County School Board, Dr. Hal McSwain, pastor of the First Congregational United Church of Christ, and Henry De-Geneste, former Superintendent of Police for the NY/NJ Port Authority also participated in the ongoing debate predicated on individual rights guaranteed by the Second Amendment versus the State's duty to ensure public safety.

No one disputed a responsible citizen's right to own and bear arms for personal safety. However, Bruce Seaman, moderator, in his opening comments, pointed out that while other amendments in the Bill of Rights have been subject to change, absolutists will not accept any restraints on their perceived individual rights, choosing to find inviolable only the second portion of the Founding Fathers' words: "A well



Part of the large crowd at the Friday Forum.



Maurice Gilbert



Afreka Ebanks

regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

"We go with that knowledge in this discussion about guns everywhere, most particularly in the schools knowing that we have gone from Columbine to Sandy Hook and nothing changed . . . until Marjory Stoneman Douglas which has sparked a storm of controversy here in Florida and throughout the nation."

McCall began by reviewing current safety and budgetary concerns and sharing what is being done in the schools right now. She said

the school board is working closely with the Sheriff, the Police Chief and other school officials in "shade" meetings not open to the public.

Because the school board has not made any decisions about their options, McCall said that she can't speak as a school board member but "as a grandmother and a private citizen I

See GUNS on Page A3

## Winn Dixie to close

Two Ocala stores are among the Winn-Dixie stores slated to be closed, according to a list provided by the parent company.

The local stores include one near Quail Meadow at 4417 NW Blitchton Road, Ocala, and another near On Top of the World at 8445 SW Highway 200 #131, Ocala.

No date for the closings was announced.

Previous store closings announced include Toys-R-Us on SW College Road, just west of 27th Avenue, and Kmart on East Silver Springs Blvd. just east of NE 36th Avenue.

## Metz named circuit judge

Florida Governor Rick Scott has appointed Larry Metz to the state's 5th District Judicial Court. Scott made the announcement from the state's House of Representatives at its final session.

Metz served in the state House for eight years. This was his final session due to the state laws on term limits.

The 62-year old Metz had been the prime sponsor for several years of the sanctuary cities bill. It passed the House this year but was not taken up by the Senate.

Florida's 5th Judicial Circuit covers five counties, including Marion.

## After showing declines, gas prices on the rise again

Gas prices are on the rise once again, after declining for nearly two weeks. Florida gas prices declined early last week, then rose a total of 4 cents on Thursday and Friday. Sunday's state average of \$2.53 is 4 cents less than a month ago, yet remains 26 cents more than this time last year.

The most expensive gas price averages in Florida are in West Palm Beach-Boca Raton (\$2.65), Naples (\$2.59), and Miami (\$2.58)

- The least expensive gas price averages in Florida are in Punta Gorda (\$2.48), Jacksonville (\$2.49), and Melbourne-Titusville (\$2.50)

"There are a few of factors that gave gas prices a boost, but this time it wasn't crude oil," said Mark Jenkins, spokesman, AAA - The Auto Club Group. "Gasoline supplies took a sharp dip last week, as exports rose and refineries began to switch from summer to winter blend gasoline. In

addition, demand in the southeast - especially in Florida - is strong, as Americans hit the road for spring break.

"We also noticed strong gains in wholesale gasoline prices last week, which should signal additional increases at the pump this week," Jenkins continued.

Wholesale gasoline prices climbed 10-15 cents Wednesday-Friday. Based on current wholesale levels, prices at

the pump could climb another nickel.

Meanwhile, crude oil prices hovered around the \$60-\$62 per barrel range, where they have remained for the past two weeks. Gasoline futures rose 5 cents last week.

- National: the highest average price for gasoline was \$2.67 on Feb. 6; the lowest was \$2.49 on Jan. 3.

- Florida: the highest average price in was \$2.68 on Feb. 8; the lowest was \$2.44 on Jan. 2.

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## The man with the smile



Bart Rich loved to entertain and won many contests.



### Fairfield Village

Priscilla Barnett

**M**any people smile occasionally; many smile often; but Bart Rich always smiled. I honestly do not remember a time that I encountered Bart when he did not have that characteristic smile on his face. That is a rare gift.

That smile and friendly attitude are just two of the things that will be missed here in Fairfield Village since Bart passed away on March 3 after a relatively short battle with cancer. He was very active and very positive all that time.

That infectious smile might have been one of the first things that his lovely wife, Judy, noticed the first time she saw him at a karaoke club. She said the groups almost always sat in the same place; however, Judy noticed that this man whom she did not know kept sitting closer to her each time she went with friends.

Finally they met and that was the beginning of the next chapter in both their lives.

Together, Bart and Judy have seven children and seven-grandchildren,

Though they are very close, time together is not so frequent since most of the family still lives in their home state of Maine.

Bart graduated from South Portland High School and attended business college before joining the U.S. Army. His career was spent as a machinist with Pratt Whitney.

When he retired, Bart and Judy headed south for the more favorable climate as did many of Bart's fellow classmates. Bart organized a class reunion here in Florida for some twelve years. Several times, the group made use of the Fairfield Village Clubhouse for the gathering.

One time I attended and did a feature on that reunion that drew in over 100 people. I have been to many class reunions, but I do not remember any one that was as congenial, warm, and thoroughly delightful as the one Bart organized here. Of course, the delicious food that Judy put together with many of her own specialties was a hit as well.

Bart, still loving his karaoke, put together a very entertaining evening for the group, and I heard over and over what a good job his friends said that he had done.

One guy said to me, "You can always count on Bart to put together a great reunion." Obviously, lots of people recognized Bart's many talents.

Bart's ability to smile and move on even when things were a bit frustrating at times is, no doubt, why Bart could remain a leader and a "doer" when others might get angry and walk away from a project.

Bart always hung in and helped to get things done in our community.

During the 14 years that Bart and Judy have lived here in Fairfield Village, it would be difficult to name any other person who was always so active and engaged in making our community the best neighborhood it could be. He loved Fairfield Village and his neighbors.

Bart was very active with the HOA in past years during which time he served as President. He accomplished something that is a true benefit to all



Bart and Judy Rich loved going on cruises.

communities like ours when he went to the Florida Legislature in Tallahassee and was successful in resolving an issue with water rates. Had he not done what he did, we would be paying much higher rates. That was quite an important issue, and we all still thank him for those efforts.

Moving on to other areas of interest, Bart became very involved with the Fairfield Village Social Club and was still President at the time of his passing. He organized many events and continued to be successful putting together not only outstanding social gatherings but also many very entertaining shows.

Along with the Social Club, Bart was very involved with the Fairfield Village Newsletter. He knew how to get advertisers and to keep them. It will be very hard to find a replacement with his enthusiasm and "know how."

Anyone who knew Bart knew of his love for playing billiards. He was instrumental in organizing the Fairfield Village Billiards Club that brings in exceptional players to join in.

There are at least 4 active teams at the present time and his absence will leave a void for quite some time.

His love for billiards gave him the incentive to enter a pro-am billiards tournament held at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. As luck would have it for both of them, he was paired with Jeanette Lee, very highly regarded professional. The pair won the big tournament and the unique trophy signed by many of the pros is one of Bart's possessions that Judy treasures.

Other than going back home to Maine for visits, Bart and Judy loved going to the beach and on cruises.

Often Bart was the winner in the karaoke contests that so many people enjoy on those cruises. His infectious, almost mischievous grin could attract a crowd, and he could really sing.

I was at a local restaurant one night when Bart was entertaining.

I could not help noticing that the diners would actually stop eating to enjoy his music. With the way we "seniors" like our food, I would say that was quite a testament to his charisma.

I started this piece mentioning Bart's smile. That was one of his trademarks.

We, here in Fairfield Village, will sorely miss that gentleman who epitomized our motto of "a lively place filled with lovely people." Bart Rich was a "lively" man with a "lovely" smile that we will remember. Rest in peace.

Plans are being made for a memorial service and will be announced when completed.



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Will discuss: Documents for advance planning to assist loved ones in a crisis situation; Durable power of attorney; Advance directives

**Tonia Hissong**, Account Executive at Angels Care Home Health  
Will discuss: What is home health; Where and how we serve patients; Who is eligible for home health; How you get home health; How we work with each patient's doctor; How insurance works with home health.

**Ledmarie Rodriguez**, Resident Care Director at The Bridge at Ocala  
Will discuss: What is an ALF; What activities of daily living can we assist with; Medication management; Staffing; All-inclusive amenities; Healthcare providers within the community; Transitional care program.

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# GUNS

## Continued from Page A1

can tell you I am not for arming our teachers. I will never be for arming our teachers.” McCall says she gets nightmares thinking about different scenarios in which a teacher or a child might be mistaken for the shooter when split second decisions must be made.

The school board will make the final decision on how Marion County schools will be protected. However, McCall pointed out that she is only one among five. In order to voice your views about arming teachers, she asks that the public email school board members, write letters to the editor and appear at the next school board meeting which takes place at 5:30 p.m. March 27 at 512 SE 3rd St., Ocala. If you want to address the board during the 30 minute televised portion you must fill out a form in advance. Check [www.marionschools.net](http://www.marionschools.net) or telephone 352/671-7703.

McSwain, a member of the Sheriff's Citizen Advisory Board, and DeGeneste, past chair of the group, both presented two simple first steps that can easily be achieved without violating the Second Amendment. McSwain argued for limiting clip size while DeGeneste seeks to ban armor piercing rounds. McSwain also asked the audience to consider the incredible cost for liability insurance and the question of who would pay.

Holding up pictures of four fire arms. McSwain asked the audience to choose the assault rifle among them. To the uninitiated three looked like simple rifles with which to shoot squirrels or deer, with the AR-15 appearing strikingly more fearsome.. McSwain said all four use the same bullets, have the same muzzle velocity and can fire the same number of rounds.

So what is the definition of an assault rifle? He argued that "on a national or state level legislators can move very quickly to limit clip size. . .not the most important issue but a step that can easily be taken. There are limits on the type of fire arms that people can own. It is illegal to own a fully automatic weapon and yet a fully automatic weapon can look like any of these rifles right here. When you use the term assault rifle or weapon be aware that it doesn't have to do with the style. Semi automatic weapons are just as deadly across the board no matter what shape they come in."

McSwain and DeGeneste maintained that a simple handgun is virtually useless against weapons of war, leading police to be among the very strongest voices against assault rifles for self-protection.

All panelists are against arming teachers because even trained, full time swat teams cannot prevail against a weapon capable of firing 100 rounds a minute and penetrating armor, cars or even concrete walls

DeGeneste, repeatedly describing himself as an

ex-cop for 25 years, said arming teachers is the worst thing he can think of and his daughter, a retired deputy school superintendent in Fairfax County, Virginia, has told him he would no longer be her father if he ever recommended that position. Pointing out that most mass shootings have occurred in suburban or rural communities not in inner cities where schools have one way in and one way out, he used West Port as an example of how easily someone with an assault rifle could wreak disaster. An individual could drive up at 3 p.m. in a van with tinted windows and start shooting from 200 yards away. Someone with a Glock at the school entrance wouldn't have a chance.

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, revered by conservative Second Amendment absolutists, wrote that the Constitution allows us to take into consideration types of weapons according to deGeneste who says that no one needs a weapon of war in his home. A lifelong member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the largest organization of its kind in the world, the ex-cop said its recommendations included reinstatement of bans on assault weapons, internet gun and ammo sales and high capacity magazines. The group also calls for stiffer penalties for illegal gun ownership, supports in-person transactions and opposes concealed carry permits.

Ebanks said students are scared. Focus groups are addressing their issues, using videos and meetings with administrators to form a platform on which students can voice their opinions and propose action.

Local students, members of what Gilbert calls Generation eXcellence, are motivated in part because they lost friends at Parkland, Gilbert said. He wants to get them involved in the political process because numbers count and if they are loud enough their voices will be heard.

Smart politicians will listen to the 70% of the American public who want gun controls rather than to the NRA in the person of Marion Hammer, the “real governor of Florida.” Gilbert was shocked to hear Deputy Superintendent of Schools Craig Ham advocate for arming teachers on MSNBC, saying such action would only cause confusion and likely lead to the detriment of everyone..

When Seaman pointed out that amazingly Tallahassee finally sent legislation to the Governor eliminating bump stocks and raising the minimum age for gun ownership to 21, discussion turned largely to the need for mental health with Gilbert suggesting that the \$67 million awarded to arm counselors, librarians and coaches might better be invested in mental health.

Quoting his wife Annette Alber who feels that violence always begins with disenfranchisement, McSwain said "our community is wounded. Our civic, moral and ethical fiber has been stretched and torn.

We need to provide safety for our youth and for each other but we are all responsible for doing so whether we are in favor of fire arms or not. "McSwain asked when the NRA is going to show concern for students not just for the "me" culture. "They need to know that they too have responsibilities as well as rights and we need to repeatedly remind them of that fact."

An audience member opined that shooters are often bright misfits to whom nobody listened. McCall responded by citing a teacher who each Friday asked her students "who do you want to sit next to?" in order to identify those no one chose. She then placed them next to the most popular in order to teach kindness and compassion.

When asked if kids would know what to do if they saw something disturbing, Ebanks replied that there are counselors in her school but each carries about a 700 person load and they concentrate on academic problems. Moreover many kids are afraid of being made fun of so they hesitate to voice their concerns. "We must find a way to change our culture," Ebanks said. Gilbert concurred, adding that guidance counseling should be revamped to include mental and emotional success not just academic requirements.

DeGeneste said that although we incarcerate more people than any other country in the world, we are not more mentally deranged than other people. We just have more guns. We need national laws so that people living in places like Chicago with strict gun control laws can't simply drive a few miles out of town to buy them.

We also need to stop warehousing mental patients in our prison system in order to enrich the private prisons which proliferated after mental health facilities were largely abolished in the 1980s.

When asked about promotion of values , Gilbert said that schools can only do so much and, with hyperactivity rampant, cultural changes can be addressed only when people feel open discussion is more welcome.

In conclusion, Seaman pointed out that once again Marion County must ask voters to approve a referendum in August to fund basic services for our school system because Tallahassee is not spending as much on education as it did in 2008 Gilbert suggested that perhaps it's because of legislators like State Rep. Elizabeth Porter who recently scoffed at Parkland's democratic participation, saying: "The adults make the law because we have the age, we have the wisdom, and we have the experience." To which Gilbert's response is "We don't have the years but we have the knowledge."

Students are rallying at 4 p.m. Saturday, March 24, at the Ocala downtown square to promote a new way of thinking that will guarantee the safety of our public institutions.

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# the PATH of FAITH



# Happenings

## Friday, March 23

### Two-day Oak Trace sale

Oak Trace Villas will be having its semi-annual community yard sale on Friday, March 23 and Saturday, March 24 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oak Trace is on 103rd Street Road just south of 200.

## Saturday, March 24

### The Landing Lites Pops Concert

The Landing Lites, resident chorus at Marion Landing, SW 65th Ave. Rd. (across from Queen of Peace R.C. Church), will present their annual Pops Concert on Saturday, March 24, at 7 p.m. The program includes 11 popular numbers from Broadway, Movies, and the Great American Songbook—including favorites such as "Razzle Dazzle," "Aquarius/Let the Sunshine In," "It Had to Be You," and three outstanding medleys: (1) Phantom of the Opera.

Ed Lojeski's 10 minute arrangement captures the essence of this award winning musical. (2) A Tribute to the Armed Services, this selection highlights all of the official U.S. Military songs/hymns. (3) An American Celebration which features six of our country's most celebrated patriotic songs. Topping all of these hits are 2 outstanding soloists: (1) Multi-talented, pianist and arranger, Bob Cabbage will play a selection of jazz numbers; (2) Soprano Mary Mahoney, will perform four numbers: "If I Loved You," "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Out of My Hair," "I Have Dreamed," and "I Enjoy Being a Girl." Tickets for this program are \$5 and may be purchased at the door.

### Saddle Oak Club annual yard sale

Saddle Oak Club annual yard sale will be Saturday, March 24, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saddle Oak is on SR 200 across from Heathbrook/Publix.

Yard sale in Clubhouse and on Clubhouse grounds by the community residents.

Breakfast and Lunch will be served. There will also be a great bake sale. The event will be held, rain or shine.

### Worship service at TimberRidge

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

If you have a loved one, or friend at the TimberRidge Center you are invited to attend our next service on Saturday, March 24 at 10:15 a.m.

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

### Countryside Open House

Countryside Presbyterian Church (USA), 7768 S.W. Hwy 200 is having an Open House on Saturday, March 24 from 9 to 11 a.m.

You are invited to learn more about us, have a tour of our beautiful church and join us for coffee, donuts and fellowship.

For further information, please call the church office at (352) 237-4633 or view our website at countrysidetocala.org.

## Sunday, March 25

### Chamber Music Society

The Marion Chamber Music Society presents Duo-B, featuring Ocala native Dr. Philip Borter and his wife Hiroko, playing cello and violin. The program is at Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 6455 West 200 on Sunday March 25 at 3 p.m.

Philip, earned his Doctorate in performance from Eastman School of Music, and is currently assistant professor of Music at Luther College, Iowa. Hiroko is a member of the Dorian Summer Camp for strings faculty. Both have won numerous awards, and are touring performers, jointly as Duo-B, and in other chamber instrument groupings as well. As Duo-B, they have performed across America, Europe and Asia.

Their program in Ocala will include Baroque, Romantic and Contemporary selections. Marion Chamber music concerts are "Always Exceptional Always FREE." For more information please visit our website, www.marionchambermusic.com or call 867-1340.

## Monday, March 26

### 40 and 8 veterans to meet

The 40/8 veterans group will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, March 26 at 1 p.m. on the second floor of the Bank of The Ozarks building at the entrance of On Top of The World on State Road 200. Come early to enjoy light refreshments with fellow veterans. Please remember to bring household supplies for the Fisher House in Gainesville.

For further information telephone Jerry 352-322-5966.

## Tuesday, March 27

### Christian Women's luncheon

Ocala Christian Women's Connection invites you to the our "Spring Fling Quarter Auction" luncheon Tuesday, March 27 at the Hilton of Ocala from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. The doors open at 11 a.m. The special feature is our Spring quarter auction.

See HAPPENINGS on Page A11

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# A trip, a luncheon, and a new scam

**A**fter spending several days in the Atlanta area last week, I won't complain about the traffic in Ocala! I can't believe I use to drive in that traffic every day. However, there were many good things about my trip: Granddaughter Nicholle had a beautiful wedding at Hightower Falls in Cedartown and granddaughter Tara gave birth to her son (6 weeks early). If you ever have the opportunity to visit the Cedartown, Georgia area, make a point to go to Hightower Falls – it is a beautiful place in the middle of "nowhere".

The March Ladies Luncheon was held on the 9th at the Iron Skillet Restaurant in Reddick. There were only twenty women in attendance, but they enjoyed the outing. This was also a "farewell" luncheon for Dottie Hefferon. Dottie is leaving our area and moving to Georgia to be near her family. We wish her well on this new chapter of her life. The April luncheon is scheduled for Friday, the 13th, at the Stone Creek restaurant.

Don't be scammed by the latest phone call scam! The caller will say he/she is calling about the new Medicare card you should receive. You are then asked for your Social Security number, as well as other private information. DO NOT give them any info – just hang up the phone! Yes, new cards are going to be distributed, but you will not get a phone call asking for this information – the Social Security Administration already has this info and they never call asking you to verify your number.

After a few cold, frosty mornings, the grass has turned brown. You may be tempted to water your lawn every day, but this is not allowed by the county. Beginning on March 11th, the following restrictions were given: If your house number is an odd number, you may water on Wednesday and Saturday; even

number addresses may water on Thursday and Sunday. These restrictions also apply to those who have wells! Let's all follow these rules.

Attention all Bingo players – the games are held the second and fourth Tuesday each month, so that means the next game night is Tuesday, the 27th.

Mark your calendars for the Italian Night – April



**Quail Meadow**  
Carolyn Slocumb

14. This will be a great evening with entertainment by Vinny B. Tickets are available from Grace Maguire and Judi Hargraves.



Photos are of the Hightower Falls in Cedartown, Georgia.

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Raymond and Shirley deBrauwere also celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary.

## Ocala Palms: 90 years & 60 years

Ocala Palms resident Raymond deBrauwere celebrated his 90th birthday on March 14. A celebration was held for close family members and friends at Chefs of Napoli on Saturday.



Raymond is pictured here with his three sons, Bill, Scott and John.

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# Opinion

## Our view

### Think twice before raising the tax bar

**O**n the surface, the Florida Legislature's approval for a constitutional amendment to be placed on the November ballot requiring a two-thirds vote of the Legislature to raise taxes rather than the usual majority sounds appealing.

However, with Florida having one of the lowest tax burdens in the country, it has a growing list of unmet public education, transportation infrastructure, mental health, social services, and environmental preservation needs. This should cause voters to question whether constraining the Legislature's taxing flexibility would do more harm than good.

When peeling back the super-majority tax increase requirement, unintended consequences are revealed that could handcuff the state's capacity to fiscally manage the changing circumstances and increasing needs of a growing state population.

Research shows that investors are reluctant to buy bonds from a state with reduced flexibility to raise revenue. This generally results in lower bond ratings and higher interest payments making the cost of bond-financed projects, such as new transportation infrastructure and public buildings, more expensive.

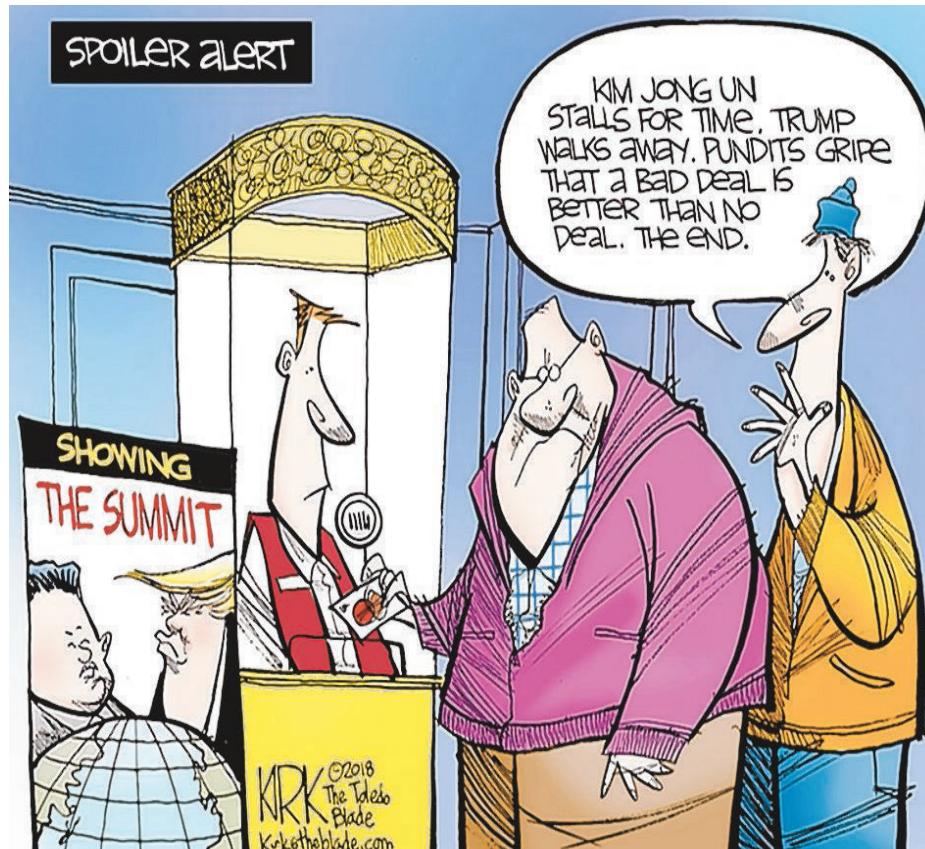
With a super-majority making it more difficult to raise taxes, state lawmakers would be inclined to shift the cost of government to other taxpayers or local governments. Florida state lawmakers have already shifted significant costs to local governments that are fiscally underwritten by property owners.

Reduced flexibility to meet budget needs would place state trust funds at further risk, given the Legislature's track record. Since 1992, the state's Affordable Housing trust fund has been raided 17 times totaling over \$2 billion. Tens of millions of dollars have been shifted from the Florida Forever trust fund for other purposes, contrary to a constitutional amendment overwhelmingly approved by Floridians in 2014.

By making it harder to raise taxes, budget cuts would almost certainly target those services whose recipients have little clout at the polls or few advocates in the Legislature, such as the elderly, the poor and the developmentally disabled. A supermajority can be used by a small minority of lawmakers and special interest lobbyists to thwart the will of the majority by demanding narrow concessions or the inclusion of pet projects. This potential for a legislative minority to hold the majority hostage carries the prospect of government impasse or shutdown.

Citrus County Chronicle

W E S T M A R I O N  
**Messenger**  
PUBLISHER:  
**GERRY MULLIGAN**  
MANAGER:  
**JOHN MURPHY**  
EDITOR:  
**JIM CLARK**



### March: Pi, Patrick, brackets, baseball

**M**arch is always one of my favorite months because there is so much going on.

Last week, in four consecutive days, we had Pi day (remember your math, pi is 3.14); the Ides of March (not Julius Caesar's favorite), a key biblical day (remember John 3:16) and St. Patrick's Day.

Then there are my favorites, brackets and baseball.

After the first day of the NCAA games, I was convinced that it was a waste of time to even bother to check. But then the results came in on Friday and I was in the 92nd percentile, with 300,000 people-plus a few ahead of me.

I was shocked on Saturday night after all the results were in to find myself in the top 25,000, meaning I had passed about 300,000 people. I was in the 99th percentile. Heck, I rarely got that high on my standardized tests in school.

The picks that really helped were the two victories by Loyola of Chicago. I had seen them earlier in the year when they beat the Gators, and how can you pick against a school that has a 98-year-old nun as a mascot.

But on Sunday it all went south, starting with Michigan State's loss. I had picked them to win the whole thing. Then Xavier, Cincinnati and North Carolina lost. Now I'm in the 89th percentile. Oh well, wait 'til next year.

Then there's baseball.

The regular season starts next Thursday, March 29. With it comes the fantasy leagues.

**Jim Clark**  
Editor



I have tried playing these leagues in the past, but I usually don't have the time to do it right. I hope to better adjust my schedules so that this summer I'll have better chances of winning.

When picking my players, I will be going all in. During past years, I've made the mistake of picking some borderline Mets. No more. This time I'll be as ruthless as any general manager.

By the way, I am not a gambler. I only enter leagues that are free. I don't care about prizes, I just want to put my baseball knowledge to the test.

Oh yes, you want a fantasy explanation. Well, you have a certain amount of dollars to spend on your roster. The league assigns a value to each player, and you have to stay under budget. Then you set your lineup for each game.

Players earn points based on their performance in each game. Standings are based on points.

That's why in some cases I'll be rooting for some players other than those on the Mets. And that's going to be tough to do.

*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](mailto:editor@westmarionmessenger.com).

## Guest column

### Congress tanks, but does it really care?

BY LEE H. HAMILTON  
*Special to the Messenger*

We're at a watershed moment in American political history. Our Congress — I'm talking about the people's body, the institution created by our founders, and not just the men and women who currently inhabit it — is in deep trouble. And no one seems to be offering hope.

Its public standing is abysmal, occasionally dropping into the single digits in polling. Very few people seem to respect it, even on Capitol Hill. Small surprise, as the Pew Research Center reported the other day, that "More members of the U.S. House of Representatives are choosing not to seek re-election to that body than at any time in the past quarter-century." Since filing deadlines haven't passed in most states that number is almost certain to grow.

Just as worrisome, power is shifting decisively to the President. The "balance of power" you read about in 7th-grade civics? It's a myth today. Co-equal branches? Not any more. Members of Congress over the years have delegated much of their power to other branches, especially the executive, so that they can escape accountability for tough choices. It allows them to focus more on getting re-elected, and on the local and constituent interests that are their electoral bread and butter.

Here's what may be the most discouraging thing of all: there was a time when congressional leaders would forcefully defend the Congress. They don't even bother to do that any more. In fact, it's not unusual to find them defending their own leadership but criticizing the institution they lead.

To ponder what we can do about it is to confront a long list of daunting challenges. For starters, congressional leaders have abandoned two centuries of precedent, a traditional set of norms, customs and procedures that allowed a body representing the complexities of the entire country to arrive at policy solutions that by and large spoke to the public good.

Today, bills are often drafted outside the committee system, without careful deliberation, consideration, or even participation by most members. The leadership has accumulated more and more power, leaving ordinary members out of the loop, especially in the all-important budget process.

We're saddled with a Congress that affords special interest groups far too much power. Their representatives and lobbyists swarm over Capitol Hill to influence and cajole, write speeches, supply talking points, and funnel money and favors of all descriptions to members. And because re-election is so expensive, Congress not only accepts all this, but seeks it out. Ordinary citizens have lost influence in the process.

*Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar, IU School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs.*



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

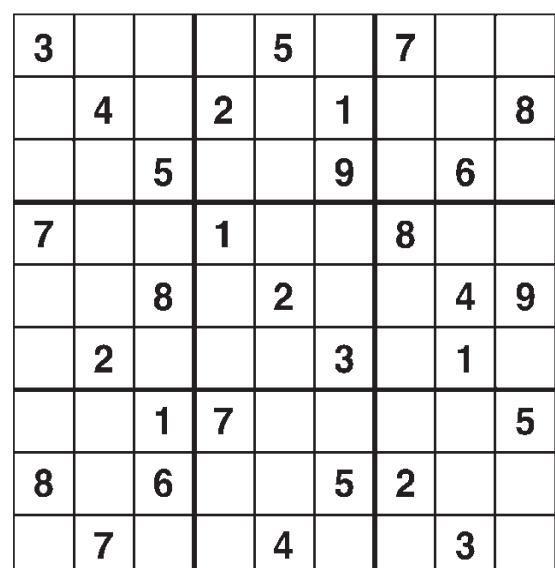
**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) As much as you might resent it, a changing situation could require you to adjust your plans accordingly. The good news: An associate agrees to cooperate.

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

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

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

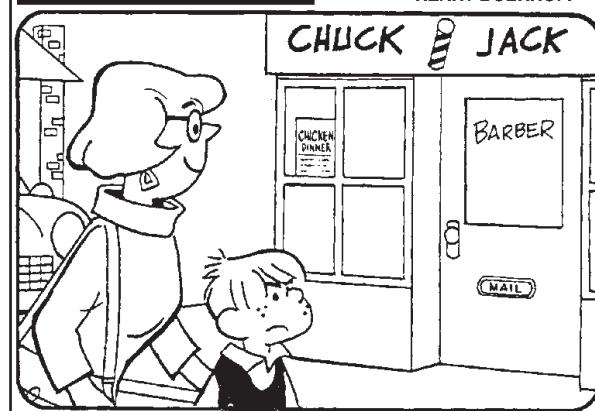
**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦

♦ Moderate    ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦ HOO BOY!

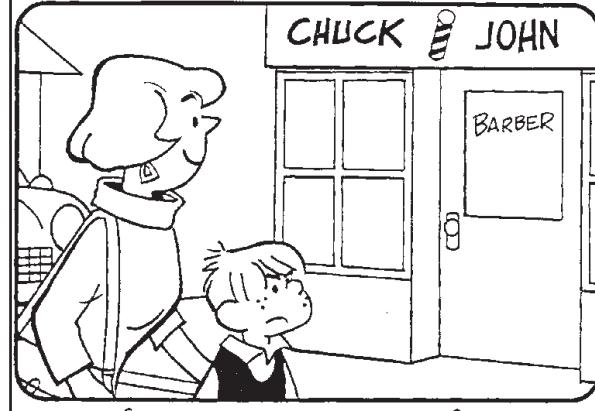
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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTONOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Poster is missing. 5. Name is different. 6. Mail slot is missing.  
4. Postbox is missing. 5. Name is missing. 2. Glasses are missing. 3. Sleeve is shorter.

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## Wishing Well®

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

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.

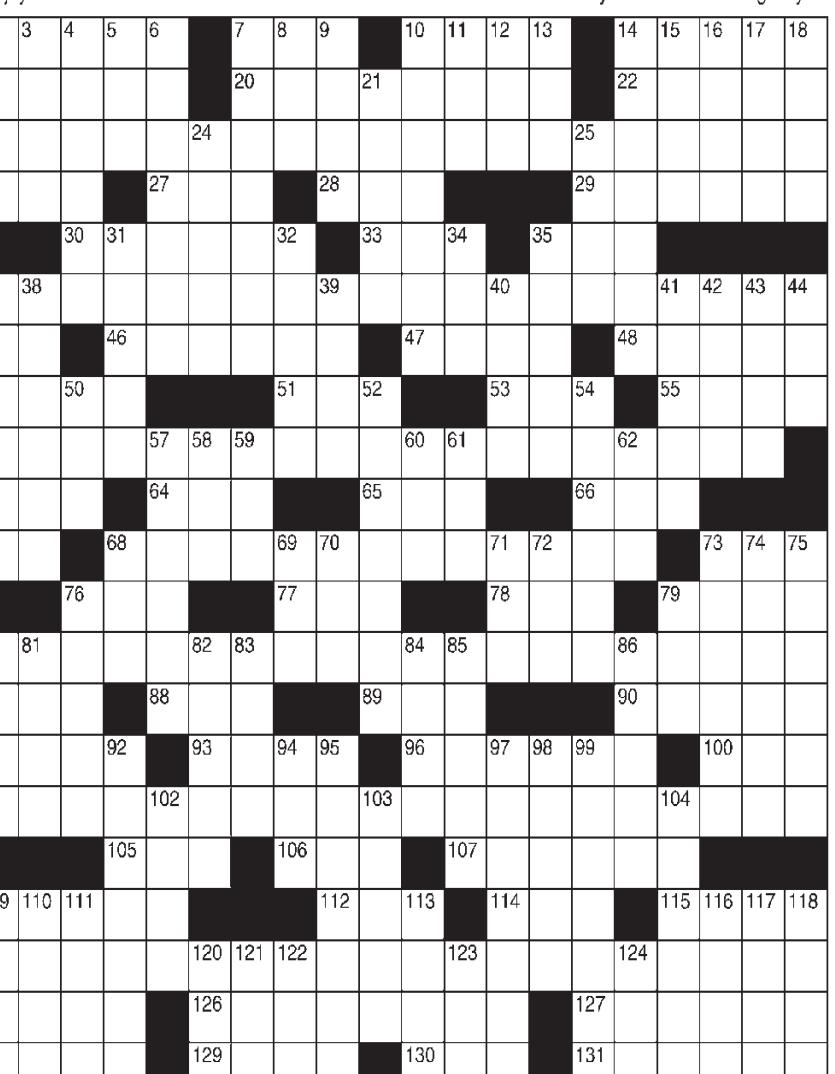
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## Super Crossword

DRESSING ROOM DELAY

- |                                 |  |  |                                    |
|---------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|
| ACROSS                          | 51 Grafton's "— 106 "—haw!"<br>1 Bible book for Evidence" 107 Morally base | 10 Phrase on a thin coin 50 Boxing ref's ruling    | 85 Monogram, e.g.: Abbr.           |
|                                 | 53 By way of 108 Lipstick messes   | 11 New Deal prez 52 Be sure the job is done        | 86 Japanese fish dish              |
| Zephaniah and Zechariah         | 55 Impel 56 Riddle, part 3 112 "Evil Woman" gp.                            | 12 Add— (extras) 54 Docket                         | 87 Used a bench                    |
| 7 Largest New Deal agcy.        | 63 Within: Prefix 114 Riddle-me—   | 57 Spoils 13 Wildlife park                         | 92 Involve in conflict             |
| 10 "The Wizard —"               | 64 Weapon —  | 14 Incarnations of deities 59 Big maker of SUVs    | 94 Pig's place                     |
| 14 In the slightest             | 65 Special span 115 Actress Rowlands                                       | 15 Jazz great 60 Mr. Capote, to pals               | 95 Honey                           |
| 19 Radiant                      | 66 Lang. of the U.S.A. 119 Riddle's answer                                 | 16 Very dry 61 Tartan cap                          | 97 Loving ones                     |
| 20 Vacillating response         | 67 IRA options 120 Lopez of pop music                                      | 17 Advance, as money 62 Neither Rep. nor Dem.      | 98 Drowsy                          |
| 22 Olive-green bird             | 68 Riddle, part 4 126 More smart   | 18 Captains' journals 63 "I'm talkin' to you!"     | 99 Made sense                      |
| 23 Start of a riddle            | 73 "... Mac — PC?" 127 Straight, as an arm or leg                          | 21 More fitting 102 Part of you!"                  | 100 See                            |
| 26 iPod model                   | 76 Buddhist discipline 128 Praise  | 24 "For want of —, the shoe was lost"              | 103 Trojan beauty                  |
| 27 Musician Brian               | 77 Letter after pi 129 Trig calculation                                    | 25 Half of Mork's sign-off 104 Move past carefully | 105 Send forth                     |
| 28 From Jan. 1 until today      | 78 Pass along, as an email: 130 Gridiron pts.                              | 71 Little newt 106 Place                           | 111 Latin "year"                   |
| 29 Disagreeing (with)           | 79 Male deer 131 When wages are given                                      | 72 "So adorable!" 113 "Think nothing —"            | 116 One- — jack Luftballons" group |
| 30 Tomorrow, to José            | 80 Riddle, part 5 132 Goldie of "Foul Play"                                | 31 Poker stakes 117 "99                            | 117 "99                            |
| 33 Essen article                | 87 Minestrone, e.g.  | 32 Feel likewise 118 J.D. holder                   | 118 J.D. holder                    |
| 35 Santa — winds                | 88 Moo — pork 133 Insect snare   | 34 Part of NSA 119 NFL players                     | 120 NFL players                    |
| 36 Riddle, part 2               | 89 Pewter metal 134 Campbell of country                                    | 35 Be part of, as a film 121 Mentalist Geller      | 121 Mentalist Geller               |
| 45 Former WB rival              | 90 Reformer 135 Elevated region  | 36 Montreal's province 122 Swimming star Thorpe    | 122 Swimming star Thorpe           |
| 46 Classical music record label | 91 Wide open, as a mouth 136 Car-towing org.                               | 37 Chromosome 123 Blushing hue                     | 123 Blushing hue                   |
| 47 Coup d—                      | 93 Wide-mouthed fish 137 Gigantic  | 38 Puts into law 124 — big way                     | 124 — big way                      |
| 48 Rises rapidly                | 96 Lassos 138 One of the Judds   | 39 Tobaccoless smoke 109 See                       | 109 See                            |
| 49 Overjoy                      | 101 End of the riddle 139 Sitarist Shankar                                 | 40 For takeout 110 Ear malady                      | 110 Ear malady                     |
|                                 | 105 Imitate a wolf 140 Like a child  | 41 Red Scare gp. 111 Kid-lit "pest"                | 111 Kid-lit "pest"                 |
|                                 |  | 42 Toad feature 112 "Hot dog!"                     | 112 "Hot dog!"                     |
|                                 |  | 43 Jason's ship 113 Oahu feast                     | 113 Oahu feast                     |
|                                 |  | 44 Reverse of NNW 114 Sorvino of Hollywood         | 114 Sorvino of Hollywood           |
|                                 |  | 115 116 117 118                                    | 115 116 117 118                    |

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## GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle

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

**DIFFICULTY:** ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		×		25
×		+		×	24
	—		×		23
+		×		÷	22
	—		×		16
25	27	10			
2	3	3	4	5	6
7	8	9			

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# Bet you can't eat just one!

A few years ago, Lay's Potato Chips threw down the gauntlet in a new advertising campaign: "Bet you can't eat just one!"

It was a clever slogan--and had a clever commercial to match. I think the line resonated so much because it's true. It's quite difficult to eat just one chip.

Recently, the Lifestyle Office put Stone Creek residents to the challenge as they celebrated National Potato Chip day. The day is celebrated across the U.S. on March 14. Americans should celebrate as Americans consume 1.2 billion pounds of potato chips each year. Chips are Americans favorite snack food.

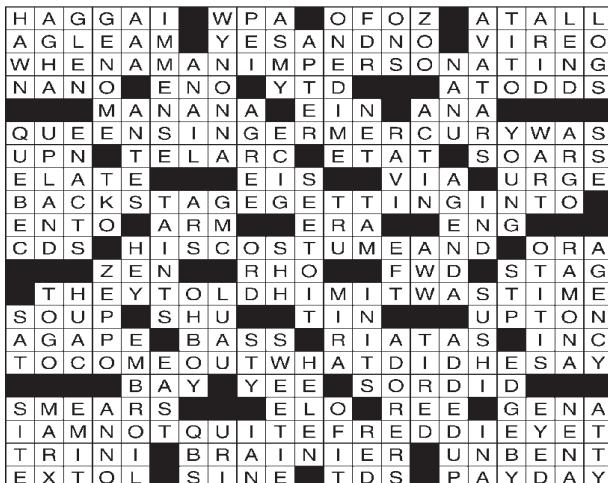
It is said that Irish chef, George Crum invented potato chips in Saratoga Springs in 1853. It was day when a very picky customer kept sending his friend potatoes back to the kitchen.

The customer complained that they were too thick and soggy.

Crum solved the problem by slicing the potatoes

## - Super Crossword

## *Answers*



Stone Creek

Patricia Gizzi

so thin that they couldn't be eaten with a fork. The customer was so pleased with the chef's crispy creation that they became a regular item on the restaurant's menu.

By the late 1870s, the term "Saratoga Chips" was being widely used as a standard menu item on train cars, hotel restaurants, and street carts.

The name carried on into grocers when the chips were made in larger batches by bakeries. They shipped them by wagon to the restaurants and grocers by the barrel, and the grocers would then sell to private families by the pound. Folks were instructed to bake the chips in a hot oven for a few minutes, and they would be as crisp as if fried that same day.

"The Dayton, Ohio-based Mike-sell's Potato Chip

## Go Figure!

## answers

2	+	3	$\times$	5	25
$\times$		+		$\times$	
9	-	6	$\times$	8	24
+		$\times$		$\div$	
7	-	3	$\times$	4	16
25		27		10	

Company, founded in 1910, calls itself the “oldest potato chip company in the United States.”

New England-based Tri-Sum Potato Chips, originally established in 1908 as the Leominster Potato Chip Company, in Leominster, Massachusetts, claims to be America's first potato chip manufacturer.

Flavored chips were introduced in the 1950s. Potato Chip revenues are over \$15 billion a year worldwide!"

Stone Creek residents were asked to come out and not eat just one but as many as they wanted. There were 11 different kinds of potato chips. Some thirty plus residents came out and tried new flavors but had favorites.

I stopped by to see what people's favorites were and met Scot and Karen Snyder.

Karen likes the dill potato chip and Scot's favorite is barbecue. Mike and Terri Simpson had different likes. Terri is a fan of honey barbecue and Mike is a classic guy. I concur with Mike and I like the classic chip.

Enjoy your chips even if not on National Potato Chip Day!

# **Weekly SUDOKU**

## Answer

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



# HAPPENINGS

Continued from Page A11

of Columbus, Council 9649 at Stone Creek Golf Club on Saturday, April 7, (Rain delay date is Saturday, April 14). Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. followed by a shotgun start at 8 a.m. Registration fee is \$65 per person and includes complimentary morning coffee and donuts, golfers buffet lunch, and golf with cart. Par 3 Hole-in-One prizes include a top prize of \$10,000 or 2 round trip airline tickets to any city in the continental U.S. or an IPad. During the event, there will be a putting contest, a longest drive challenge and a closest to the pin challenge. Proceeds will permit the Knights to continue their support of local Marion County charities. For tournament details and registration form, contact Fred Roberts on or before March 30, by email at froberts7@cfl.rr.com.

## **Yoga at Freedom Library**

Saturday, April 7, Yoga at the Freedom Public Library at 10:30 a.m. This is the final session for the year.

For more information, call Ingrid at 854-7950.

## **Sunday, April 8**

### **Masyter Choir spring concert**

The Central Florida Master Choir will present its 2018 spring concert, "Ein deutsches Requiem" by Johannes Brahms, on Sunday, April 8, at 3 p.m. at

the Countryside Presbyterian Church on SR 200. It will be under the direction of Dr. Harold W. McSwain and accompanied by GayLyn Capitano and tympanist Craig Lilly. The second half will include secular music, such as "The Entertainer" and "Mister Sandman".

As so many people do year after year, make this concert a part of your spring tradition. Come, enjoy, and give generously via a "free-will offering" in order to help maintain excellence in the musical arts in Central Florida.

Also on Sunday, April 15, at 3 p.m. at the Dunnellon Presbyterian Church. Friday, April 20, at 7 p.m. at the Reilly Arts Center.

## **Friday, April 13**

### **Sheriff's Foundation spaghetti dinner**

Marion County Sheriff's Office Foundation spaghetti dinner includes salad, spaghetti with meat sauce, bread sticks and dessert and drink.

It will be Friday April 13, from 4-7 p.m. at the Sheriff's Office complex, main entrance, first building on the right after the gate in the multi purpose room, 700 NW 30th Ave., Ocala.

Tickets are available for an \$8 donation. Contact Caitlin Rath at 352-369-6849.

## **Saturday, April 14**

### **Palm Cay yard sale**

On April 14, Palm Cay will hold a community yard sale starting at 8 a.m.

Hot dog and asusage lunch available at 10.

### **100 years of Leonard Bernstein**

The Ocala Symphony Orchestra closes the 2017-2018 season with Subscription Concert 5: 100 Years of Leonard Bernstein on Saturday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 15 at 3 p.m.

Lobby doors and the Reilly's full bar open one hour and a half before each performance, and guests are invited to join us for a Chat with Matt one hour prior to each show. Tickets start at \$15. Student tickets are available for \$10. The Reilly Arts Center is at 500 NE 9th St., Ocala. Tickets can be purchased at www.ReillyArtsCenter.com, or by calling the box office at (352) 351-1606 during box office hours. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the Reilly Arts Center box office. Box office hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Group rates are available for this show.

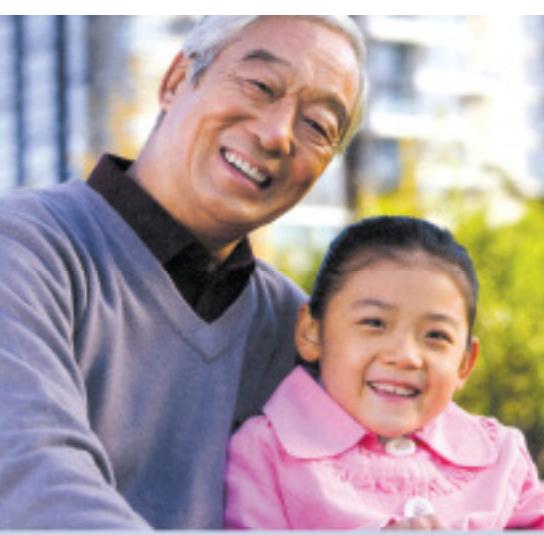
One of the first world-class conductors to have been born and educated in America, Leonard Bernstein left a lasting impact on the world of orchestral music. Join Maestro Wardell, guest soprano Anna Feucht, and the OSO in celebrating his legacy with some of his greatest works: Candide Overture, the powerful Jeremiah Symphony, and his incredible movie score, On the Waterfront. Ryan Kirk (Anthony in Sweeney Todd) returns to the Reilly to join Anna Feucht as they perform your favorite duets from West Side Story!

Sponsored by the Convention & Visitors Bureau of Marion County.

Supported by the Ocala Municipal Arts Commission.

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