

Riverland News

Thursday, July 21, 2011

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75 cents

Police: Man ingests crack



Thomas C. Seifert

Man charged with DUI, possession of cocaine

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

A 48-year-old Dunnellon man faces a litany of charges, including driving under the influence and possession of cocaine,

less than 28 grams, after a traffic stop Thursday, July 14, in the 8000 block of U.S. 41, just outside of the city limits, an arrest report stated.

Thomas C. Seifert was also charged with driving with no

valid license, tampering with evidence and violation of parole. According to the Marion County Sheriff's Office website, Seifert's remained in jail at press time Tuesday in lieu of a \$10,650 bond. His next court

date is scheduled for Aug. 16, the website stated.

According to the report, authorities were patrolling the area near the city limits when Seifert pulled onto U.S. 41 driving northbound. Once he drove past the city limit, Sgt. Jacob Gonzalez began to turn around when he witnessed Seifert cross

the double line and enter the southbound lane. Gonzalez turned around to conduct a traffic stop when Seifert crossed the double line again. Upon making the stop, Sgt. Gonzalez detected a strong odor of alcohol coming from Seifert, the report stated.

See CRACK page 3

Judge denies Tarmac motion

Next hearing slated Aug. 8

LOU ELLIOTT JONES
For the Riverland News

BRONSON — The town of Yankeetown's petition to overturn a conditional permit for a 2,757 acre limerock mine on 4,750 acres near Inglis is alive after Tarmac's motion to dismiss was denied by Circuit Judge Robert E. Rountree Jr.

In a short morning hearing, the judge also granted a request to move a hearing about whether Yankeetown has standing to file the petition for certiorari from Wednesday to Aug. 8.

While only an hour was requested for the second hearing, Rountree said, "Knowing how many lawyers we have here, I'll set aside two hours."

Brian A. Bolves, the attorney representing the Levy County Commission, said in a motion Yankeetown did not have standing because it is only slightly impacted by the county's decision to grant a special exception permit conditioned on Tarmac winning approval of a Clean Water Act permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"On pages 2, 3 and 4 of their motion, they admit the mine will cause an impact," Yankeetown City Attorney Rolf Brooks said.

"It's a half-inch ... quarter-inch that water level will drop ... or six inches during the rainy season,"

See TARMAC page 10



ABOVE: Mayor Fred Ward braces himself as he's dunked at the Annie W. Johnson "Dunk for Hope" fundraiser Saturday at Dunnellon Plaza. BOTTOM RIGHT: Lt. Troy Slattery of Dunnellon Fire Rescue smiles as he watches Mayor Ward emerge from the tank. For more photos, see page 14.

Splash of success

'Dunk for Hope' fundraiser makes waves in community

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

Dozens of would-be flamethrowers gave it their best shot Saturday at Dunnellon Plaza.

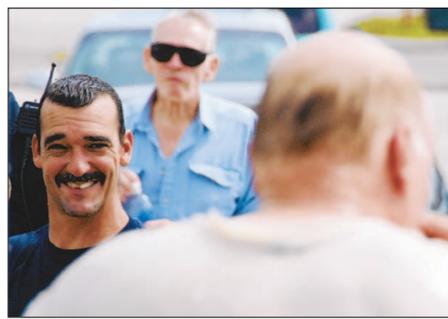
Even if their aim was a bit off, it was certain someone was getting wet.

And sure enough, the inaugural Annie W. Johnson "Dunk for Hope" created a splash of success

as community and civic leaders found themselves waterlogged by the end of the event.

"It was a very successful event," Christine Avina, client services coordinator, said. "Let's just say, people loved getting dunked. The people who participated knew it was a way to raise money

See SPLASH page 10



Council OKs rate increase

Plan calls for hike for 5 years

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

Despite pleas from residents in Dunnellon, the City Council approved a course of action to implement a five-year rate hike for water and sewer rates for utility customers.

The increases, set at 6.75 percent per year for the next five years, will go into effect Oct. 1, meaning customers will notice the additional prices in November. According to the report, those who use 4,000 gallons or less will see a drop in price, but it will be those who consume more than that total that will see their monthly bill increase.

The rate increases are contingent on the city's acquisition of the Rio Vista system, which the city began the process of in June when the council gave the go ahead. Officials said then that the process would likely take time; however, a representative with Burton & Associates indicated that city officials will likely have purchased the system soon and it will be online in the 2012 Fiscal Year. Otherwise, the rate increases without the Rio Vista system would have been 11 percent a year for the length of the study.

"If you do this, you will devastate the city," resident Debbie Bismark said. "The choice is up to you ... look in your souls deeply. You need to find ways to attract businesses. Look at the situation with Lowe's years ago when they wanted to come here. It would have created a base of at least 125 jobs, but the council then wanted them to do so much that they chose to go elsewhere."

"Now you have 125 people going elsewhere for work; some of them driving 40 minutes everyday for an \$8 an hour job. With the cost of gas, that really cuts into their budgets. Is this really fair? You need to ask yourself, 'Am I a big enough villain to sleep at night?'"

Resident Louise Kenney urged the council to review the plan each year, not to simply adopt

See INCREASE page 3

Carolyn Chinnners loads up a meatball sub with fresh mozzarella cheese at Gaetano's Sub Shop at 11943 Williams St.

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News



Gaetano's bring N.Y. flair to shop

New restaurant opens doors in old McKinney's locale

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

For Tony Aveni and Carolyn Chinnners, it had always been a family dream of opening a restaurant.

Finally, the dream of their grandfather and father has become a reality as the siblings foray into business begins with the

opening of Gaetano's Subs at 11943 Williams St., which formerly housed McKinney's Restaurant.

"We've finally done it," said Chinnners, who previously worked for the U.S. Post Office at the Ocala branch. "It's definitely different than delivering mail."

Chinnners' has lived in

Dunnellon for the past six and half years; her brother moved here three months ago after having worked in what she called "a million-dollar deli." The brother and sister specialize in Italian subs, whether it's cold or hot, it's fresh made.

See GAETANOS page 10

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Annie W. Johnson Center to host Christmas in July

Annie Johnson Senior & Family Service Center Inc. will host Christmas from July 5 to 30.

The event, which benefits the Migrant Children's Camp, is in need of donations of toys.

Items will be accepted at the Annie Johnson Thrift Store, Senior Center, Dunnellon Chamber of Commerce and Vernon Martin Salon.

For more information, call 489-8021.

Altar & Rosary Society collecting children's clothing

The Altar & Rosary Society of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church is now collecting gently used and new clothing, for children ages 1 to 12. Donations can be dropped off from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at 7525 U.S. 41. Clothing will be distributed from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 25, to families in need. Gift cards are also accepted. For more information, call Judie Heesch at 489-5954.

Historical Society History schedules Mystery Day

The Greater Dunnellon Historical Society invites community members to dig into the past at a History Mystery Day from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday, July 26, at the Historic Depot at 12061 S. Williams St. Visitors will enjoy a slide show with photographs from Dunnellon's past. To learn more about the Depot and the Greater Dunnellon Historical Society, visit www.dunnellondepot.com.

Annual "Hot Summer Night" scheduled Saturday, Aug. 13

The Historic Village Shops of Dunnellon's eighth annual "Hot Summer Night" Block Party, a street party/car cruise-in/end of summer celebration, will be from 5 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 13, along West Pennsylvania Avenue and Cedar Street, which will be closed to traffic. Proceeds event will benefit Special Olympics. For a more information, call 489-1818. For cruise-in information, call 352-229-1030.

Riverland News

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Dunnellon youth serve at Boys State

Sanchez, Furr represent DHS

Riverland News

It's difficult to imagine a week that could impact lives and allow for the discovering of what a young generation can accomplish, what we will soon be capable of, and what we're already responsible for.

This is exactly what was learned by more than 500 boys who attended the 68th session of Florida American Legion's Boys State at Florida State University in Tallahassee from July 3 to 9. The Wall-Rives American Legion Post 58 in Dunnellon sent two delegates to Boys State, Brandon Sanchez and Jacob Furr.

The soon-to-be seniors, who have to have good grade point averages, were chosen after completing an application and interview process.

This leadership program was first established in 1935. Every state but Hawaii offers a Boys State experience. Here in Florida, the annual program teaches more than 500 upcoming high school seniors how local and state government works, how it is structured, and how Florida came to be.

The unique aspect of this program is that the educating is done through "learning by doing." This phrase couldn't be any truer, as the delegates of the program run for as well as elect others into office. They give speeches, hold debates, organize committees, write their own bills, campaign and even hold party rallies. Seeing all of these processes first-hand was truly eye-

opening, and visiting the state capital to recreate the branches of government while utilizing the actual rooms and equipment used by the real government officials was exciting and gave further authenticity towards the experience and intentions of the prestigious program.

Residing in the Smith Hall dormitory on the Florida State campus was an eye-opening experience. The boys were spread out over five floors with one set of facilities per floor.

"The most interesting part was living such a different life with different people for a whole week," Sanchez said. "I got used to the daily process."

Added Furr: "(The dorms) were not as hospitable as I expected, but at least I got to see how college life will be."

Another opportunity began on the first day in Tallahassee. Once admitted into Boys State, all delegates were pre-enrolled into Tallahassee Community College for a chance to earn free college-credit by dual-enrolling online, which would also earn a student a social science credit at their high school.

"I opted to do the course and will be completing assignments over the political, social and economic aspects of Florida throughout the next few weeks," Sanchez said.

The boys have already taken three tests on government and history and have four other projects to complete in the next three weeks.

"I learned things about Florida that most Floridians don't even know," Furr said. "We have the first permanent Euro-



Those participating in Boys State take a "recess" to watch the space shuttle launch in the House of Representatives chambers.

pean settlement in the U.S. - Pensacola; Florida was divided east and west and was the 14th and 15th colonies; and Tallahassee has the tallest capital building in the U.S."

The opportunities and benefits of Boys State really begin to seem limitless.

"My favorite parts were visiting the state capital building, and making friends with some of the brightest kids in Florida," Sanchez said.

Although the boys made a lot of friends from all over, it was an Ocala teen that impressed the entire group enough to be elected governor of Boys State.

Brendien "B.J." Mitchell, a West Port High School student, was chosen. "(Mitchell) was an amazing speaker," said Furr. "When I first heard him competing against a kid from my



The 10 boys from Marion County who participated in Boys State load into the van Sunday, July 3, in Ocala for the trip to Tallahassee. Deputy Wiles from the Marion County Sheriff's Office drove them there.

group for the nationalism speech, I knew instantly that he had awesome oratorical abilities. He used these powers to help him win governor."

For such an incredible week, the boys wish to thank American Legion Post 58 of Dunnellon, which funded the jour-

ney. They feel it has been an immense honor to have the opportunity to be a part of something that only about 500 other Florida boys from the entire graduating class of 2012 have a chance to experience.

Brandon Sanchez contributed to this report.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Chamber to host Kids Day Out, Aug. 20

The Dunnellon Chamber of Commerce, along with several businesses and government agencies, will host the Kids Day Out/Back to School Festival from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20, at Ernie Mills Park at 11908 Bostick St.

There will be pony rides, a petting Zoo, games, face painting and entertainment with music performers, Victoria's School of Dance and martial arts demonstrations. The Dunnellon Police Department will offer Child ID cards.

For more information, call Viola Soffe, event chairwoman, at 352-445-0728 or the Chamber of Commerce at 489-2320.

DMS report cards, FCAT scores available

Student report cards and FCAT scores are ready to be picked up. Summer hours are from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The school will be closed today through July 8 and will reopen July 11. Report Cards that have not been picked up at this time will be available from 5 to 7 p.m. Aug. 18, the beginning of the year orientation.

Student registration open through summer

Dunnellon Elementary School will continue to register new students for the 2011-12 School Year throughout the summer. Parents may stop by the school and pick up a registration application with list of requirements, or you may go online to www.marion.k12-fl.us, click on Parents and go to the Parent Information column and click on Student Enrollment/Withdrawal. A Spanish version is also available. Be sure to click on the View School Enrollment/Registration Checklist and bring all documents with you to the school. The school will be from Mondays through Thursdays through Aug. 11 and closed Fridays through Aug. 12.

Cub Scouts meet at Episcopal church

Cub Scout Pack 508 meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Episcopal Church of the Advent, 11251 S.W. Highway 484, Ocala. For more information, call 465-7272.

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Residents injured in single-car wreck; one critically

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

Two Dunnellon residents were injured, one critically, in a single-vehicle wreck Thursday night on Southwest 210th Avenue in Dunnellon, a Florida Highway Patrol report stated.

The driver of the vehicle, Thomas Piller, 33, sustained serious injuries, while his passenger, Jessica F. Klemm, 27, was critically injured, the report stated.

According to the report, Thomas Piller, 33, was driving a 2006 Buick Lacrosse north on Southwest 210th Avenue when the vehicle traveled across the southbound traffic lane onto the sloped west shoulder out of control for approximately 284 feet. The vehicle then rotated slightly in a clockwise direction and crossed both traffic lanes of Southwest 210th Avenue for approximately

78 feet, the report stated.

Piller's vehicle then continued out of control onto the east shoulder of the road and struck a tree with its left front corner, the report stated, then redirected off the tree where it came to final rest. According to the report, the vehicle caught fire. The fire was extinguished, when FHP officials arrived at the scene, the report stated.

Both Piller and Klemm had been extricated from the vehicle by witnesses who had arrived on scene just after the crash, the report stated.

According to the report, physical evidence of tire marks in the grass and yaw marks across the roadway were consistent with Piller's failure to drive in a single lane.

The report did not indicate what hospital Piller or Klemm were transported to.

Charges are pending, the report stated.

Thrift Shop donates to Chamber



VIOLA SOFFE/Special to the Riverland News
Sandy Gerhard, owner of the Volunteer Thrift Shop, presents Bev Lesiore, executive director of the Dunnellon Area Chamber of Commerce, a donation to the Chamber of Commerce.

CRACK

continued from page 1

According to the report, Sgt. Gonzalez contacted the Marion County Sheriff's Office, which advised it did not have a unit available to respond to the scene in which Capt. Butch Gallion requested Sgt. Gonzalez and Officer Mike Miley to arrest the defendant, which is allowed by the mutual aid agreement with the Dunnellon Police Department and the Marion County Sheriff's Office.

At that time, Officer Miley requested Siefert exit his vehicle at which time he placed him in handcuffs, the report stated. During a search of Siefert for weapons and contraband, Sgt. Gonzalez asked him to open his mouth at which time Sgt. Gonzalez observed several smile white rock substances in the corner of Siefert's mouth, the report stated.

According to the report, Sgt. Gonzalez, through training and experience, knew the substance to be crack cocaine and requested Siefert to allow him to swab his mouth for his safety and to determine how much crack cocaine he might have ingested.

The report stated Sgt. Gonzalez swabbed Siefert's mouth with a cotton swap in which Officer Miley conducted a presumptive field test, which

yielded a positive result for the presence of cocaine. According to the report, Siefert was read an implied consent and his Miranda warning to which he stated he did not wish to speak with authorities. He was then transported to the Marion County Jail, the report stated.

Upon arrival at the jail, authorities requested Siefert be transported to Munroe Regional Medical Center due to him ingesting an unknown amount of crack cocaine and Siefert now having high blood pressure, the report stated. While at the hospital, Officer Miley requested Siefert submit to a lawful test of his blood to determine if he was under the influence of any controlled substance or chemicals to which he refused, the report stated.

According to the report, Siefert was kept by the hospital for further evaluation before being transferred to the jail.

INCREASE

continued from page 1

the plan for the duration of what the study suggests.

"It's very difficult to read that resolution as it is," she explained. "I'm sympathetic with the needs and challenges we have here in Dunnellon, but I think this is a tremendous injustice. I would like to see this looked at one year at a time."

Vice Mayor F.C. Stark asked for wording to be included in the ordinance that the study would be reviewed on an as needed basis. His request set off a lengthy discussion among council members.

Councilman Dennis Evans, who made the motion to approve the study, questioned the need for such language.

"I'm reluctant to put wording in it," he said. "I feel personally, it's OK the way it is."

Councilwoman Penny Fleeger agreed.

"The financial situation around the globe is tenacious at best," she explained. "Who knows what's going to happen financially with bonds and such. It'll probably happen once a year when we do the budget. We have a lot happening right now."

Councilwoman Lynn McAndrew added: "We take a look at that fund every year we go through the budget. It can be revised at that time."

Mayor Fred Ward concurred with McAndrew.

"We do review it annually, we have to make sure its solvent," Ward said of

the city's water-sewer enterprise fund. "I don't feel strongly about it that way, but I wouldn't want to go to war over it."

Stark urged again for language to be added.

"Unless you put specific language in there, I'm telling you right now, it won't happen," he said of reviewing the plan. "Too many times it doesn't happen. I'm just asking for very plain language, that's all I'm asking."

Evans relented and amended his original motion to include language to review the plan on an as needed basis.

"This seems more political and I'm not into that game," he explained while making the amended motion.

To see the complete study, read this story online at www.riverlandnews.com.

In other news:

- The Council spent 90 minutes revising the river etiquette ordinance. The Council will have another workshop or two on it before it is ready to go for first reading, then public hearing and final reading.

- The City Council will meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday, July 25, at City Hall. Items on the agenda include:

- A public hearing about Utility Delinquent Penalty as well as the second and final reading of the ordinance.

- A public hearing regarding an application to the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and a Fair Housing Workshop.

POLICE REPORTS

Marion County Sheriff's Office Arrests

- **Jessica Lynn Sovrens**, 22, Ocala, on July 17, on a charge of simple domestic battery.

- **Jason Robert Harris**, 32, Ocala, on July 12, on charges of aggravated domestic battery and tampering with a witness.

- **Louis Vito Dambrosio**, 73, on July 3, on a charge of battery on a person over 65.

- **Alejandro Salvador Hernandez**, 43, on July 2, on a charge of driving with no valid driver's license.

- **Ashley Elaine Williams**, 18, Dunnellon, on July 1, on a charge of simple domestic battery.

- **Allison Marie Beasley**, 43, Dunnellon, on June 26, on a charge of simple domestic battery.

- **Albert Leonard Morris**, 49, Dunnellon, on June 23, on charges of possession of crack cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia.

- **Jeremy Michaels Mitch**, 25, Dunnellon, on June 20, on a charge of grand theft.

Burglaries

- An investigation July 12 revealed a burglary occurred between June 5 and July 12 in the 2400 block of Southwest 166th Court Road, Ocala.

- An investigation July 6 revealed a burglary occurred between June 29 and July 5 in the 5000 block of Southwest 194th Avenue, Dunnellon.

- An investigation July 4 revealed a burglary occurred July 4 in the 4800 block of Southwest 178th Terrace, Dunnellon.

- An investigation July 4 revealed a burglary occurred between July 2 and July 4 in the 17500 block of Southwest 27th Avenue, Dunnellon.

- An investigation July 3 revealed a burglary occurred July 3 in the 5700 block of Southwest 178th Terrace, Dunnellon.

- An investigation July 2 revealed a burglary occurred between June 18 and July 2 in the 20300 block of Southwest 93rd Lane Road, Dunnellon.

- An investigation July 2 revealed a burglary occurred between March 17 and July 2 on Lakeside Drive, Ocala.

- An investigation July 2 revealed a burglary occurred July 1 in the 19800 block of Southwest 75th Street, Dunnellon.

- An investigation June 25 revealed a burglary occurred in the 4100 block of Southwest 159th Court, Ocala.

- An investigation June 25 revealed a burglary occurred in the 4100 block of Southwest 159th Court, Ocala.

Answers to puzzle on page 10

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

24 revealed a burglary occurred in the 6100 block of Southwest 169th Court, Ocala.

- An investigation June 24 revealed a burglary occurred between June 20 and June 24 in the 16400 block of Southwest 47th Street, Ocala.

- An investigation June 20 revealed a burglary occurred between June 17 and June 20 in the 1300 block of Northwest 150th Avenue, Ocala.

- An investigation June 20 revealed a burglary occurred between June 6 and June 13 in the 24000 block of Northwest 27th Street, Morriston.

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THE OTHER GUY

Less walk-ons, more openness needed at meetings

Nothing makes me cringe more than a walk-on agenda item, and I'm not referring to college athletes. This is more about last minute walk on items to the Dunnellon city council meetings.

Generally when they pop up it's because money needs to be spent. Those in attendance are left in the dark because copies of the said items and the back-up material are not provided to the taxpayers. It makes government business appear shady. Sure there are certain times when time is of the essence but rash decisions never seem to end well when the public is left in the dark.



Jeff Bryan
Editor

In today's era of shady, under-the-table business dealings in government, in which the public calls for more openness, this is a situation that some would probably cry foul.

Case in point was a recent walk on item for engineering needs necessary to acquire a \$650,000 Community Development Block Grant in which the city is working under a narrow time frame to make the necessary deadline for qualification purposes.

It's rather ironic that the council was so quick to jump into the race for a grant when several months ago a resident approached the

council about taking advantage of the opportunity to turn a portion of Nine Island Cove into a nature trail and council members chided the resident for asking officials to support the project with such a narrow time frame to submit necessary documents.

Now city officials find themselves in a race to beat the clock to qualify for this grant to connect a water line from wells at the airport to the city's water system.

In just a few short weeks, the city has had to put together a citizen advisory task force, complete an interlocal agreement with county officials to purchase water at bulk rates and spend \$121,400 to cover the surveying costs. That's not even

including the surveys of residents and the need to schedule two public hearings within the next three weeks.

It's a lot to accomplish in a short time and full of hypocrisy to boot.

Grant processes always come in annual cycles so why the need to rush through this process and take a chance at missing a vital piece of information that could prove costly in the process?

The proper step would have been to put this on the radar for next year and follow their own advice about entering into such a cumbersome process so late in the game.

Do as I say not as I do is bad policy in government.

LETTERS

Officials dropped the ball in preparing for Greenlight

RE: Greenlight launch date uncertain.

I am not a resident of the city of Dunnellon, but some non-english speaking workers installed underground conduit through my front yard during the past month, so I do have some interest in the project.

As a retired professional engineer for over 30 years, I am appalled at the lack of competent management and planning that is portrayed in your article, which describes excuses by the city manager for delays in completing this project.

It is apparent the city failed to prepare an adequate Feasible Study for this project prior to committing to proceed with it. In my experience, which includes numerous commercial and governmental projects, and teaching "Capital Financial Management" courses at a major university's, business school, the following items clearly should have been established, and fixed-cost proposals acquired for this project during the Feasibility Study phase:

— Whether the existing utility poles can support the additional load of the fiber? Should these poles be replaced, and at what cost? Or should the fiber be run underground in an existing utility right-of-way, or must a right-of-way be obtained, and at what cost?

— The "Rate Study" should have been completed, because this information is critical for determining if the project is financially feasible.

— Delivery dates and lead times for obtaining available materials from vendors should have been obtained, and a critical path schedule for construction activities should have been prepared.

— The loan officers and directors of the Orlando Bank that is issuing the bonds have clearly failed to demonstrate prudent financial analysis of the relevant economic facts, since these obviously were not available to be considered when the decision to issue these "Junk Bonds" was made. (I don't know which rating agency agreed to rate these bonds without adequate financial information, but hope your retirement fund doesn't buy any of them.)

It's no wonder that the American Economy is in recession if the Greenlight project is a typical example of the current, competence of managers and bankers in this country. In my opinion, the residents of Dunnellon should vote the members of their Council out of office as soon as possible, and fire the current city manager, who is responsible for administrating their affairs.

Daibhe Baker
Dunnellon

Were costs factored into bond issue?

The Riverland News articles of the last few weeks concerning the Greenlight Communications system have been useful in providing readers with schedule updates. Some of the content

See LETTERS page 5

OPINIONS INVITED

- The opinions expressed in Riverland News 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 a letter to the editor.
- All letters must be signed and include a phone number and hometown, including letters sent via e-mail. Phone numbers will not be printed or given out. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, libel, fairness and good taste.
- Letters to the editor must be no longer than 550 words, and writers will be limited to two letters per month.



GUEST COLUMN

The Death of Caylee Anthony

As horrible as the death of Caylee Anthony is and regardless of whether you believe her mother guilty or not-guilty the abuse and ill treatment of children in our state is a fact. When sensational cases such as this hit the media the cry for justice is loud and recriminations even louder. How could this happen? What kind of person would do this to a child? What can we do to prevent this type of thing from happening in the future? This must be an isolated case, right? Wrong!

Abused and neglected children are all around us. In Florida alone there are currently more than 22,000 children that have been abused or neglected in some manner or other and now they and their parents are involved in lengthy dependency court proceedings. Here in the 5th Judicial Circuit, which includes Marion, Lake, Sumter, Citrus and Hernando counties, nearly 1,500 children find themselves involved with the Judicial and Child Welfare systems. What can I do? Is there any way I can help?

Yes. Become a Volunteer Guardian ad Litem. A Guardian ad Litem is a volunteer appointed by the court to advocate for a child. The volunteer works as part of a team with a volun-

teer supervisor and program attorney. He or she becomes familiar with the child and his/her case and makes recommendations to the court to help insure a safe, caring, stable and permanent environment is secured for the child.

Today in Florida more than 7,500 citizens are volunteering with the Guardian ad Litem Program. However, here in the 5th Circuit, fewer than 500 volunteers are actively looking out for the health, welfare and care of our dependent children. We need more help.

To qualify as a Guardian ad Litem volunteer, you must be 21 years of age or older, successfully complete 30 hours of pre-service training, have a clean criminal background check and possess the ability to be objective. On average, volunteers spend 6-10 hours a month on a case that may last about 10 months.

If you're interested in volunteering or learning more about how you can help abused and neglected children, contact Lynn Sennett at (352) 369-2525 or e-mail her at Lynn.Sennett@GAL.FL.GOV or visit our web site at www.guardianadlitem.org.

Marcia Hilty, circuit director of Guardian Ad Litem, can be reached at Marcia.Hilty@gal.fl.gov.



Marcia Hilty
Guardian Ad-Litem

TIME TO SMILE

The pick-up line

Have you seen the TV show "American Pickers"? It is like watching "Hoarder's" on crack. You can find the show on the History Channel.

These two guys — Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz — drive across the Untied States looking to buy old junk. They are the Laurel and Hardy of antiques. They own a shop in Iowa called Antique Anthropologist.



Kathleen Wallace

One year, when I was visiting my favorite sister in Ohio, I saw their van drive by us on Route 80. Jokingly, I said to my sister: "Follow that van ... they probably know where all the good antique shops are."

This was before they had their own TV show. Can you imagine the treasure we would have found if we had followed them?

That is what Mike and Frank consider themselves to be, treasure hunters.

I think junk picker is a more appropriate name. They go down the back roads of America where the land is plenty and the junk is sky high. The places they visit are the real stars of the show. A lot of old timers have barns and sheds full of J-U-N-K.

When I say shed I am talking sheds the size of an airplane hangar. The barns were at one time working farms. Now they house old signs, World War II bullets, broken toys and old photos.

Mike and Frank go through each barn with work boots on and a flashlight in hand. I don't know how they find anything in the decades of dust. People collect the oddest things.

One guy had old wires, broken door knobs and shoes. Why? What is the point of buying all this stuff and keeping it locked away on valuable real estate?

It is one thing if you have a collection of knickknacks that you display in moderation. It is a whole other ball of wax when you store things like ...well, a ball of wax in your three-acre barn. Hey, if people can afford to pay real estate taxes on a three-acre closet let them.

The show really is a lesson on the American industrial revolution.

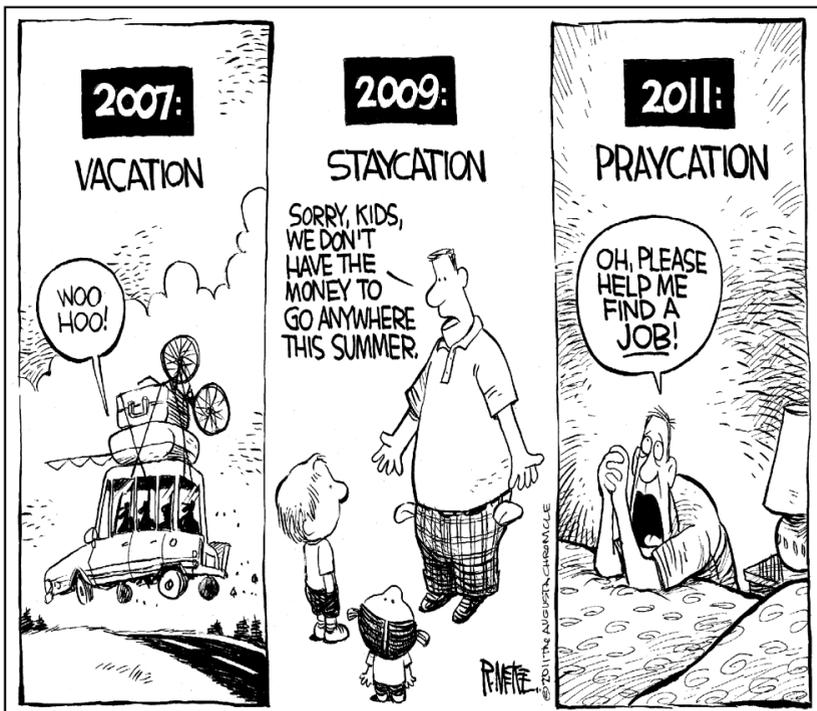
The guys find old washing machines, bicycles (Mike's favorite), radios, TVs, cars and Airstream trailers. It saddens me that all the things Americans took pride in manufacturing are sitting in large dust bins scattered across the country. The manufacturing jobs may have disappeared, but the proof that it once existed in America is sitting in some guy's barn.

One guy they visited lived off the grid, as they say. His house was 13 rooms underground in the woods. I'm not talking about an architecturally designed green home. This was dirt walls that the guy shoveled by hand with skinny passage ways held up by old plywood. The deeper under ground they went, the more claustrophobic I got. I felt dirty watching the guys squeeze through the tight spaces. It wasn't an easy feat for Frank. He would be the Oliver Hardy of the two.

When I finished watching that episode, I went on a cleaning spree. I vacuumed the floor boards, the furniture and anything that wasn't attached to the floor. I dusted and I washed windows. Gosh, it was scary. I don't know what came over me.

There is no need to panic. By the time you read this, I am sure my home will be back to its natural state, messy! I draw the line when it comes to picking up after myself more than once a year. Hey, you never know.

Mike and Frank could knock on my door any day now. I wouldn't want to be easy pickings!



LETTERS

continued from page 4

of the articles has been confusing though, particularly in the identification of certain costs.

It would appear that some of the costs of installation were not in the original plan. Specifically, the cost to study the feasibility of adding the cables to Progress Energy poles, the cost for hardware and labor to execute the installation, or the alternative of underground cabling, and the cost of the consumer pricing study all would appear to be unplanned expenses. The reader is at least given this impression.

More difficult to understand is whether the \$1.3 million for hardware, initially to be provided by Motorola, is simply going to another vendor or whether the cost was never budgeted in the planning phase.

If all these items are additional, that is, unbudgeted, it greatly compounds the problem with the delay in deployment and revenue generation. The ability to make bond payments appears to be a major issue.

This ambitious Dunnellon initiative seems very risky right now.

**Ted Apple
Dunnellon**

Masonic Lodge presents certificate of thanks

The Dunnellon Masonic Lodge No. 136 awarded Ms. Avonelle Mackerell a certificate of thanks for her assistance in helping our lodge have a successful turnout at Boomtown days supporting our free child ID program.

The lodge also presented her with a thank you card signed by the members of the lodge.

Without her letting us set the computers and cameras at her office, we wouldn't have had the successful turnout of kids that we had.

**Dallas Helms
Morrison**

What are the Democrats planning?

The Democrats are locked in debate over raising the debt ceiling.

They are saying that if it is not raised we seniors may not get our Social Security checks.

Aren't these the same guys who tried to convince seniors that they were our friends?

It is just like them to put their hands in our pockets again. Social Security money is not the governments. Those funds came directly from our pay checks and our employers' profits for more than 30 years to be used only for our retirement.

These are the same people who stole from the Trust Fund throughout the years for other programs and left it insolvent. They are putting their hands in our bank account.

Remember, Social Security is only money you are getting back that you and your employer paid in.

Now they are at it again. It shows their mind set.

President Obama, then a senator, a few short years ago, stated that raising the debt ceiling was irresponsible and voted against it. What changed?

Well, since then the Democrats have had absolute control of government for the past four years and spent like a drunken Democrat.

Democrats say we need to tax "The Rich." My question for you, Liberal seniors, is "To whom do you owe your

retirement pension? A person on welfare, the government or a guy who had a few bucks and gave you a job and a pension?"

Recently, the Obama administration sold guns, lots of them, to criminals. At the same time, they are pushing for gun control to keep guns out of the hands of private law-abiding American citizens. How does this make us safer?

Have you seen the TV ad the Democrats are running showing a man pushing an elderly woman in a wheelchair over a cliff? The next time it airs take a good look at the man pushing the wheelchair. You will see that he is a Democrat.

**Richard P. Mack
Dunnellon**

As present condition, where is town headed?

What will Dunnellon's legacy be?

Right now, many of Dunnellon's smaller businesses are shutting down, due to the economy, ill health or death, and there seems to be no replacements in the near future.

Family entertainment in Dunnellon is nil, the city makes no effort to keep families in town.

The only place that attracts people is that poor ol' watering hole now named Blue Run Park of Dunnellon, a title longer than its parking lot.

The potential for Dunnellon making some money from this park is lost. Permits and licenses could've been sold for push cart vendors and entertainers, but no folks that go there are clumped together in the parking area with no picnic tables, poor access to the river and one porta-potty, some family fun, eh?

Sometimes, I think that those that run Dunnellon run it as if it were their own exclusive club or act as if it were some of planned retirement village, but it's not, it's a living, breathing entity that's needs to change to survive. A city can limit the types of businesses that can come into its area, but it shouldn't choke off progress. A city can limit its size, but it shouldn't keep its people from finding employment within its boundaries and a city shouldn't deny its businesses some hometown customers.

The only time you see a rush of shoppers in Dunnellon is during "check day" - those days when many of the folks get their government benefits. The other time you see a rush of cars is during the high traffic hours when cars rush through Dunnellon going to someplace else, otherwise you can fire a cannon down the street and not hit anything.

Right now, Dunnellon is beginning to look derelict; there are too many empty buildings on Williams Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, not to mention the empty places at the local shopping plazas. Many residential lots are empty or with dilapidated buildings. There are more second-hand shops in the historic district than there are retail shops. Instead of a town Dunnellon has become a kind of kwik mart, a close place to pick up a few things until the family can go to Ocala and spend some real money.

There are 365 days in a year and the only events that Dunnellon scrapes together are Boomtown, Jazz Up and sometimes fireworks on the Fourth of July if it's not too dry and, of course, the rag tag First Saturday flea

markets, many other events aren't even in town, costing the local businesses revenue.

I once read somewhere that some city official complained that the people of Dunnellon weren't interested in doing anything for the city, but the last time the city made an attempt to attract the people's attention, after all the hoopla, the people were eventually ignored.

I remember a long while ago Dunnellon passed around a survey asking folks what would they like to see in the city and the people responded with the desire for more family entertainment such as a video arcade, a bowling alley, a skate park or movie theater. The public asked for the old school gym on Williams Street to be repaired and used for in-town basketball games and they asked that the old school property be turned into a large centrally located public park, but that never happened.

The people's requests fell on deaf ears so many times that they no longer believe Dunnellon was interested in them and finally when their kids grew up and moved away, the adults lost interest in Dunnellon, but now a new batch of kids are here and still nothing. What was funny was that the modern families of Dunnellon asked for stuff that the harkened back to the small town days of the 1950s.

In many small towns right now crime is becoming the biggest generator of income through the issuing of tickets or fines and what this money doesn't cover comes in the form of higher taxes to fewer residents. In many small

towns in the Midwest only those folks that have no kin and nowhere to go remain.

Towns that once had populations of 3,000 dwindle down to less than 100 and some are completely abandoned.

Is this, the direction Dunnellon's headed?

Sincerely,
**A.C. Rosier
Dunnellon**

First United Methodist VBS a great success

The First United Methodist Church of Dunnellon held Vacation Bible School this past week with nearly 150 children and over 50 adults/youth leaders in attendance. The theme "Shake it Up Cafe" was for kids to carry out God's recipe and convey the message to believe fully in Jesus, and celebrate God forever.

The children learned songs, were exposed to Biblical drama presentations, involving Communion, experimented in the food lab and learned to make butter. The children also made picture frames and cookbooks in the crafts area.

Food donations were collected for a local agency, FIN (Families in Need) that helps feed families in the community on a weekly basis.

Linda Jones, coordinator, along with her husband, Johnny, created a snack bar, ice cream shoppe and cafe display for the event.

Men of the church taught young teens how to make birdfeeders, built hovercrafts and a zipline for excitement.

The "young chefs" presented an outstanding program for their families and friends.

**Sherry Roberts
Dunnellon**

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CHURCH BRIEFS

Church of the Advent to host VBS

The Church of the Advent, 11251 County Road 484, will present its VBS from Aug. 12 to 19, for children ages 4 to 11.

To register your child, call the church at 465-7272 or Mrs. Florence at 566-6934.

Church preps for annual Trash to Treasure Sale

The Church of the Advent will present its annual Trash to Treasure Sale Saturday, Sept. 24. (Rain Date will be Oct 1.)

The church is at 11251 County Road 484, in front of the new fire station.

For registration and information, call Al Sickle at 352-208-5664 or Maryanne Brennan at 352-347-2428.

Rainbow Springs church to host LIFT ministry

Join the ladies at the Rainbow Springs Village Church for Ladies in Fellowship Together (LIFT) fellowship. The goal is to LIFT one another in encouragement, LIFT our missionaries in prayer and LIFT the name of Jesus Christ.

If childcare is desired, call the church office for arrangements. LIFT meets at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday monthly.

For more information, e-mail Cindy Greaves at women@caringpeople.org.

Rainbow Springs Village Church is at 20222 S.W. 102nd St. Road, Dunnellon, south of Winn Dixie and west of U.S. 41). For more information, contact the church at 489-0249 or at www.caringpeople.org.

A lasting legacy



Friends of Shara Ponder give their condolences to family members, including her mother, Carleather, third from left, after the funeral of the 29-year-old Dunnellon Middle School teacher Saturday at the House of God in Ocala.

JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Family, friends gather to pay last respect to educator

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

OCALA — Shara Ponder was always there when you needed her, because she cared.

That's how family and friends recalled her Saturday afternoon at the House of God as family, friends and colleagues gathered to pay their last respects to the vibrant 29-year-old who died Sunday, July 10, during her Celebration of

Life for the Dunnellon Middle School teacher.

And indeed it was a celebration, as the mood was upbeat despite a chorus of sobs throughout the packed house.

The Rev. Dr. Lorenzo S. Edwards opened the somber event with a plea to those in attendance.

"There should be a prayer in each of your hearts, though it might not make your lips, for the family," he said.

Dr. Edwards recalled his brief time with Ponder throughout her childhood, hoping his impact in her life was one that is eternal.

"I hope that there is one small measure in her life that I did something worthwhile in her life," he explained, noting life is not about how long you have, but what one has done with it.

See PONDER page 7

OUT TO PASTOR

Farewell to the 50s

Whoever said, "All good things must come to an end,"

know whereof he spoke. Why is it that something really good goes by so quickly and something really bad hangs around forever, or so it seems.



Rev. James Snyder

Let me explain a little bit of what I mean.

When the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, over my vociferous objections, cooks broccoli, the smell stays in the air for months. However, the invigorating aroma of an Apple fritter dissipates in a matter of moments. Except, of course, when I'm trying to eat one behind you know whose back and she can smell it five days before I eat it.

"I don't smell an Apple fritter do I?" she inquires.

"You're not eating an apple fritter?" she prods.

"There better not be any apple fritters in this house," she demands.

My philosophy is simply this, what she can smell can't hurt me. The only problem is, she can smell, and usually it's a rat, namely me.

However, if I would pontificate 1/10 of the time about the smell of broccoli in the house I would not have to worry about smelling broccoli in the house. If you know what I mean.

But if it is good, it seems to go by so very quickly. This past week something very good came to a very conclusive end. Through no effort of my own, I concluded the fifth decade of my life. I am just glad that at the conclusion of this decade I was around to see it. What I remember about the 50s is another matter altogether.

As part of the baby boomer generation, another birthday boomed for me. This boom was a very significant one. I have bidden a fond farewell to my 50s. Ah, what a decade that was. It is a very good thing that the 50s come between the 40s and the 60s. Whoever devised this scenario knew something about human nature.

When you are in your 40s, you, for some unknown reason, think you are still in your 20s. Many people in their 40s have bought into the notion that the 40s is the new 20s. Henceforth, most people, usually men, treat their body as if it was a 25-year-old man in perfect health. Now, a 45-year-old body does not have the wisdom to realize that it is no longer 25. And so you have men in their 40s running and jumping and doing things that their body thinks it can do but it really can't.

A body in the 40s is not mature enough for pain to register. In fact, no man in his 40s would acknowledge the fact that he has the pain. His wife, contrarily, acknowledges the pain in her life. But that's another story.

Once a man gets into his 50s, he has matured enough to the fact that he knows there are many things he physically cannot do. He knows, for instance, a 50-something body is not like a 20-something body, therefore, he can begin slacking off on the physical stuff. Although, some 50-something men have not matured enough to understand the significance of the fifth decade.

But in spite of all of that, the 50s have been a wonderful time for me. It is during the 50-something the man accomplishes most of his work. During his 40s, he is trying to pretend he is still

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PASTOR

continued from page 6

in his 20s, but by the time he hits that magic 50, he is more interested in accomplishing things in his career. Work is very important at this phase of life.

And work he does, because at this stage he has a mortgage, a family and bills coming out both his back pockets faster than it goes in. If he has children, he enters the 50s with several teenagers in the house and maybe some grandchildren. This is enough to drive any man to work, if not crazy. For any man to conclude the fifth decade without permanent residence in the Looney farm is quite an accomplishment.

By the mid-50s, things begin to become all quiet on the Western front. Many people refer to this as the empty nest syndrome. All I can say is, hallelujah for the empty nest syndrome. I just hope some doctor does not come up with a cure for this empty nest syndrome.

The empty nest syndrome is God's way of saying thank you for bringing up your family. Now, the house is all quiet and when I go to

the refrigerator, there is actually something in the refrigerator. Sometimes I just open the refrigerator door and stare at the contents. It is wonderful to go to the refrigerator and actually find something in it you can eat.

It has been a little difficult for me to say farewell to the 50s. I have enjoyed every year of that decade. I am not prepared to say that I am any wiser but I am prepared to say I am older. And my goal in life is to get older and older. Because, when you stop getting older it is all over.

The Bible gives him instructions about getting older.

"The glory of young men is their strength; and the beauty of old men is the grey head" (Proverbs 20:29 KJV).

"The hoary (grey) head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness" (Proverbs 16:31 KJV).

I bid a fond farewell to the 50s. Thanks for the memories.

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church website is whatafellowship.com.

50th Wedding Anniversary



Larry and Brenda Hoffmann of Rainbow Lake Estates recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a blessing of their vows in their hometown of Pittsburgh Pa., with their family and friends. In Dunnellon, they again celebrated at their home with family and friends. The Hoffmann's are the parents of Nancy Barkley and Larry Hoffmann of Dunnellon, and Sean Hoffmann and Meribeth King of Pittsburgh, Pa. They have 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

PONDER

continued from page 6

"That little hyphen, it's about what you do in that time, that is what's going to count," Dr. Edwards finished.

Kenton Colbert Sr., a long-time friend, recalled first meeting Ponder in the seventh grade.

"She was a very blessed person, a very carrying intelligent person," he explained. "She was a wonderful child of God."

Ponder was a product of the Marion County School System, graduating from Vanguard High School in 2000. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from Florida A&M University.

Ponder, who began her teaching career at Dunnellon Middle School in 2007, taught Reading Remediation and was the Rookie Teacher of the Year in 2009-10 for the Marion County School District. She was recognized with a resolution from the School

Board for her service and dedication.

"You've impacted the lives of hundreds of students and teachers at Dunnellon Middle School," the resolution stated.

As the service came to a close, the Rev. Derek Ponder Jr., a cousin and friend, recalled the day Shara was there for him.

"I had a BB gun and shot some girl and that BB lodged into her hand," he recalled, fighting back tears. "I thought I was going to jail that day, but

Shara was there for me and took care of the situation. No one went to jail and the situation never came up again. She always went the extra mile for everyone."

OBITUARIES

Betty L. Allison, 79

Betty L. Allison, 79, of Dunnellon, died Thursday, July 7, 2011 at the Legacy House in Ocala.

Memorial services were on Wednesday, July 13, 2011 at 3 p.m. from the Roberts Funeral Home of Dunnellon. Interment of the urn followed at Dunnellon Memorial Gardens.

Condolences may be made to robertsofdunnellon.com.

David Leland Williams, 71

David Leland Williams, 71 of Dunnellon, died Monday, July 11, 2011. Mr. Williams was born in Blissfield, Mich., on May 25, 1940 to the late Joseph and Lilas (Welsh) Williams and moved here in 2003 from Peachtree City, Ga.

Mr. Williams was a retired truck driver and served our country in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was a member of Peach Lutheran Church in Dunnellon and was an avid fisherman.

He is survived by his loving wife, Rebekah "Becky"; son, Jeff (Veronica) Williams of Dallas, Ga.; daughter, Tamara (Robert) Manross of Griffin, Ga.; sister, Doris Bell of Lake Placid, Fl.; four grandchildren, Christopher, Jennifer, Alexander and Jonathan; two great-grandchildren, Andrew and Garrett.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Barbara R. Williams and

a brother, Gerald Williams.

A celebration of life memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 23, 2011 at 11 a.m. from the Peace Lutheran Church in Dunnellon with Rev. Terry McKee officiating. There will be no viewing hours. Memorial contributions may be made to Peace Lutheran Church of Dunnellon. Condolences may be made to robertsofdunnellon.com. Roberts Funeral Home, Dunnellon, provided information.

Leah M. Mahair, 95

Leah M. Mahair, 95 of Dunnellon, died Sunday, July 17, 2011.

Survivors include son, Robert Mahair; daughters, Irene Trefethen, Lorriane Calderwood.

Arrangements by Roberts Funeral Home of Dunnellon.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CITY OF DUNNELLON TO CONSIDER A SETBACK VARIANCE REQUEST RESOLUTION #RES2011-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DUNNELLON, FLORIDA, RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF A SETBACK VARIANCE FROM THE DUNNELLON CITY CODE, APPENDIX A, ARTICLE VI, SECTION 6.2 REQUESTED BY DOUGLAS DEWITT FOR PROPERTY HE OWNS LOCATED AT 20186 THE GRANADA, DUNNELLON, FLORIDA AND MORE PROPERLY DESCRIBED ON THE MARION COUNTY TAX ROLLS AS PARCEL NUMBER 3381-014-003.

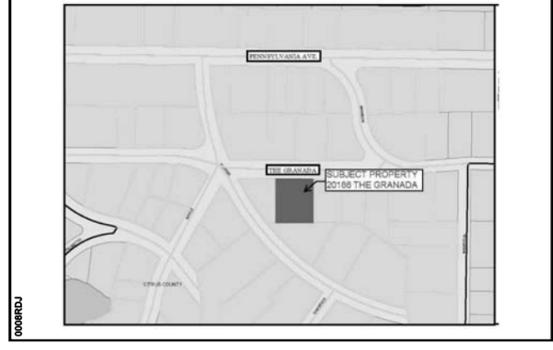
The Dunnellon City Council will hold a public hearing to consider the adoption of the above Resolution in regards to a Variance request to the Dunnellon City Zoning Code, pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 94, Section 94-37 (11)(a) and Section 94-37 (16) of the Dunnellon, Florida Code of Ordinances. The public hearing will be held at:

Dunnellon City Hall
20750 River Drive
Dunnellon, FL 34431
Monday, August 8, 2011
5:30 p.m.

The proposed Resolution may be inspected by the public at City Hall, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. weekdays

COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION ARE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE AT DUNNELLON CITY HALL, 20750 RIVER DRIVE, DUNNELLON, FLORIDA 34431, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 8:00 A.M. UNTIL 4:00 P.M. THE PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND AND COMMENT.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, ANY PERSON REQUIRING A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION AT THIS HEARING BECAUSE OF A DISABILITY OR PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK AT (352) 465-8500 AT LEAST THREE CALENDAR DAYS PRIOR TO THE PROCEEDING. IF A PERSON DESIRES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT THE ABOVE MEETING OR HEARING, HE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING, AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE, HE MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED. THE CITY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY MECHANICAL FAILURE OF RECORDING EQUIPMENT.



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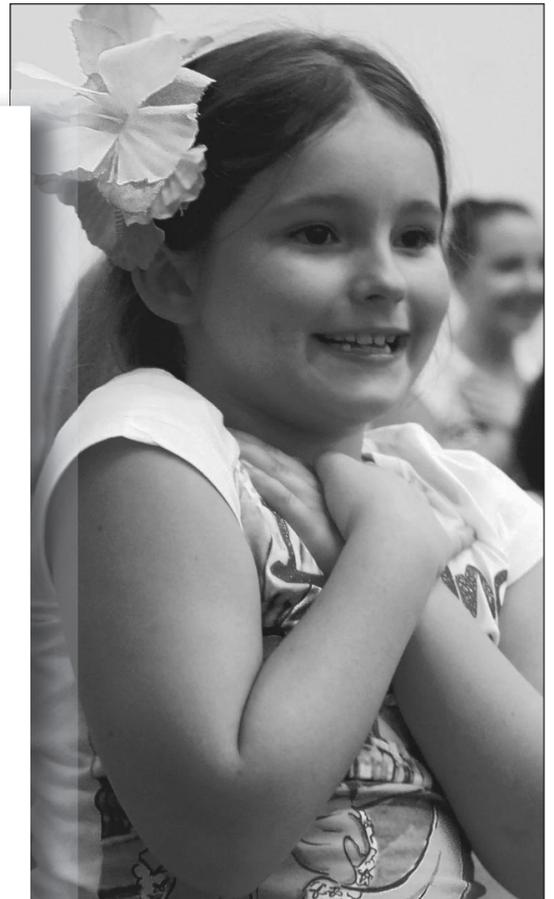
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STORYBOOK SUMMER



Photos by Jeff Bryan/Riverland News
Eliana Ortega, 5, left, Irish Lacey, 5, and Hannah Cicalese, 5, summer campers from VS School of Dance, participate in a program at the Dunnellon Public Library earlier this summer. The county library branches have sponsored "One World, Many Stories," throughout the past two months. For more information about programs and services at the Dunnellon Public Library, call 438-2520.



Eight-year-old Kira Wentworth raises her arms in excitement during Ninth Dimension's Magic Act at the Dunnellon Public Library as other youngsters look on.



TOP: Eight-year-old Micah O'Leary-Wyatt is all smiles during a performance. ABOVE: Joey Evans of Ninth Dimension looks at "Twinky," the rabbit hand puppet, during their performance.



Anastacia Eremo, 4, left, and Bonnie Block, 5, show off their Lion roar during a skit.

Major girls fall in sectional

All-Star team finishes 0-3 in tourney

PATRICK HEINRITZ
For the Riverland News

TAMPA – It was real it was fun, but in the end it wasn't real fun.

The Major Girls softball team came up short in a harsh weekend full of rain.

It was once again almost the story of "The Little Engine That Could," but it wasn't as the All-Star team was swept in the three-game sectional.

Friday, the opening day of the tournament, the weather was fair as Dunnellon competed against Seminole Little League.

The contest started off with each team stranding a couple of base runners, but with neither team capitalizing until the third inning when the Seminole's scored on an error, coupled with another walked batter and a pair of hits, staking itself to a 2-0 lead.

A couple of innings and a rain delay, Dunnellon entered the bottom of the sixth inning, trailing 6-0. A loss on their opening day of the tournament would not be a very good start. Dunnellon had its back against the wall and it answered back. The only question left was, was it too late?

Gillian Heinritz started the frame with a walk and two batters later Michelle Ruiz also reached on a single. She finished 3-for-3.

Now the bases were loaded and there were two outs. Jillian Perez got her first hit of the night, a two-run single. Dunnellon's Cassandra Lawler added an RBI single,



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Dunnellon's Cassandra Lawler sprints toward first base as she watches her hit drop into the outfield during the District 15 All-Star Tournament in Crystal River. Lawler and her teammates went 0-3 in the sectional tournament this past weekend in Tampa.

trimming the deficit to 6-3. She, too, finished 3-for-3.

However, it wasn't enough as Dunnellon could not mount a rally in the seventh inning, falling 6-3, despite out-hitting Seminole, 8-4.

However, its said "defense wins championships." Dunnellon's pitcher Gillian threw a complete game, striking out 11 and allowing six unearned runs as Dunnellon's defense committed six errors.

In a must-win position Saturday, Dunnellon played West Pasco.

Dunnellon gave up a

run in the bottom of the first after a walk and an error.

Then, just when Dunnellon had made a couple of strong defensive plays to get momentum on its side in top of the second, they were hit by a nearly eight-hour rain delay.

Returning to Ed Radice Park to complete the game, it wasn't until the top of the third inning that Dunnellon would finally answer as it found itself trailing, 3-0.

Brooke Saez and Michelle Ruiz opened the inning with back-to-back singles, when Cheyenne Ingalls' RBI single plated

Dunnellon's first run. Briana Williams followed with an RBI groundout to trim Dunnellon's deficit to 3-2.

Dunnellon struck again in the fourth, tying the game at 3-all and taking a lead when Heinritz, who had tripled, scored on Saez' ground out for a 4-3 lead.

Though the lead held through the fifth inning, West Pasco struck in the bottom of the sixth. With runners on second and third, a passed ball allowed West Pasco to tie the game at 4-all. West Pasco capped its rally when the runner on second scored on an error, handing Dunnellon a 5-4 loss.

Dunnellon once again out-hit its opponent, 7-5. Saez and Ingalls led Dunnellon's offense. Saez was 2-for-3 with an RBI. Ingalls was 1-for-2 with an RBI. Defensively, Dunnellon committed three errors and once again all the runs that it allowed were unearned. Cassandra Lawler threw a complete game for Dunnellon.

Entering Sunday's finale, Dunnellon was not in the position it was hoping for. Their hopes for a championship game were gone and, eventually after four innings, their part in the tournament had ended.

Dunnellon was beaten 10-0 in a mercy-rule contest. It was the first day they actually didn't have to deal with a rain delay. Dunnellon was held hitless, as Heinritz threw a complete game, striking out five, but allowing four walks.

"The Little Engine That Could" came up short in a tough series of games throughout a long, rainy weekend. Dunnellon did big things on paper, but didn't catch the breaks when it needed them.

COMMUNITY BRIEF

New Crime Stoppers discount cards available

The new 2011-12 Crime Stoppers of Marion County Discount Card is available and free for the asking. The card, featuring the local Crime Stoppers tipline phone number (368-STOP), offers yearlong discounts at a dozen Ocala businesses. It's available at Soapy's Car Washes in Ocala and at State Road 200 and Southwest 93rd Court or call 843-1499 or e-mail rhauck@embarq mail.com.

BRIDGE RESULTS

Rainbow Springs Country Club Bridge Results of play from July 12.

Winners: 1. Tomiko Vasey, 4,590; 2. Luise Pellete, 4,420; 3. Jean Bozak, 4,370; 4. Billie Barnes, 4,300; 5. Marilyn Holsipple, 4,260. Slams: Jean Bozak and Debby Rodriguez, 6 Clubs made 7, and Richard Davis and Betty Quigley, 6 No Trump made 7.

Seven Days A Week Rain or Shine



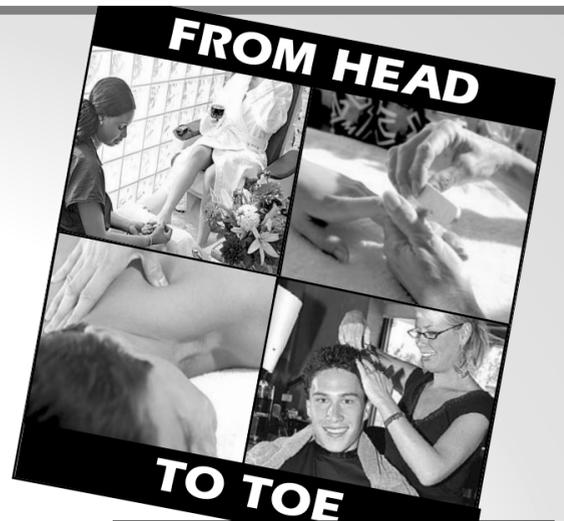
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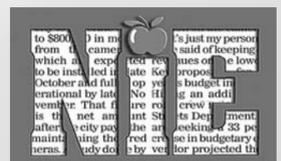
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Riverland News



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Friends Book Store to host July sale

Through July, the Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library Book Store will host a store-wide half-price sale throughout the month of July. Store hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. The Friends Book Store (inside the Library), is at 20351 Robinson Road (just behind Sweetbay) in Dunnellon. For more information, call 438-2520.

American Legion slates activities

Regular meetings of the Post only will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 6. Dinner will not be served. Bingo will be at 6 p.m. Thursdays. Doors open at 4. Refreshments are available. The third Saturday Outdoor Flea Market and Pancake Breakfast will resume in September. **State park in need of volunteers** Rainbow Springs State Park is currently seeking volunteers interested in

becomING a Volunteer Toll Booth Attendant, or other various positions, contact Nicky Aiken at Nicky.Aiken@dep.state.fl.us or call 465-8539. The Concession Stand at Rainbow Springs State Park, run by the Friends of Rainbow Springs and volunteers, is in need of volunteers, especially on weekends. The hours of operation are currently from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Interested Volunteers would receive training and work two- or four-hour shifts. If interested call Joe at 522-0396 for more information.

TARMAC

continued from page 1

Rountree said. "The question is does the (county comprehensive land use) code say they can't have a hearing or does the code say they can't grant a permit. As I read the code, they cannot grant the permit, and you (Brooks) said they cannot hold a hearing." Rountree said Yankee-town's concern is when they get a hearing.

Bolves said the town had its opportunity at the Levy County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners hearings. Frank Matthews, Tarmac's attorney, said the public will have an opportunity when the Corps of Engineers holds a hearing and when the county's two commissions consider an excavation permit for the mine. Another suit, filed by the Withlacoochee Area

Residents Association (WAR), contends the county violated its Comprehensive Land Use plan by allowing the mining operation in an environmentally sensitive area and before the Corps permit was approved. The City of Crystal River has joined the WAR suit because of concerns about the amount of truck traffic the mine would send through the middle of the city — 52 percent of 500 trucks making daily round trips when the mine starts operation in 2014. A city official testified at the planning and county commission hearings the truck traffic would have an adverse impact on the city's tourism, quality of life and economy.

A hearing on the county's filing for summary judgment in the WAR suit has been set for September. Lou Elliott Jones is the Editor of the Chiefland Citizen.



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News
Christian Donahoe prepares to deliver a throw in an attempt to dunk Officer Mike Miley.

SPLASH

continued from page 1

for the needy; people enjoy doing things for the community. Everybody came together, it was a good event." Certainly, people looked forward to taking aim at Mayor Fred Ward, Police Chief Joanne Black and Officer Mike Miley from the Dunnellon Police Department or Lt. Troy Slattery of Dunnellon Fire Rescue. "We had a blast; I had a good time, I was glad to be invited," Slattery said. "It looked like they had a good turnout, I think it was a good opportunity to be more on a personal level

rather than a professional level. It went for a good cause. (Annie Johnson's) has been around for as long as I can remember; it was a great honor and great privilege to be a part of it." Miley, one of the many hecklers to hang from the perch above the water, heckled the young and old. Decked out in water wings, flippers, snorkel and mask with a homemade shirt — "DPD Dive Team," Miley carried a water gun with him into the tank, taking aim at those who took their best shots. "Everybody had a good time," Avina said. "Knowing that people could joke with you about getting dunked, even when the lit-

tle ones hit the target and didn't trigger it, someone was getting wet; it was just a good time." Avina said they hope to make this an annual event, even tweaking the date of it. Currently, she said, they're in the discussion stages of hosting an event at the Annie Johnson Thrift Store during Jazz Up. "There'd be more people there, more volunteers, a bigger amount of people," she explained, noting there was a steady crowd all day Saturday. "There are more people in one area." She said most of those who volunteered their time in the dunk tank offered their services again.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Answers to puzzle on page 3

GAETANOS

continued from page 1

Their specialty sub is

The Gaetano with chicken cutlet, Capicola, Mozzarella Cheese and Roasted Red Peppers. They also offer breakfast sandwiches, homemade deserts, soups and a hot meal of the day, such as Baked Ziti, Lasagna or "whatever mood hits," Thinner said. Chips, potato salad, coleslaw and pasta salad are the side dishes offered. "We're going to do it better and more consistent than anyone," Chinner said of their subs, which feature Top Choice meats. Gaetano's Subs is open from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. daily. Besides the variety of sandwiches it offers, the restaurant is offering

delivery to businesses within two miles of its eatery. However, orders must be \$25 or more to take advantage of the delivery option. Chinner said as business increases, she and her brother will add a driver and expand the delivery service. Chinner noted cooking for the public isn't much different than cooking for her family. She said Sunday family dinners "have always been a big thing." "Instead of doing it one day a week, I do it seven days a week now," she explained. Gaetano's Subs accepts cash or credit cards. Orders can be called in at 465-9103 or faxed in at 465-9109.

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Sunday
Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.
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Every 4th Sunday.....5:00 p.m.
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Romeo Baptist Church

Interim Pastor **Tim Turner (352) 489-1788**

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Sunday School 9:30 AM
Worship 11:00 AM
Disciple Training 5:00 PM
(Nursery & Children's Church Provided)

Wednesday
AWANA 6:30 PM
Youth Group 6:30 PM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

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Saturday Sabbath School.....9:30 AM
Sermon.....11:00 AM
Tuesday Bible Study.....7:00 PM

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Wednesday Bible Study 10:00 AM
Wednesday potluck & Bible Study 6:30 PM
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11 am.....Worship Service
5:30 pm.....Evening Praise Service

WEDNESDAYS
5:30 pm.....Music Rehearsal
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Riverland News

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NOTICES TO CREDITORS/Administration

228-0721 RIV Schacor, Irmgard 2011-CP-647 (F) Notice to Creditors PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION FILE NO.: 2011-CP-647 (F) IN RE: ESTATE OF IRMGARD SCHACOR a/k/a IRMGARD A. SCHACOR, Deceased. NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the estate of IRMGARD SCHACOR a/k/a IRMGARD A. SCHACOR, deceased, whose date of death was October 27, 2010 and whose Social Security Number is 101-14-6773, File Number 2011-CP-647 (F), is pending in the Circuit Court for Marion County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is P.O. Box 1030, Ocala, Florida 34478-1030. The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE TIME OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of the first publication of this Notice is July 14, 2011. Personal Representative: /s/ LOU-ANN BOEMIO 21078 S.W. Peach Blossom Street, Dunnellon, Florida 34431 Attorney for Personal Representative: BRETT & REYNOLDS, P.A. /s/ JOEL O. PARKER, Esquire Florida Bar No. 0070201 P.O. Drawer 2480, Dunnellon, Florida 34430 Published in Riverland News, July 14 & 21, 2011.

233-0721 RIV 8/4 Michigan sale PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: Superior Towing/C&M Towing gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicle(s) on 08/04/2011, 9:00 am at 13940 N. US Hwy., 441, McIntosh, FL 32664, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. Superior Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids. 2FA CP74F8MX132663 1991 FORD Published in Riverland News, July 21, 2011.

234-0721 RIV 8/4 Sale PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: Superior Towing/C&M Towing gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicle(s) on 08/04/2011, 9:00 am at 36 NE 8th St., Ocala, FL 34470, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. Superior Towing/C&M Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids. 1FTYR10U84PA31009 2004 FORD JTM2D33V186054338 2008 TOYOTA Published in the Riverland News, July 21, 2011.

235-0721 RIV 8/11 sale PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE DAVID TAYLOR RECOVERY gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicle(s) at 2024 NW 57th St., Ocala, FL 34475, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. DAVID TAYLOR RECOVERY reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids. Sale Date: 8/11/2011 9AM 1996 Mercedes VIN # WDBGA43EXTA303987 Published in the Riverland News, July 21, 2011.

237-0721 RIV 8/9 sale PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF SALE The following vehicle will be sold at public auction to satisfy a lien, per Fl Stat 713.585, at 10:00 AM on August 9, 2011 at European Car Clinic, 210 W Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala FL 34475, phone 352-629-5047. No titles, as is, cash only. 1991 Lexus LS400 4D VIN JTB8U11E8M0098358 Cash sum to redeem vehicle \$1495.28. Notice to owner or lienholder as to right to a hearing prior to date of sale by filing with clerk of court and to re-

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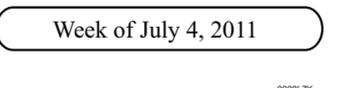
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Classified | Display | Metro Daily

Week of July 4, 2011

County looks to pave the way on scenic roads

Officials to tweak plan, schedule another meeting

JIM CLARK

For the Riverland News

The crowd was small, but vocal Thursday night as Marion County planners hosted a public hearing on the scenic road situation in the county, including the proposed master plan.

Almost all speakers were in favor of expanding the scenic road designations in the county, and one went so far as to propose that the process be taken away from county commissioners.

Justin Ryan, transportation planner for the county's Growth Management Department's Planning Division, conducted the meeting, which was originally scheduled from 6 to 9 p.m., but adjourned shortly after 7 after all those who wished to speak had been heard. Only 13 members of the public attended.

The most radical proposal came from Steve Ellis of Southwest 75th Terrace, who suggested that decisions on scenic roads be "removed from the county commissioners' lap." He proposed a ranking by a committee of the recom-



County Road 328 from Romeo to State Road 40 is on the list of Marion County's scenic roads.

JIM CLARK/For the Riverland News

mended scenic roads, and that the top roads on the list be submitted to the voters in a referendum. "That would take the political nature away."

Commissioners recently decided to remove some roads from the list, with the most controversial being part of Shady Road, also known as County Road 475A and, in some places, Southwest 27th Avenue.

Darlene Weesner, who said she started the scenic road efforts in 1985, said she was "very, very concerned" with recent actions. She pointed out

the advantage to eco-tourism of having the designated roads. She criticized the County Commission for its actions, saying: "There have been no challenges to it up to now." She added, "We're spending time doing something that isn't really necessary." She criticized the development of the now completed 31st Street extension. "We could have had a nice two-lane parkway" for less money, and used the remaining funds for something else.

Michelle Shearer of South-

west 85th Street, who is a member of the Scenic Road Advisory Committee, said that there have been very few negative comments. "The majority of Marion County apparently is fine with the ordinance." She said the county should "Keep the ordinance as it is."

She said there is an economic impact of a scenic road on real estate. "People feel security buying on scenic roads."

She noted that Shady Road "needs to keep that two-lane charm. When you are riding you are able to take in both

sides of the road."

Shearer added: "The scenic roads keep Marion County from becoming a South Florida city."

Susan Woods of Northwest 90th Avenue spoke about her road. "We were hoping it would be a scenic road by now."

Ellis spoke again, saying he books a gathering of people who come to drive the roads. "If we screw around with these roadways, they won't come back. Once you mess it up it's gone."

He said he had booked 550 room nights at a local hotel this past March.

Gordon Johnson, from Oxford in Sumter County, is a photographer who brings friends from Finland to ride around the roads in Marion County. He reminded staffers that 100 years ago mining was proposed in the Grand Canyon, and asked people to imagine what it would have done to tourism out there.

Another hearing will be planned after more work is done on the plan.

Meanwhile, information on scenic roads can be accessed at www.marioncountyfl.org/Planning/scenic_roads.aspx.

Jim Clark is the editor of the South Marion Citizen and West Marion Messenger, sister newspapers of the Riverland News. He can be reached at editor@smcitizen.com.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Chamber seeks sponsors, volunteers for Jazz Up

The Dunnellon Chamber of Commerce needs volunteers and sponsors for Jazz Up Dunnellon, the annual Mardi-Gras style music festival, which will be Saturday, Oct. 15.

If you would like to be a part of event, attend the Jazz Up Committee Meetings at from noon to 1

p.m. Tuesdays at the Dunnellon Area Chamber of Commerce, 20500 E. Pennsylvania Ave.

For more information, call Beverly Leisure, executive director, at 489-2320.

Blood drive at Rainbow Springs Clubhouse

The Big Red Bus will be at the Rainbow Springs Club House from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 21.

Each donor will receive

the following:

— A Free Movie Ticket from Fandango (print it out at your home).

— 50 percent off Dominos Coupon only at the Dominos in Ocala across from the Paddock Mall on State Road 200.

— A free round of golf for one with cart at one of three golf courses in Marion County.

— If you donate on Alyx

you will receive a \$10 Darden Gift Card by mail.

You can donate if you have high blood pressure, diabetic, one-year cancer free.

No upper age limit – most meds and conditions are OK. You must be 17 years old to donate. Bring a Photo ID and drink plenty of fluids before donating.

For more information,

call Deborah "Debbie" Roth, donor development coordinator, at 352-266-1020 or e-mail droth@floridasbloodcenters.org.

National Night Out scheduled Aug. 2

The Dunnellon Police Department will host the second annual National Night Out from 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 2. The event will start at Ernie

Mills Park where local law enforcement officers will partner with members of the community to patrol area neighborhoods. The patrol will be from 5 to 8 p.m. with a cookout slated to begin at the park afterward. For more information about the event, contact Officer Bruce Arnold at 465-8510 or e-mail barnold@dunnellonpd.org.

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SUMMER SPLASH!



Terry Sullivan delivers a throw toward the target as he takes aim at one of the volunteers perched above the water for the Annie W. Johnson "Dunk for Hope."

Photos by Jeff Bryan/Riverland News



Chance Luckey gets some last-minute advice before taking his turn at dunking one of the would-be volunteers at the "Dunk for Hope."



TOP: Mayor Fred Ward keeps a caustious eye on a volunteer checking the target. ABOVE: Dylan Donahoe prepares to throw the ball at the target.



Officer Mike Miley of the Dunnellon Police Department is all smiles after taking a dive in the tank.