

# Opinion

## The inglorious end to the steamboat Madison

**154 years ago**  
*September 1863* — Captain James Tucker, owner of the steamboat MADISON, a vessel of 99-ton, 120 feet long, 22 feet wide, and 4 feet deep, which carried mail and passengers on the Suwannee River, headed his boat to Old Troy Springs in Lafayette County to sink her until the war should cease.

During the war her boilers were removed, split lengthwise, carried to the sea coast and used in the manufacture of salt.

Her smokestacks were cut up into convenient lengths and used by neighboring farmers as funnels for their sugar furnaces.

The cabins were torn up and the lumber used by whomsoever wanted it.

When the war ended, all that remained of the MADISON was her hull resting on the rocks of Old Troy Spring.

**124 years ago**  
*24 October 1894* — John E. Markham submitted an application to the U.S. Postal Service to establish a post office at Jerico.

Markham asked that the post office be named Lake Lynn but the postal department asked that he select a short name of one word.

The post office would serve about 50 persons and was located three miles east of the Wekiva Run,

Toni Collins



Yesteryear in Levy County

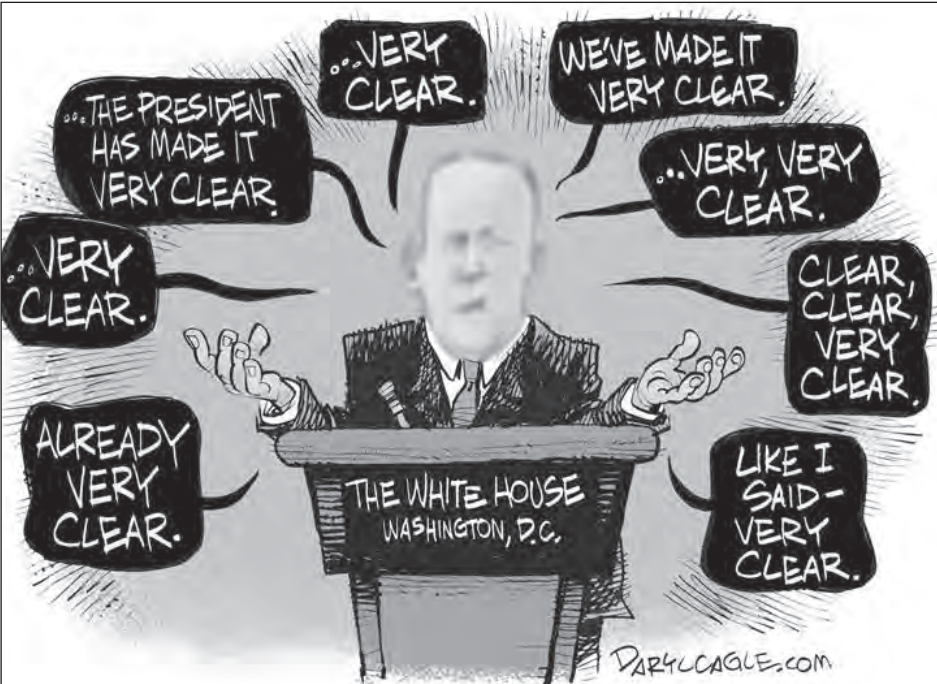
eight miles west of Phoenix (Montbrook) and 11 miles south of Bronson.

The post office served local residents until 03 January 1899 when the post office was discontinued.

**96 years ago**  
*06 October 1922* — The Williston Chamber of Commerce prepared a promotional advertisement for the City. Under the category of schools, the enrollment at that time was 350 students.

There were 12 teachers in the faculty to teach primary to high school senior courses. There were eight classrooms and a large auditorium in the main building with additional classrooms in the old Methodist Church building. A new school building was under construction which will contain four large classrooms. The High School offers three years in mathematics, four years in English, five years in Science, three years in History, and one year in Psychology.

— Submitted by the Levy County Historical Society



Bob Denny



Just Thinking

## Racism: How are we doing?

A week ago at Fenway Park in Boston, a small group of baseball fans threw peanuts at the visiting baseball star Adam Jones of the Baltimore Orioles, calling him names and using racial slurs. But just one day later, Jones received an extended standing ovation by an overwhelming majority of the crowd at that Boston stadium.

The pitcher respectfully stepped off the mound, encouraging a long applause of appreciation and support for Mr. Jones.

Jones addressed the fans with a thoughtful positive statement: "I just want to be treated as 'normal.'"

He showed no animosity or bad feelings, just good sportsmanship, and a tolerance, and a willingness to move on with his life, with his relationship with the baseball fans, and with the good sport of baseball.

I think this says a lot about progress that we Americans are showing in overcoming old residual racial feelings.

Massachusetts statesmen, and Boston officials too, quickly responded with supporting statements for the tolerant and supportive expression from the crowd.

Twenty-five years ago, Rodney King was severely beaten by a small group of hateful Los Angeles police, during the infamous Watts Riots.

After barely surviving, and a lengthy recovery, Rodney King showed an amazing forgiveness and good attitude, asking the question we should always remember: "Why can't we all just get along?"

I've celebrated 74 trips on this rock around the sun. I believe we've come a long way in overcoming prejudice and racism, but I do think we've still got a way to go. Would you please help me work on responding to Rodney King's appeal to all of us? After all, we're one race — the "human race."

Please Email me at [Bob.Denny8@gmail.com](mailto:Bob.Denny8@gmail.com) or phone me at 386-454-4950 with your comments or ideas.

## Letter to the Editor

I keep seeing on the I see in the news where they keep removing Confederate statues or memorability

I think it's a shame we're a country who celebrates everybody's heritage unless you're a southerner whose family was Confederate.

Karen Allen  
Gulf Hammock

## Safety is key to safe grilling

It's springtime. The days are longer and that got me to thinking about outdoor activities, so I decided to do some grilling. I assembled my brand-new grill Sunday, bought some charcoal briquettes, five gallons of unleaded high octane gasoline and chimney matches and had a barbecue. Some of you may have heard about it because emergency responders from three fire departments and county EMS attended.

Safety is paramount when cooking on a grill and since we are under a burn ban, I decided to grill indoors. Again, safety is the key. Always make sure the batteries are fresh and smoke detectors are in perfect working order when grilling indoors. It is also a good idea to keep a fire extinguisher handy just in case some of the smoldering briquettes spill over onto the carpet or flames jump to the nearby curtains.

Carbon monoxide is a by-product of cooking with charcoal. That's why it is a good idea to have someone nearby, someone like a fireman who knows CPR and has access to an oxygen bottle when cooking indoors. I've been told the blue tint in my fingernails and lips will soon disappear. Firemen do more than put out fires, they are also good at waking up people. They are a happy and jolly bunch. Oftentimes, I saw them laughing and rolling on the floor as I drifted in and out of consciousness.

A good lesson is to always remember to grill outdoors. If there is a detention pond nearby, that would be the best location. That way, the firefighters can better control the flames while we're under a burn ban.

It is a good idea to always read the instructions that come with new charcoal grills. Instructions contain safety tips and information to help people enjoy their outdoor cooking experience. It is not necessary to read the instructions in all seven languages. How many ways do manufac-



Mountains from Mole Hills  
Editor David Davis

turers think they need to tell people to be careful when lighting a grill. The best thing to do with the instruction booklet is to use it to light the fire.

Remember to always wet the charcoal briquettes with the high-octane gasoline and wait about 15 seconds to give it time to soak in before lighting a fire because there is no reason to be in a hurry. It is a good idea to have someone knowledgeable in first aid standing by, like an emergency medical technician, before soaking the instruction pamphlet in gasoline and using it to light the charcoal. The EMT who came with the firemen says I should eventually regain full use of my fingers ... and my eyebrows should grow back ... and my hair. On the positive side, I will not have to trim the hair in my nose and ears for a very long time.

Remember when lighting the fire to always use chimney matches to protect your fingers. Gasoline burns easily and it should never be used to start a fire unless there is someone nearby, like a fireman, with a fully-charged fire hose or CO2 bottle. Do you know how high in the air a gasoline fireball can go?

Always make sure the firefighters in your local fire department are in good physical condition. At least one of them should have a background in jumping hurdles and able to jump over fences, monster trucks and outbuildings wearing full bunker gear because I can run fast.

These are only a few tips to help weekend cooking enthusiasts have a safe and healthy spring and summer of outdoor grilling.

## What it takes to succeed in business

"Did you catch the fragrance of those roses in your garden?"

Did the mornin' sunlight warm your soul...and brighten up your day?"

— "Mr. Businessman"

as recorded by Ray Stevens  
Recently I had the honor of addressing a group of Business School graduate students at a prestigious university. My goal was to impart something valuable about what it takes to be successful in business.

How could I possibly communicate the level of resilience it will take in coming years for these young people to succeed, I asked myself? Finally I hit upon a worthy metaphor. I described a plastic, blow up toy that my young nephew plays with in his back yard. It's about his size, shaped like a person in a boxing stance, and when struck, tips over. But because it's weighted at the bottom, it always bounces back upright.

The message to these young scholars? You're going to experience disappointments. And mistakes are inevitable. But if you expect to enjoy success,

Margaret McDowell



Arbor Outlook

you've got to be as resilient as my nephew's toy. You've got to right yourself after every setback. Goodness knows there'll be plenty of them, in this business and in every commercial endeavor.

Every business owner needs a personal mantra, an inner philosophy that he can repeat to himself as he traverses choppy water. Mine? It's five words: I will not be defeated. When times get tough, when I feel overwhelmed, when there's more work than I have time and hands to accomplish, I repeat this simple slogan and return to the fray, more committed.

Ask business owners what qualities they rely upon to become successful, and most will tell you that resilience, determination and perseverance are at the top. These three far

outweigh intelligence and a degree from a well-known college. Street smarts and life experience play a big role, too.

My Dad used to say that the world is full of desk clerks who have read the classics. Nothing against being a desk clerk, as all of us work a desk at some time or another. But his point, when I was old enough to grasp it, was that intelligence and education will only take you so far. You've got to have something inside that hungers for achievement.

The successful business owner usually rises each morning with a sense of desperation. By this I mean he is feverish to accomplish something significant today. I'm not sure they teach this hunger in grad school. You've got to have it within you. The ability to overcome hurdles and challenges and continue to keep your eyes on the prize without becoming discouraged is more about character than I.Q.

Business mistakes and setbacks are inevitable. It's how we react to them that defines us.

## Climate change alters clock of birds

By NATALIE VAN HOOSE

Science Writer  
Florida Natural History Museum

New research shows climate change is altering the delicate seasonal clock that North American migratory songbirds rely on to successfully mate and raise healthy offspring, setting in motion a domino effect that could threaten the survival of many familiar backyard bird species.

A growing shift in the onset of spring has left nine of 48 species of songbirds studied unable to reach their northern breeding grounds at the calendar marks critical for producing the next generation of fledglings, according to a paper published today in Scientific Reports.

That's because in many regions, warming temperatures are triggering plants to begin their growth earlier or later than normal, skewing biological cycles that have long been in sync.

The result, researchers say, could be a future much like the one Rachel Carson hinted at more than 50 years ago.

"It's like 'Silent Spring,' but with a more elusive culprit," said Stephen Mayor, a postdoctoral researcher with the Florida Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida and first author of the study. "We're seeing

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### Thought of the week

"I always knew looking back on my tears would bring me laughter, but I never knew looking back on my laughter would make me cry."

— Cat Stevens

## The Citizen Letters Policy

The Chiefland Citizen welcomes reader input on topics of local interest. To be considered for publication, submissions must adhere to the following guidelines:

The writer's first and last name, mailing address and phone number must be included.

Addresses and phone numbers are only used for verification purposes.

Letters from the

same writer will be considered once every 30 days.

Submissions should be limited to 500 words.

The Citizen reserves the right to edit or refuse any submission.

To submit e-mail send to [editor@chieflandcitizen.com](mailto:editor@chieflandcitizen.com), or via regular mail to Editor, P.O. Drawer 980, Chiefland, FL 32644.