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“Hurricane Fay”
by
Tom Holbrook

It's hard to believe the rain that has fallen throughout our area and especially Florida's eastern seaboard over the last few days... unbelievable. Fay was such a naughty lady bringing all that water and some vicious winds into our state, leaving many people wetter than they've been for a long, long time. “Historic Rainfall,” I think was what the weathermen called the 10 to 30 inches of rain that fell, flooding many homes and businesses.

The wind was fairly brisk here in The Villages as well and some say we got well over 6 inches of rain ourselves. It seemed like a lot more than that to me, however. It was coming in horizontally attacking our house sounding like machine gun bullets against the siding. Compared to those on the east coast we obviously got off better. I'm sure the aquifer is full to the brim and will be spitting up water for months.

Hopefully, Fay will diminish in size and volatility as she meanders westward toward the panhandle. We have been hoping she might head more northwest and give those good people in Georgia some relief from all the drought conditions they've been having. I'm sure they wouldn't mind her coming for an extended visit to put their lakes and streams back in proper shape.

I heard some ladies talking at the pool recently, apparently they were visiting and looking us over as a place to call home. A couple of them seemed to think rain coming down 4 or 5 days a week, even if it is for short periods of time, is not a good thing and were wondering how anyone can get anything done with “all that rain” coming down “all the time.” I would have butted in and told her it really wasn't all that bad but then I would have to tell her I was eavesdropping on her conversation. Judy and I love the rain for what it does to keep our lawns, the beautiful golf courses, and all the colorful flowers looking good. We did, however, look up to the sky this past week and say, “Okay, you can take a break for awhile.”

Our Winifred group had a great dinner the other evening at Outback Steakhouse. Twenty of us showed up around 5:15 and were ushered to our table back in the corner and over the next 2 hours had ourselves a really good time with the appetizers, entrees and one piece of a birthday cake that was served for Dave, the birthday boy. He didn't want anyone to know it was his birthday but somehow the word got to the waitress and the whole table vociferously gave our rendition of “Happy Birthday” much to Dave's chagrin.

Joining in the singing were, Ray and Gerry, Manny and Elena, John and Sally, Sheila and Charlie, Frank and Jean, Linda (Dave's bride,) Sarah and Kent, Tom and Mo, Judy and I, Pam (sans Rich), and finally, Ed and Ginny plus their 15 year old grandson Michael who, by the way, had just beat

his grandfather badly on the golf course with a 78 from the black tees. Michael plays on his high school golf team in Orlando and isn't even the "A" player... they must have a powerhouse of a team if there are players more proficient than he. He's a good looking kid and Ed's hoping he'll apply himself and turn pro one day. I think Ed is just looking for free tickets to the tournaments. Just kidding Ed.

I don't know how many of you folks have been to the Villages Library on Parr Drive but I went in the other day and asked the lady at the counter to tell me where I could find the section for "Self Help" literature. She looked at me kind of strange and quietly said... "If I told you, wouldn't that kind defeat the whole purpose of the books?"

I turned the tables on her and asked her a few of my non-answerable questions. You know... like, "What if there were no hypothetical questions?" Or, "Where do forest rangers go to get a way from it all?" She was looking at me like I had a terrible disease but I kept going. I said, "I've been told that we who live in Florida should do everything we can to protect our environment and those animals who are slowly dying off. I want to be a good steward so could you tell me... what action should I take if I see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?"

You guys have a great week.

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