

Riverland News

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Vol 30 No. 9

75 cents

Parade ready to roll

Event kicks off at 5:30 p.m. Saturday

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

Charlene Williams is aiming for a "Family Tradition" style celebration Saturday night as the annual Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade rolls along Chestnut Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

And, she's not talking about a Hank Williams-style "Family Tradition." So, she said, leave your "rowdy friends at home." The theme for this year's parade is "Family Tradition," so chosen for this year's parade marshals, the Scally family, who are owners and operators of the famous Front Porch Restaurant and Scally's Lube and Go as well as Scally's Towing. "They were chosen in honor of their dearly beloved Stan Scally who embraced the family values and traditions that our country was founded upon," Williams said about the family patriarch.

Kathleen Cunningham, one of his daughter's, said it's an honor the family was chosen for the honor.

"We just appreciate the support of the town," said Kathleen Cunningham, one of Stan Scally's daughters. "We've been here a long time, love the Dunnellon area and the people. We just do what we do, try to make people happy and feed them good food. We try to take care of our obligations, try to make people happy. Family is family and family comes first. We were raised to help other people and that's what live by."

The parade will start at 5:30 p.m. along Cedar Street and move toward Pennsylvania Avenue, where it will move east toward the Rainbow River. During the parade, all side streets along both streets will be closed. Williams said the parade will last up to an hour, at which time the roads will reopen. She asks for courtesy and patience while the roads are closed for the event.

"It'll be for a short while, but we just ask that people are aware they'll be closed for a short time for this fabulous event," she explained.

Williams said she's excited

See **PARADE** page 14

GOLDEN CHANCE



JULIE MANCINI/For the Riverland News
Brittany Landers and her Golden Retriever, Sam, will compete at the Eukanuba National Jr. Obedience Saturday in Orlando at the Orange County Convention Center.

Teen, her dog to compete at national show

LAURA RILEY
For the Riverland News

When Brittany Landers decided she wanted a dog, she did her research.

Her research led her to the decision that a golden retriever was the perfect dog for her.

She began leaving little hints for her parents on the refrigerator, on the phone; little reminders and pieces of evidence to show her parents that the golden retriever was, in fact, the perfect dog. Little did she know, she had done

enough convincing.

One day, Landers' mom, Karen, told her that they were going to look at a horse. Landers went, with riding gear on just in case a test drive would be in order, to the farm with her parents. When they got out of the car, Landers saw a golden retriever and proceeded to tell her parents to "look," that this was the type of dog she wanted.

All the way to the barn, Landers was so excited about the beautiful golden retriever. When

they entered the barn, she was still so excited about the dog, she hardly noticed the puppies.

It wasn't until her parents told her, that she realized that the horse was just an excuse. The real reason that they were at the farm was for Landers to bring home a puppy. She became the proud owner of a female golden retriever, she later named Skittles.

Fast forward a few years.

Now Landers has sev-

See **GOLDEN** page 14

Police: Boat sinks in river

No one injured in morning incident

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

Law enforcement authorities received a 911 emergency call early Tuesday morning about 3:30 a.m. about a boat sinking in the Withlacoochee River with six people on board.

The Dunnellon Police Department dispatched its Marine Unit and upon arriving, found four people on the vessel, which had taken on water. Two others had swam to shore and called for help.

The four people stuck aboard the boat were brought to shore by police, where they were given a check up by members of Dunnellon Fire Rescue. Fire officials were then transported to the scene of the sinking boat to check for any hazards and found none. The boat eventually sank.

None of those on board the vessel said who was driving and because no one was hurt, no charges were filed, said Lt. Sue Webb of the Dunnellon Police Department.

Officials with Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission were called about the incident. An official with the FWC said those involved would be given a self-report form to file regarding the accident and would have 30 days to complete. If not submitted within those 30 days, the official said, the owner of the vessel would be charged with a misdemeanor.

As far as removal of the boat is concerned, the official said, the boat would be checked for any fluids leaking. If there were none, it would fall on the owner of the vessel to hire a company and have it removed at their cost.

A late-morning inspection of the capsized vessel showed a gash under the hull where it appeared the boat had hit something; however, during the initial investigation, Lt. Webb, said those on the boat never indicated the vessel had hit anything in the water.

Santa to bring hot stuff to children's party

Annual event kicks off at 6 p.m. at Bingo Hall

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

Santa Claus is coming to town early, and yes he'll be bearing gifts for children in the area as Dunnellon Fire Rescue will host its annual Children's Christmas Party from 6 to 8 p.m. today at the Dunnellon Bingo Hall at 20520 E. Pennsylvania Ave.

While the size of the program has changed in the 20 years it's been going on; certainly, the mission has not — to provide children, who might otherwise go without, presents during the Christmas holiday.

"I remember when we started, we did it here at the fire station," said Fire Chief Joe Campfield, noting Tri-County RC Club

partners with the department to sponsor the event. "And it just grew from there; that it was just too much to do it here."

For the past seven years, the Dunnellon Bingo Hall has opened its doors to the fire department allowing officials to host the event there.

The additional space allows for more children, but also provides for

plenty of room for folks to eat and move around when the time comes.

"Frank King and his staff have helped a lot," Campfield said. "They deserve a lot of credit for what they do to make this happen."

Campfield also offered praise for residents and businesses in the community who contribute to the cause. This year, Campfield said, they expect

See **SANTA** page 14



Riverland News file photo
Addison Schweers, then 2, is greeted by Santa Claus as her mom, Jennifer, attempts to get her daughter to smile at last year's Children's Christmas Party.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Give Food 4 Kids a helping hand

Bob Evans in Ocala on State Road 200 near County Road 484 will donate 15 percent of your bill to Food 4 Kids Inc. today. Pick up a flyer as you enter the restaurant, have your meal, then present the flyer when you pay your bill. Also, Norm's Clean Cuts Barber Shop on Bostick Street is collecting donations for Food 4 Kids. The barbershop is also sponsoring Toys for Tots this holiday season.

For more information or questions, call Linda at 352-566-8289.

Annie Johnson Center hosting blanket drive

The Annie Johnson "Cold Nights/Warm Hearts" program will host a Pajama and Blanket Drive throughout December. The agency is collecting these items for the homeless, needy and seniors. Items can be gently used or brand new; all sizes are needed. If you are able to assist in this cause, bring the items to the Senior & Family Service Center. For more information, call 489-8021 or e-mail annie2322@bellsouth.net.

Clothe the Children event scheduled Dec. 15

The members of the Altar & Rosary Society of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Dunnellon will distribute gently used clothing to families in need from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, in the church hall on the corner of U.S. 41 and State 40 East in Dunnellon. Clothes will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. For more information, call 489-5954.

DPD to conduct DUI checkpoint, saturation patrols

The Dunnellon Police Department will participate in the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over," from Dec. 16 through Jan. 2. Saturation Patrols have been scheduled throughout the city on Dec. 17, Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 and a DUI Checkpoint has been scheduled for 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday, Dec. 16, in the 12100 Block of U.S. 41, both the northbound and southbound lanes. For more information, contact Sgt. Jacob Gonzalez at 465-8510 or e-mail jgonzalez@dunnellonpd.org.

Riverland News

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POLICE BEAT: Man charged with failing to register as sex offender

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

A 54-year-old transient man was charged with failure to register as a sexual offender Saturday after law enforcement authorities discovered he had established or maintained a transient residence in this state, reports stated.

According to the arrest report, Officers Mike Miley and Bruce Arnold made contact with Pinkney L. Preston, formerly of South Carolina, in the Rainbow Square Plaza parking lot at 11352 N. Williams St. and discovered the defendant is a registered sexual offender from South Carolina. Preston, the report stated, told authorities he has been living in Florida for the past five months and has not registered, nor notified the state of his being here. The report stated Officer Miley ran the defendants information through the Marion County Sheriff's Office Teletype and confirmed that Preston is a registered sexual offender in South Carolina.



Pinkney L. Preston

According to the report, Preston advised authorities he was charged with Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in 1991. He was booked into the Marion County Jail. According to jail records, his bond was set at \$25,000.

Woman charged with domestic battery

A 22-year-old Dunnellon woman was charged with domestic battery Thursday after striking her boyfriend with a closed fist, arrest reports stated.

According to the report, Meghan M. Audette did intentionally strike her boyfriend with a closed fist, against his will, causing



Meghan Audette

swelling and bruising to the left side face area and swelling to the left ear.

The report stated Officer Bruce Arnold reported to a physical confrontation in the 20700 block of Park Avenue. Upon his arrival, Officer Arnold made contact with the both the defendant and the victim. During the investigation, the victim advised Officer Arnold he and Audette were arguing over money when she became outraged and began striking the victim several times on the left side of his face, the report stated.

According to the report, Officer Arnold observed swelling to the left side of the victim's face along with swelling to his left ear. Officer Arnold also observed two torn T-shirts lying on the floor of the resi-

dence, which the victim informed him the defendant ripped off of him.

After determining Audette was the primary aggressor, Officer Arnold completed his investigation and placed the defendant into handcuffs and transported to the Marion County Jail. No bond was set.

Man charged with grand theft

A 30-year-old Dunnellon man was charged with grand theft and resisting arrest without violence Sunday, Dec. 4, reports stated.



Dustin Carroll

According to the arrest report, Dustin Carroll entered Walmart and took into his possession an Acer

Desktop PC in which he ran out the garden center entrance/exit after an associate instructed the defendant to stop. Carroll did pass the last point of sale, exiting into the parking lot, not paying for the computer, which was later recovered.

While searing for the defendant, a Marion County Sheriff's deputy observed Carroll in the area of Powell Road at which time the deputy instructed the defendant to stop; however, after seeing the deputy, the defendant continued to run from him, the report stated. After utilizing a deputy sheriff K-9 and setting up a perimeter, Carroll was found in the

area of Powell Road at Robinson Road.

According to the report, Carroll was informed of his Miranda rights and agreed to speak with law enforcement officials. At this time, the report stated, he did admit to taking the computer to later sell and purchase narcotics. He was transported to the Marion County Jail. According to jail records, no bond was set. His next court date is scheduled for Jan. 3.

According to jail records, Carroll has been charged with a multitude of crimes throughout the past 11 years. Records showed he's been jailed 17 times since February 2000.

Answers to puzzle on page 15

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

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Riverland News

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GUEST COLUMN

Surviving the holidays

The holiday season can be an especially difficult time for those dealing with loss, whether it is a spouse, a friend or even a beloved pet. The spirit of the season may exacerbate feelings of despair while others are celebrating family time and spirituality. This time of the year is a bump along the way for many in their healing process. While grief is unique for each person, it affects all of us at some point in life.



Mery Lossada

The circumstances of their death. The support you have after a loss may either help or hinder the process. Remember to ask for help from those with whom you feel comfortable and feel free to decline invitations that drain your energy. Your faith and spirituality are key factors in helping you heal, even though you may feel angry or resentful. This is normal.

Don't be hard on yourself. Grief is the price we pay for loving someone and it is a natural reaction to losing that special person. Your grief is derived from the relationship you had with another and

It is not unusual for grief to affect you both physically and emotionally. Consider this analogy: grief is like a roller coaster. There are ups and downs; good days and bad days. Accept both and don't think you will always feel this way. Feelings change day to day; mo-

ment to moment. Surprisingly for many, the beginning is not the worst. For weeks, most people may just feel numb and go through the motions of life. Then, deep lows may wash over you. Some drops are predictable, but others are not. The experience is unique to each individual and should not be cause for alarm, but if you feel you need professional help, seek it out. There are many resources to provide support. While you may understand that grief is a process, you must also accept that there is no set timetable. Pain will lessen over time, but there is no prescribed way to grieve - there is only your way. A time will come when you return to similar, and sometimes better, levels of

functioning. You will forever have a bond with the person who died. Because of the deep connection, you may experience surges in grief many years after your loss ... like during the holidays as you remember time spent together celebrating the season. Instead of grief, these moments evolve into fond memories of special moments.

Talking about loss might help you deal with your feelings.

Memorials and other rituals can ease your grief. Above all else, acknowledge your loss and accept your feelings as normal. You should prepare to cope with loneliness and draw on your strengths to do so. Recognize other difficult days to

See GUEST page 5

LETTERS

Thanks to dentist for toothbrushes

Carol Barbour, president of Chi Zeta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi National Sorority, delivered cartons of tooth brushes to the Dunnellon Food for Kids Program.

We want to thank Dr. Peter Stickney, Dunnellon dentist, for generously donating the brushes, and let him know how much they are appreciated. The children are certain to learn about good dental health because of his thoughtful contribution. Thank you, Dr. Stickney.

Betsy Davis
Dunnellon

'Tis the season to live in peace, love

This is a very special time of the year for Christians and non-Christians alike and time for all to take a serious look at our universe and all the creatures that God (Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu) has given to each of us to live in together in a peaceful, loving way regardless of creed or color.

We all need to pray that in the future there will, indeed, be a world to live in and enjoy. Our lives are filled with too many hatreds, biases and lack of love and concern for all creatures put on this Earth by that very special someone called whomever is your belief but yet respecting the beliefs of those who many not call that special someone by your choice. The hatred in our world is truly alarming and seems to have increased in our great country.

Each year we dwell on what we have accomplished, where we've been and how many material things we have amassed. For the sake of all that is holy, let us put those things aside and live in peace and love.

Sincerely,

Patricia C. Hess
Dunnellon

Thanks for restoring the view

Many thanks to the person or persons that is responsible for giving the residents of Rainbow Springs back "their" river view!

It has been reported that the Beach Committee has worked hard at planning Florida friendly plants, but with the fast growing seasons in Florida, maybe less is best.

Being able to have access to the beautiful river was one of the reasons we moved to Rainbow Springs. It is a pleasure to once again enjoy the park and see the water again.

Larry and Carol Lamb
Dunnellon

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.



TIME TO SMILE

Many moons ago

Gather. Go. Get. That is the new catch phrase to renew your license.

It was time to renew mine and I couldn't put it off any longer. I looked over the list of items I needed.

Utility bill, check! I've got plenty of those.

My Social Security card is sitting in my jewelry box.

The deed to my house is in a box in the bathroom.

You notice how well I take care of my legal documents.

They may not be safe, but I know where they are.

For instance, my birth certificate is in a vase with pens and pencils on my desk.

What? It's not like I get flowers.

See, right here, born Feb. 16, 1902.

Huh?

Oh man, it's my grandmother's birth certificate.

Sorry Mal, she would be turning in her grave if she knew I gave out her birth date!

It's been sitting in that vase for the past six years. I was so proud of myself for knowing exactly where my birth certificate was. Now I have to rip the house apart looking for it.

One of these years, I am going to clean out every junk drawer in this house, just not this year. Seven drawers in the desk in my kitchen show no results.

Five drawers in Mal's old secretary desk, nada!

It's a nope on the dining room buffet, and another zip on the two record collection cabinets. I know I have seen the dang thing, but where?

I'll try the boxes under the bed with my tax records. I find nothing but dust there. My last hope is the two nightstands by my bed.

OK, I find a report I wrote in 1976 (eighth grade) - "Signs of the Times."

It is a collection of newspaper stories from Nov. 10 through Dec. 10 with commentary from me. I got an "A" on the project.

Here is a sample: Bridgeport

Post, dateline Nov. 19, 1976, "Chinese Nuclear Cloud May Hit Western U.S."

Trying to calm my teacher, I wrote, "There is no cause for alarm because the cloud was not as dangerous as expected (sic) to be." My teacher missed that spelling error. All the letters "I" are dotted with big round circles. I kept this report all these years because ...because, well I haven't the foggiest idea why I kept it!

This nightstand is a shrine to my school days. I have all my report cards from grammar school through college.

Sixth grade, Sister Helen Mary said: "Kathy can be careless at times." I must have gone down from first grade where Sister Marie Emma said: "Kathleen is an above average student."

In third grade, my favorite teacher Mrs. Pauline Clarke (she was from



Kathleen Wallace

See SMILE page 5

THE JERSEY GIRL

Oh, brothers

I've been blessed with two brothers. Although blessed is not the word I used when we were growing up. I think the words were more like "stuck with" or "cursed."

Lucy and Linus come to mind, or Bart and Lisa Simpson. There was hair pulling, name calling and the teasing all siblings go through.

You look at each other wrong and it starts a big fight. But the love and loyalty were always there, from day one. I am the middle child and the only girl, a tomboy from growing up with brothers. Being just two years apart in age, we hung out and played together every single day. We'd stay outside until the street lights came on and we had to go in. Those were the good 'ol days.



Audrey Beem

We grew up with our own sitcom show. Our "Fat Albert" was named Ralph and he was every bit of 400 pounds. "Old Weird Harold" was named David and he carried

around this long plastic string, which we called his wiggly worm. Yet, this seemed normal to us somehow.

I would have to say my older brother, Dominic, was Alex P. Keaton from "Family Ties" and my younger brother, Robert, would have to be John Boy Walton, both characters I loved. I have no idea what moniker they would pin on me, perhaps Patty Duke or Nancy Drew.

We have so many inside jokes, my brothers and I. Sometimes just one word will make us crack up. Sometimes it's just a look or a sound. I have laughed the loudest and cried the hardest with those two. And I've trusted them with many secrets.

Dominic was the ringleader and our mentor. It was always his decision what we would do that day, whether it was a game of kickball, hide-and-go-seek or pickle. And that meant we would follow his rules, which weren't always fair, but always made him the winner.

Today he's one of the best people I know, fair, generous, friendly, compassionate and honest to a fault. Everybody loves him. He's an awesome father, brother and son. But he still doesn't like to lose and he hates board games.

Robert has always been quiet. My mother says that's because me and Dominic never shut up long enough so he could speak. We hung around together and got along good even as children. Where I am loud, he is quiet. Where I am dark, he is light. And where I'm an optimist, he is the complete opposite. Yet, I love him dearly and value his opinion. He loves animals and children and doesn't have a mean bone in his body. He's a man of few words, but fiercely loyal and you always know where you stand with him. And he's incredibly funny whenever he gets the chance. You just have to wait for him to speak.

I miss my brothers most around the holidays. They're the ones I giggled with on Christmas Eve when our mom kept telling us to go to sleep or Santa wasn't coming. We watched all the Christmas movies together, our favorite being "Miracle on 34th Street."

I have memories of us decorating the tree while we drank hot chocolate and listened to Alvin and The Chipmunks sing about hula hoops. And my dad had a rule: the first one who broke an ornament went to bed. Of course, this was all in fun, but I think I was the first every year.

See JERSEY GIRL page 5



SMILE

continued from page 4

England and I loved her accent) wrote: "Kathleen continues to work well, but she needs more self confidence."

The best is Miss Byrnes, my high school History teacher, who wrote: "Good worker; should concentrate on improving spelling."

Sorry to disappoint Miss Byrnes, but my spelling never improved.

OK, why am I keeping my old report cards? No clue on that either.

I did find a lovely letter. It states: "I know you will do good in everything you try because you have one strong

point: you stand up to anybody. You aren't scared." She goes on to say, "I hope you remember me as much as I remember you ...Love and good luck always, Patty."

Thank you kindly, Patty. I'll remember those words the next time I am panicking. Sorry, I can't remember who you are.

Eureka! My birth certificate was stuck between my autobiography from eighth grade, which is hysterical, and a book of poems I wrote. This look back in time was fun.

I learned two important things: I need a safe deposit box and a very large shredder.



GUEST

continued from page 4

come such as birthdays, anniversaries, holidays and "firsts."

Your friends and family may provide all the help you need. If not, that's okay too. Consider bereavement counseling, support groups, spiritual guidance, self-help books, and journaling. The Internet offers a wealth of resources and locally, Hospice of Marion County provides no-cost bereavement

services. To learn more, call 352-873-7456.

Need help coping with loss? Hospice of Marion County offers a new free publication, "A Loved One Has Died," outlining normal responses to loss and how you can handle them to help your healing process. For a free copy, call 854-5230.

Mery Lossada, M.D., is a board-certified psychiatrist and the medical director for Hospice of Marion County.

JERSEY GIRL

continued from page 4

We have this thing going at Christmas where we try to buy each other the most unusual gift we can find. There have been years when wheelbarrows, picnic baskets and a lawn statue of St. Francis have been unwrapped. This year, Dominic in Iowa will miss all the fun, but we'll make up for it when we see him.

So I'd like to tell my brothers I miss them. But near or far, they're always in my heart.

I wouldn't trade them for all the Christmas presents in the world.

Items for homeless program needed

The Annie W. Johnson Senior and Family Center is in need of items for its Project Homeless program, which is designed to help the homeless with food, tents and coolers. All three items are needed at this time. If you are able to assist us in this matter, contact the Annie W. Johnson Center at 489-8021.

Garden Club to meet for Christmas luncheon

The Dunnellon Garden Club will celebrate its annual Christmas luncheon at the Ivy House at 11 a.m. today in Williston in lieu of its regular meeting at the

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Dunnellon Women's Club. Any member wishing to attend should call Bobbi Shaw at 489-8554 to be placed on the list of attendees.

Regular meetings will resume at noon Jan. 19 at the Dunnellon Women's Club, 11756 Cedar St. Jewell Pontius will be the guest speaker and will talk about "Lasagna Gardening." Refreshments will be served, guests are always welcome.

The Dunnellon Garden Club will sponsor its annual Fashion Show at 11 a.m. Feb. 25 at the First United Methodist Church, 21501 W. State Road 40, in Friendship Hall. Members will receive their tickets at the Christmas luncheon.

They will go on sale to the general public afterward.

Greater Masonic High Twelve Club to meet

The Greater Ocala Masonic High Twelve Club No. 665 will meet at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 16, at the Elks Club at 702 N.E. 25th Ave., Ocala. Please plan to attend for this will be the installation of officers for 2012. Following the installation, there will be a buffet lunch. The cost is \$12 per person. All Master Masons and guests are invited to attend. Reservations are required and can be obtained by calling Bob Brady at (352) 854-9612. For more information, call Bob Brady.

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Riverland gardener

Herbs can spice up a garden, flower bed or freezer

Seeing the prices of fresh herbs in the stores has encouraged me to grow more, and freeze fresh in blocks.

Here in Florida many herbs can be grown year round, and easily be grown in containers. The plants add smell to the garden, and many have wonderful flowers.

Perennial herbs require nothing more than good haircuts as the herb is used, water, and occasional feeding. Soils are the same for vegetables, and herbs will grow happily in the vegetable or flowerbed.

One can dry the herbs for use. Tender leaf herbs such as basil, tarragon, lemon balm, and garden mints must be dried rapidly, away from light to keep the green color.

Tying into bundles and hanging upside down in a warm dry place out of direct sun will work.

Sage, rosemary, and thyme can be sundried briefly, avoiding excessive exposure to keep the color. Bundling and hanging upside down is the same way to dry various flowers that can be used for year round decoration.

Acanthus, Eryngium and Echinops dry very well like this, and one friend has just tried roses.

Once the herbs are dry, pack in glass, metal or cardboard containers that can be closed tightly to preserve the flavor and aroma.

Another method of preserving used by a British chef I watch is to use an ice cube tray. Pack the fresh herb in the empty square. Back fill with water and freeze, as one would ice cubes. Then break the blocks from the tray, bag and label.

When you defrost the cube, there is the herb ready to use. Spreading the herbs loosely onto a baking tray and freezing works, if you have room. Again, when frozen, decant into bags for use as required. One thing is to be sure not to refreeze herbs once defrosted, so make sure you only take out what you need.

Microwave drying is another way, but as yet not one I have ever tried. Lay a single layer of clean, dry herb material on a kitchen paper towel. Place in the microwave for 1 to 2 minutes on high depending on the leaf moisture content. An-

other style I learned from a lady is to use a home food dehydrator if you have one.

Collecting seeds for replanting can be done using brown paper bags. Cut the sprigs and place in a bag. Cut a few tiny holes in the bag for air circulation and hang in an airy, dark spot with good air circulation.

When dry, collect the seeds and store in dry airtight containers. This means that one has a ready supply of new seed for planting. If you have a green thumb, cuttings are another way to keep young stock growing.

One plant that I have adopted is the Banana. Thought of as a tree by many, it is according to a great friend, an herb. The plants are good architectural plants for the garden, have different leaf colors, and range in heights from 3 inches to a massive 50 inches. A forum is available at bananas.org that allows questions, and facts to be found about this versatile plant. A member of the ginger family one can create a wonderful display when planted in an area together.

E-mail questions to Tracy Jenner, the Riverland Gardener, at tracyjenner@aol.com.



Tracy Jenner

Check presentation



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Andy Hanson, left, account executive with the Florida League of Cities, presents a check to Mayor Fred Ward for \$4,706. The money was a refund from the city's insurance premium.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Friends of the Library to host Christmas sale

The Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library will host a Christmas Gift Book Sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 19, to Wednesday, Dec. 21, at The Friends Book Store inside the library at 20351 Robinson Road, Dunnellon.

All hard cover books, all categories are 50 cents each. All paperbacks large and small are 50 cents each or three for \$1. A bag of books (staff selections) are \$3 each. All proceeds benefit your Dunnellon Public Library.

For more information, call (352) 438-2520.

American Legion activities slated

American Legion Wall-Rives Post 58 will host its regular meeting of the Post and Auxiliary at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday monthly. Dinner will be served at 5:30 for members, spouses and prospective members.

Dunnellon Young Marines meet at 6 p.m. Tuesdays.

Bingo will be at 6 p.m. Thursdays. Doors open at 4. Smoking is not allowed. Refreshments are available.

The Third Saturday Outdoor Flea Market and Pancake Breakfast will be from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Dec.

17. The public is welcome.

The Legion will offer a free Christmas dinner for the public from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 25.

Penno VFW Post plans events

Edward W. Penno VFW Post 4864, 10199 Citrus Springs Blvd., Citrus Springs, announce the following events.

Join us for Darts at 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Bingo at 1 p.m. Mondays. \$1 Hot Dogs are available for lunch on those days.

Please plan to join us for dinner from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Fridays. Tickets are \$8 each.

The canteen is open Sunday thru Saturday at noon; and closes at 8 p.m. or later Monday through Saturday except for meeting nights, and 6 p.m. Sundays.

The post is sponsoring an "Angel Tree" for the benefit of under privileged children who may not experience the magic of Christmas. Stop by the post and pick an Angel from the Angel Tree and purchase a gift for that child.

For more information, call (352) 465-4864.

Woman's Club to host cookie exchange

The Woman's Club of Dunnellon will have its Christmas Cookie Ex-

change at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16. Each lady brings six dozen cookies, wrapped in individual packets of one-dozen. For more information, call Joan Cothorn at 465-0782.

Ornament sale benefits Hospice of Marion County

Hospice of Marion County will sell Memory Tree Ornaments now through Dec. 21 at its Hospice kiosk in the Paddock Mall or at the Hospice of Marion County Administration Building at 3231 S.W. 34th Ave., Ocala. For more information call the Hospice Development Department at 854-5218.

The 2011 ornament portrays a golden butterfly emerging from a delicate floral backdrop of shimmering white porcelain, set with 22K gold accents and blue highlights is \$20 each. The butterfly is the logo for Hospice of Marion County. This ornament comes packaged in a midnight blue satin-lined gift box.

Post Polio Support group to meet

The North Central Florida Post Polio Support Christmas Luncheon and program "North Central 21st Salute" will be at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at the Collins Health Resource Center, 9401 S.W. State Road 200, Building 300, Suite 303, Ocala. Capt. Robert M. Kellogg, Medical Service Corp of the U.S. Navy, and Andrea L. Behrman, PhD, PT, Associate, Professor, University of Florida Department of Physical Therapy, will be the speakers.

The cost is \$7.50 per person. RSVP to Carolyn Raville at 489-1731 by Dec. 12.

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<p>Seagram's 7</p> <p>\$19.99 1.75 L</p>	<p>SKYY Vodka</p> <p>\$21.99 1.75 L</p>	<p>Blue Moon</p> <p>\$9.99 12 Pk.</p>

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Photo by Sydney Cohen

Candice Souter, 7, and Camden Nelson, 11 with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Rainbow Springs State Park Santa Over the Rainbow event Friday, Dec. 9. More photos on page 12.

Getting in the Christmas spirit!

SYDNEY COHEN

For the Riverland News

The best way to spread Christmas cheer is by singing Christmas carols.

On Friday, Dec. 9, as kids of all ages and adults waited to see Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive at the Rainbow Springs State Park Santa Over the Rainbow event, they all sang Christmas carols like "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" and "Deck the Halls."

As Santa arrived on his pontoon boat, all the

youngsters' faces, even some of the adult's faces, lit up with joy. Listening to everyone sing Christmas Carols, looking at such astonishing lights, and hearing children yell "Santa, its Santa," you knew the event was a success.

There was lots of entertainment, shopping, food, a light extravaganza and photo opportunities with Santa. Photo opportunities with Santa and Mrs. Claus took place at the Santa House.

When Kota and Sky

Davison Kaleshefski took their place on Santa and Mrs. Clause's lap, they both told Santa what they want for Christmas with big smiles on their face.

"I want a Nintendo DSi, a phone, and a car," Kota Kaleshefski, 8, said.

Added 6-year-old Sky Kaleshefski: "I want a phone, a computer, iPad, Nintendo DS, a motor scooter and a reindeer."

As Collin Bellomy and William Richardson sat in Santa's lap, they both giggled as Santa and Mrs. Clause talked to

both of them.

When asked what William, 6, wanted for Christmas, he replied: "A motor boat." When asked if he'd been good this year, he looked up to his dad, waiting for him to respond with a yes.

When asked what Jaden Torres, 5, wanted for Christmas, he said with a big smile on his face: "I want a motorcycle and a toy car."

His sister Alexia, 3, said: "I want a Dora, and

to give grandma some love."

Candice Souter, 7, said: "I want some baby dolls, a doll house and a TV." Brother Camden Nelson, 11, said: "I want a 3DS, some CDs, game cube games and a new controller."

As Danielle Olsen, 17, walked into Santa's house to take her picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus she told them, "For Christmas I want baby clothes, a new baby

boy, a swing and a play pen for her baby dolls, a video camera, a pink slap-on watch, the Barbie that loves Woody from 'Toy Story,' a 'Toy Story' umbrella and shirt."

When Santa asked 6-year-old Justin Alonso what he wanted for Christmas he got a rather different answer. The youngster replied: "For Christmas, I would like a surprise."

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Fagan pursuing degree

Coach attending CF to finish education; coaching too

AMANDA BARNEY
For the Riverland News

Some accomplish things in life that others cannot strive to achieve. Even though they achieve the greatest, they still do not achieve everything. Kevin Fagan, a former de-

fensive end, who played seven seasons for the San Francisco 49ers, and was a star at the University of Miami, has not accomplished everything yet.

How could that be possible for a man who's won a NCAA National Championship while playing for

the Hurricanes as well as two Super Bowl Championships with the 49ers?

Throw in the pair of back-to-back Class 4A State Championships he won while coaching the Lady Tigers as well as the 2010 ESPN Rise National Championship, it would seem the

father of six has it all.

But now that his two oldest daughters, Kasey and Sami, are at the University of Florida, Fagan decided to slow things down and serve as an assistant coach with the varsity football program at Dunnellon High School this past season.

Missing his girls on the

See **FAGAN** page 9



Kevin Fagan attending classes at CF; coaching, too.

BOWLING SCORES

Parkview Lanes Weekly News
League scores for the week ending Dec. 11:

Holiday Closings: Parkview Lanes will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and also New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

Holder Hotshots League meeting: The league meeting of the Holder Hotshots will be at 7 p.m. Dec. 15. The league bowls for 12 weeks, and the teams are four-persons, all men, all women or mixed. Call Peggy Nevels, secretary, at 465-0757 to pre-register, either as a team or individually.

Congratulations: David Black rolled a 299 in the first game of the Wednesday Night Men's league Dec. 7. He followed with games of 204 and 220 for a 723 series.

Monday Night Special: Handicap: Todd Cridland 273, 768; Marc Grasso 271; John Schott 739; Lori Ciquera 289, 706; Dee Smith 273; Bridget Foley 718. Scratch: Todd Cridland 268, 753; Wes Foley 259, 687; Lori Ciquera 267, 640; Dorine Fugere 238, 623.

Preserve Pinbusters: Handicap: Chuck Keaton 252, 640; Desi Sidote 234, 632; Lucy Smallwood 252; Lorraine Pelkie 234, 651; Patricia Metcalfe 621. Scratch: Chuck Keaton 217, 535; Larry Kirk 207, 562; Lucy Smallwood 192, 438; Lorraine Pelkie 165, 444; Jan Miller 444.

Suncoast Seniors: Handicap: Frank Reesby 236; Jim Sherper 235, 625; Jack Connell 633; Joyce Cusimano 246, 627; Barb Steffen 224; Terry Stinson 622. Scratch: Jerry Ness 214, 592; Frank Reesby 214, 548; Murphy Combs 201; Barb Steffen 175, 455; Joyce Cusimano 164; Wanda Klik 442.

Ladies Classic: Handicap: Melissa Simmons 276, 730; Judy Hindbaugh 256; Susann Brosius 722. Scratch: Melissa Simmons 224, 574; Judy Hindbaugh 184; Myla Wexler 479.

Late Starters: Handicap: Ben Wall 250, 665; Rich Vehrs 240, 642; Ruth Ann Radford 235, 659; Linda Vehrs 231, 639. Scratch: Bob Biggs 211; Rich Soletto 209, 562; John Marcucci 542; Fran Barlow 198, 549; Linda Vehrs 189, 513.

Wednesday Night Men: Handicap: David Black 324; Gary Brown 313; Les Burdick 817; John Ethridge 799. Scratch: David Black 299, 723; John Ethridge 272; Mark Smith 730; Charlie Stein 723.

Parkview Lanes Women's Trio: Handicap: Denise Hogan 249; Liz Huxley 243; Virginia Vineyard 670; Terri Moorbeck 667. Scratch: Liz Huxley 213, 549; Mary Briscoe 193; Fran Barlow 506.

Good Time Bowlers: Handicap: Rocky Sincore 253; Ray Johnson 243, 639; Mike Hughes 638; Janet Murray 243, 661; Sharon Hughes 233, 637. Scratch: Rocky Sincore 212; Dave Messenger 203, 513; Bill Montross 480; Janet Murray 201, 535; Barb McNally 172, 432.

Holder Hotshots: Handicap: Larry Clark 266, 774; Larry O'vitt 264; Mike Calcagni 702; Kathy Calcagni 269, 700; Tammy Woodburn 250; Kelly Beckett 680. Scratch: Lyle Ternes 205; Larry Clark 193, 555; Chuck Hindbaugh 193, 555; John Gilbert 549; Kathy Calcagni 200, 493; Tammy Woodburn 158; Judy Hindbaugh 430.

Parkview Owls: Handicap: K.E. Conrad 326, 874; Ken Brown 282, 819; Bridget Foley 294, 770; Joan Cothorn 289, 782. Scratch: K.E. Conrad 267, 697; John Saltmarsh 245; Wes Foley 631; Joan Cothorn 202, 521; Maggie Savarese 196, 516.

Bowlers of the Week: Bridget Foley, 88 pins over her average, and K.E. Conrad, 154 pins over his average.

League scores for the week ending Dec. 4:

Monday Night Special: Handicap: Branden Brown 283, 752; Marc Grasso 272; Robert Smith 715; Terry Brown 294; Marian Steenstra 283; Melissa Burgoyne 747; Bridget Foley 745. Scratch: Todd Cridland 261; Marc Grasso 259; Matt O'Brien 653; Larry Fritz 648; Terry Brown 258, 622; Dorine Fugere 223, 614; Marian Steenstra 223; Lori Ciquera 223.

Preserve Pinbusters: Handicap: Jim Abbey 270, 666; Lou Metcalfe 239; Ray Olsen 621; Jan Miller 238, 645; Sally Shepard 233; Cindy Cotter 646. Scratch: Jim Abbey 220; Lou Metcalfe 212; Bob Swarm 555; Larry Kirk 520; Jan Miller 185, 486; Elaine Shea 165, 469.

Suncoast Seniors: Handicap: George Simonson 242, 635; Ben Wall 240; Marty Suehrowicz 617; Wanda Klik 249, 647; Marylou Halovich 223, 656. Scratch: Bob Mannella 211; George Simonson 203; Murphy Combs 527; Marty Suehrowicz 524; Wanda Klik 190, 470; Marylou Halovich 165, 482; Barb Steffen 165.

Ladies Classic: Handicap: Myla Wexler 289, 707; Susann Brosius 241; Janice Fritz 686. Scratch: Myla Wexler 234, 542; Judy Hindbaugh 164, 462.

Late Starters: Handicap: Victor Maldonado 261; Skip George 249; Ben Wall 661; Ken Brown 660; Vicki Soletto 235, 667; Marion Cahill 235; Debbe Chung 228; Helen Herr 643. Scratch: Skip George 237; Frank Reesby 212, 571; Victor Maldonado 212; Ted Rafanan 583; Fran Barlow 188, 537; Vicki Soletto 183, 511.

Wednesday Night Men: Handicap: K.E. Conrad 289; Ives Chavez 287, 802; Sean Fugere 813. Scratch: Tim Lawrence 278, 740; Sean Fugere 268, 768.

Parkview Lanes Women's Trio: Handicap: Monia Rosado 238; Denise Hogan 237, 685; Barbara McGlade 645. Scratch: Liz Huxley 189; Fran Barlow 184; Leslie Young 480; Maggie Savarese 472.

Good Time Bowlers: Handicap: Dave Messenger 237, 646; John Bahrs 227, 641; Mary Ellen Craver 234; Mary Krueger 225, 618; Mary Jo Johnson 600. Scratch: Dave Messenger 203, 544; John Bahrs 176, 488; Barb McNally 156, 414; Mary Krueger 154; Janet Murray 428.

Holder Hotshots: Handicap: Nick Waters 290, 735; Bobby Goodman 289, 751; June Williams 280; Kelly Beckett 253; Phyllis Ternes 709; Tina Goodman 684. Scratch: Chuck Hindbaugh 205, 562; Jim Van Gilder 201, 530; Bobby Goodman 201; Judy Hindbaugh 184, 485; June Williams 182; Kathy Calcagni 450.

Parkview Owls: Handicap: Ives Chavez 315, 844; Ted Rafanan 305; Marvin Brigner 770; Myla Wexler 295, 776; Debbie Mills 263; Sue Chavez 756. Scratch: Ives Chavez 260, 679; Ted Rafanan 260; Marvin Brigner 258; John Saltmarsh 700; Myla Wexler 225, 566; Lisa Morgan 212, 506.

Bowlers of the Week: Bridget Foley, 118 pins over her average, and Ives Chavez, 130 pins over his average.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Tigers' soccer drops three games

On Tuesday, Dec. 6, the Dunnellon High School boys soccer team played Lake Weir at home, losing 6-1. Brent Proto scored the goal.

On Wednesday, Dec. 7, the Tigers traveled to West Port, falling 8-3. Matthew Deming scored twice and Brent Proto scored once. Marqus Ortega and Matthew Landsbach each had one assist.

On Thursday, Dec. 8, Dunnellon lost 9-0 to Gainesville Eastside. Tyler Colston, the Tigers' goalkeeper, left the game after tearing his MCL in the first half of the game.

Pro-Am tourney to benefit Hospice

The 19th annual Hospice of Marion County Inc. Pro-Am Tournament will be Friday, Dec. 16, at Golden Hills Country Club, just off U.S. 27, 4.3 miles west of Interstate 75.

All teams consist of four amateurs and one golf professional. The cost is \$150 per amateur and \$100 per pro, which includes a buffet breakfast, greens fees, cart and awards dinner.

Proceeds from this tournament help to provide care and support to patients and families of Hospice of Marion County. For more information and registration, call the Pro Shop at 352-629-7980.

'Race for the Kids' set for Children's Home

The Covenant Children's Home of Dunnellon will host a 5K Run/1-Mile Walk/Kids Fun Run Saturday, Feb. 11, at Spruce Creek Preserve Community on State Road 200. The race will start at 8 a.m. for runners and 8:30 for walkers. The event will be held rain or shine.

Covenant Children's Home is located on a 20-acre site in Citrus County, approximately 1-mile south of Dunnellon. Currently, there is one home capable of housing eight resident children and the house parent family. There is also a private school for the children at the home.

The entry fee is \$20 for those who pre-register and \$25 the day of race. All pre-registered runners and walkers are guaranteed a T-shirt and gift bag. Awards will be presented to the top finishers in each age group. All participants in the Kids Fun Run will receive a participation medallion.

Register at www.chfl.org or www.dresports.com.

Football players, cheerleaders recognized at banquet



Ladarius Thomas and other members of the Dunnellon High football team load up on food at the event. Thomas earned the distinction of the best-dressed player by head coach Frank Beasley.

Photos by JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News



ABOVE: Dunnellon High cheerleader Nicki Paden shows off her lip-synching abilities at the banquet. LEFT: Andrew Jackson, left, and Keiwan Jones cheer for a teammate after they were recognized at the banquet. For more pictures from the banquet and the team's award winners, see the Dec. 29 edition of the Riverland News.



Taylor Spoto, left, Allina Storch and Nikole Hicks shared a few laughs at the Dunnellon High School Football Banquet recently, in which football players and cheerleaders were recognized for their efforts this past season.

DUNNELLON HIGH ATHLETES OF THE WEEK • PRESENTED BY RIVERLAND NEWS NIE PROGRAM

Matt Deming, Boys Soccer

Deming scored two goals against Westport. "Matt is a versatile player," Dunnellon coach Karen Noffsinger said. "He plays at goalie or forward as the team needs. He is a great leader."



Matt Deming

Riverland News says



Ace Hardware for your monetary donation to the Newspapers in Education Program.



Stephanie Angelo, Girls Soccer

"Stephanie really stepped up for us when we needed her to fill an empty goal," Dunnellon coach Becca Burton said. "Even though it's not her preferred position, she knows it is what's best for the team as a whole. For the season over all, she's always out there giving 110 percent."



Stephanie Angelo

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Central Florida Master Choir slates concerts

The Central Florida Master Choir will present its seasonal concert, "Carols from Around the World," at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, at Dunnellon Presbyterian Church, 20641 Chestnut St., Dunnellon.

For more information, visit www.cfmasterchoir.com.

Peripheral Neuropathy group meets

The Ocala Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, at the Marion County Sheriff's Brian Litz Building, 9048 S.W. State Road 200. Individuals afflicted with this disease, their family members and friends are encouraged to attend. Anyone interested in learning about peripheral neuropathy is invited to attend. For more information, call Jack Koehler at (352) 861-1630.

Community Thrift Shop in need of volunteers

The Dunnellon Community Thrift Shop is looking for a few volunteers to assist us a half a day a week or just occasionally in the thrift shop at 20815 W. Pennsylvania Avenue.

"Snowbirds" are also welcome for the months you're here.

For more information, call Ellie Rex, volunteer coordinator, at 489-9127 or visit dunnellonthriftshop.org.

Annie Johnson in need of volunteers

The Annie Johnson Thrift Store is in need of

volunteers Monday through Saturday. For more information, call 465-7957.

State park in need of volunteers

Rainbow Springs State Park is currently seeking volunteers interested in a high-paced volunteer position that will assist Visitors and the Park. If you think you would like to start training to become a Volunteer Toll Booth Attendant, or other various positions, contact Nicky Aiken at Nicky.Aiken@dep.state.fl.us or call 465-8539. This job requires volunteers to work on a schedule that can be flexible, take toll collections, run a register, assist with phone calls and reservations, listen and respond to radio communications, answer basic Visitor questions, and have a positive attitude. Toll Booth Attendant Volunteers are asked to volunteer a minimum of four hours and must be in uniform. The Toll Booth is open from 8 a.m. to sunset daily.

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. Volunteers will need to fill out a Volunteer Applications. If interested contact Joe at 522-0396 and make sure to leave your name and number.

Community Thrift Shop presents check



Special to the Riverland News
The Dunnellon Community Thrift Shop presented Betty Nagele, education director for the Dunnellon Boys & Girls Club, with a \$3,500 check Dec. 10. The funds are to assist the center in many ways, such as fuel to transport children from school to the center, art and playground supplies and equipment, scholarships for disadvantaged children and supplemental staff salaries, to name a few. The Community Thrift Shop women believe one way to affect our community in a positive way is to provide assistance to our children and their families. Seated, from left, are: Betty Nagele, Boys & Girls Club educational director, and Sue Plummer, Thrift Shop volunteer; standing, Beverly Carroll, Thrift Shop volunteer, and Joann McCullough, Thrift Shop president.

FAGAN

continued from page 8

softball diamond, Fagan wanted to get back on the field.

Fagan decided to finish up one thing he has wanted to accomplish for years – earn his college degree – while he returns to one thing he loves doing, coaching softball.

Central Florida offered him the chance to do both.

Fagan enrolled at CF to finish pursuing his degree in the Criminal Justice Field, but while he had never thought about coaching there, a chance to do so opened and Fagan jumped as if he had gotten the better of an offensive lineman.

"I didn't really mean to start coaching over there," he explained. "I switched gears to football to spend some time with Cole (his oldest son). When I decided to finish my degree, they asked if I'd help coach if they paid for my schooling. I agreed."

The Lady Patriots' softball team recently finished their fall season and will begin preparing for the regular season in January.

Karri Rycekamp, the head coach at CF, will have Fagan work with pitchers and catchers.

"It's exciting that my dad was given the oppor-

tunity to coach college softball." Sami, a freshman at Florida this year, said. "He deserves to be able to use his abilities at a higher level, and the CF team is lucky to have him as their coach."

Two of Fagan's high school players, Caylee Underwood and Gillian Morrow, both of whom were on the national title team, currently play for Central Florida.

"These girls are pretty good athletes, I expect the usual good attitude and effort from them," Fagan said of Underwood and Morrow. "The best thing about coaching is interacting with the players and seeing them grow, not only as athletes, but as people."

Last week, the CF girls set goals for the team for the upcoming season. The Lady Patriots' main goal, however, is to have 30 wins this season and to get into the conference tournament at the end of the season.

The next two years, he will finish his degree in between juggling football and softball practices.

"I am proud that my dad is finishing up his degree," Cole, a freshman at Dunnellon High, said. "I know he is a good coach in practically everything. He'll succeed like he always does and accomplish almost everything that somebody can."

CORRECTION

Due to an editor's error, a story titled "Three stabbed in bar room fight" in the Dec. 1 edition contained incorrect information. Walter Bieber, 46, was charged with simple battery. Also, the three victims stabbed in the altercation opted not to press charges against Robert Sepik, the other man charged in the altercation.

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Christmas sounds



Dunnellon Elementary School kindergartners raise their hands after wrapping up one of the songs they performed during the K-3 through second-grade Christmas program recently at the school. Third- through fifth-graders did a separate performance the following night. Photos by Jeff Bryan, Riverland News



Savannah Smith, left, Chelsea Edmonds, middle, and Brianna Olivera, right, belt out Christmas songs.



Taylor Hickey listens for the sounds of an arriving Santa Claus.



Second-grader Kamau Simon moves to the beat during the K-3 through second-grade Christmas concert.



Aubrey Tagliamonte performs a solo on the clarinet during the school's first of two Christmas programs.



Kindergartner John DeRose wears a set of antlers during his class's performance.

DMS teacher receives grant from Realtors



Special to the Riverland

Ocala/Marion County Realtors Association has a soft spot for teachers in our community and provides annual grants for classroom equipment. Scott Kiefer, center, of Kiefer Realty presented a \$300 grant to Dunnellon Middle School reading teacher Beverly Matos, right, on a recent morning broadcast. Ms. Matos will use the funds toward the purchase of a classroom projector. The segment was hosted by DMS Principal Jane Ashman, left.

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

DMS students prep for break

Dunnellon Middle School students will enjoy an early-release day Friday, Dec. 16. Students will be released at 1:40 p.m. as they begin their Christmas break.

The DMS Band will march in the Dunnellon Christmas Parade at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17. We would like to thank our band director, Mr. Noell, our DMS band members and DMS band parents for their dedication and time toward providing our community with joyous holiday music. Thank you, all.

We would like to brag about our DMS FFA students and their outstanding performance Tuesday, Dec. 6, at the Sub-District Contest. DMS FFA placed: First in Parliamentary Procedure.

First in Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

Third in Extemporaneous Speaking.

Fourth in Public Speaking.

Congratulations to the following DMS FFA students for this absolutely fantastic performance:

Hannah Chung, Connor Denmark, Bryce Follett, Sierra Helton, Sara Janosik, Clayton Owens, Krista Palazzo, Alexis Robinson, Will Sweat and Taylor Turner. We would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Mrs. Hayward, who guides our young FFA members to such high achievements.

Dunnellon Middle School and the entire Marion County School District will begin Winter Break on Monday, Dec. 19. Students and staff will return to school Tuesday, Jan. 3. We will be following our normally scheduled hours.

During the holidays, it's the perfect time to recruit

your child to help with holiday preparations and festivities. Seemingly normal tasks can be great learning experiences. You will be supporting the important skills of math, reading, analyzing and organization. The best part of this process is your child will be with you and remember this "Be There" moment.

Another idea to reinforce learning during the Winter Break is to check out the Sunshine State Young Reader's Award Program website for titles geared especially toward the middle school aged student. The website is myssyra.org/about.html. The local library and bookstores also offer reading materials that your middle school student may enjoy.

The Dunnellon Middle School Administration and Staff wish our students, parents and community a very happy, healthy holiday season with best wishes for a Happy New Year! See you again Tuesday, Jan. 3.



Jane Ashman
DMS Principal

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Romeo students win 'Mom' essay contest

Romeo Elementary School students wrote about their Mom's last week during an essay contest sponsored by the Business Network Internet. This group of businessmen provided a hair stylist, nail tech, make-up tech and a person trained to give a massage to the Mom's of four winning students.

One student in grades two through five was selected. The winners were: Natalie Carter, second grade; Sierra Downes, third grade; Xavier Long, fourth grade; and Jon Mims, fifth grade. Congratulations to these great Romeo Writers!

A chauffeur picked these Mom's up at Romeo at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, to go to Ocala and rotate through the four stations and be "pampered."

Scholars' Institute scholarship deadline

Florida Campus Compact is calling outstanding student leaders from all over the state of Florida to apply for our 2012 Student Scholars' Institute. Deadline to apply is Jan. 6.

Every spring, Florida Campus Compact hosts an exciting student institute filled with interactive dialogue with policy makers, elected officials, dignitaries, and students from all over Florida. This is a unique opportunity for students to build new relationships and expand networks with other participants, while developing a civic voice and reflecting on planned activities. Students will return to their communities with a renewed sense of

purpose as an active citizen in our democracy. This year's event will be Sunday through Tuesday, Feb. 26 to 28, at the Staybridge Suites at 1600 Summit Lake Drive in Tallahassee.

In order to help cover the cost of some meals, the registration fee will be \$75. All accepted applicants who live more than 50 miles from Tallahassee will be eligible for a lodging scholarship, which includes one room for two people for two nights, Feb. 26 and 27.

For additional information or to apply now, please visit ssi.floridacomcompact.org

Students can apply for scholarship

Florida Campus Compact Excellence in Service Award is seeking Florida's most dedicated student service scholars to apply for our 2011 Excellence in Service Award. This award provides recognition for the outstanding efforts and contributions of students to their communities, especially during the year 2011. Submissions must be postmarked no later than Jan. 9.

Each award recipient will receive free registration to the 2012 Student Scholars' Institute and visible statewide recognition for their efforts.

For more information about the 2011 Excellence in Service Award and to apply, visit: www.survey-monkey.com/s/LGYFN5N.

Stormwater education grants available

Public and private educators wishing to teach their students about stormwater quality topics may benefit from a Mar-

ion County Office of the County Engineer grant program.

Through March 30, 2012, educators serving students in unincorporated Marion County may apply for a grant under the 2011-12 Stormwater Education Grants Program. Awardees may receive up to \$750 to use for stormwater/water resource projects and up to \$1,000 to purchase equipment related to these projects. Interested applicants may visit www.marioncountyfl.org/stormwater.htm to download grant application instructions and forms.

The Office of the County Engineer launched the Stormwater Education Grants Program in 2010 to help students who live in unincorporated Marion County learn about stormwater pollution prevention, karst topography and what water quality means to the Floridan aquifer and other water bodies.

For more information about the grants program, call Gail Mowry at 352-671-8686.

Church collecting box tops for education

The Altar and Rosary Society of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church is continuing to support Box Tops for Education and Campbell Soup UPC labels for one local school. Containers for these labels can be found at Winn Dixie (ask for box at cigarette counter), Ace Hardware, To Your Health Spa and in the Narthex of St. John's Catholic Church.

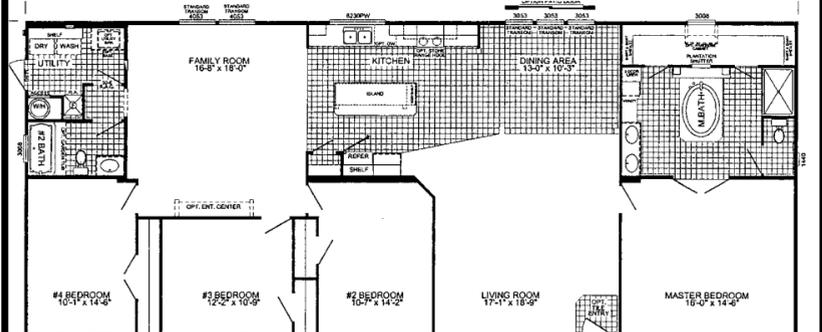
For more information about this program, call 489-5954.



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Seasonal sights



Photos by Julie Mancini, For the Riverland News
Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive at the state park upon their well-lit pontoon boat. The annual event, hosted by the Friends of the Rainbow Springs State Park, continues Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Gates open at 6 p.m. and the event wraps up about 8:30. Admission is \$1 for those 5 and older.



Park ranger Peter Hulse watches the hustle and bustle of the opening night of Santa Over the Rainbow activities.



The visitor center at Rainbow Springs State Park is adorned with lights.



Music group Sue Ann Reichelt, Herb Reichelt, Greg Thomas, Tom Lorich.



Visitors to the park gather around the Gingerbread House for story-time.



Kota Davison Kaleshefski, 8, and Sky Davison Kaleshefski, 6, with Santa and Mrs. Claus.



Collin Bellomy, 6, and William Richardson, 1, with the Clauses.



Jaden Torres, 5, and Alexia Torres, 3, with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Holiday Glazed Ham

Serves 10 to 12

- 1/3 cup reduced fat raspberry vinaigrette salad dressing
- 1 cup firmly packed dark brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons Better Than Bouillon Vegetable Base
- 2 teaspoons Better Than Bouillon Chili Base
- 1 7 to 10-pound thawed, smoked, bone-in, spiral sliced, fully cooked ham
- 1/2 cup water

Preheat oven to 350°F.

In large saucepan over medium-low heat, whisk to combine vinaigrette, brown sugar, vegetable and chili bases. Whisk continuously until glaze begins to boil. Remove from heat; reheat glaze if needed.

Coat large rack and roasting pan with cooking spray. Place ham on prepared rack in roasting pan, add water to pan bottom. Generously brush ham with glaze. Lightly cover ham with foil if ham starts to over brown. Bake until done, about 2 hours.

Use remaining glaze to baste ham every 30 minutes; discard left over glaze.

An additional glaze recipe may be prepared and served warm tableside, to accompany sliced ham.

Sautéed Green Beans

Serves 6 to 8

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons Better Than Bouillon Chili Base
- 2 large garlic cloves, peeled and minced
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 1/2 pounds frozen whole green beans
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt (optional)
- Parmesan cheese, for garnish

Heat oil in a large skillet, heat over medium-high heat. Add chili base, garlic and salt; cook and stir for about 1 minute.

Reduce heat to medium, add butter and stir until melted. Add green beans, stir to coat and sauté until crisp-tender.

Before serving, garnish with freshly shaved Parmesan cheese.



A HOME-COOKED *Holiday Feast*

One simple
trick can
add a lot of
great flavor

FAMILY FEATURES

There's something to be said about gathering friends and family around the table for a traditional holiday dinner. Familiar faces, good conversation, favorite foods — it's a classic recipe for a good time.

What if you could take some of those favorite recipes and make them even better? These recipes use a simple ingredient to enhance the holiday flavors your family loves. Each one uses a touch of Better Than Bouillon food base, adding richer, more natural flavor than bouillon cubes, which are salt-heavy. Each flavor is made from real meat, seafood or vegetables and can be used in a variety of delicious ways:

- To make richer soups, sauces and gravies.
- As savory additions to pasta, potato or vegetable side dishes.
- In flavorful party dips for veggies, chips or bread.

It's easy to make an impressive holiday feast with these delicious recipes. For even more recipes, visit www.superiortouch.com.

**Delicious Twice-Baked Potatoes**

Serves 6 to 8

- 6 medium russet potatoes (about 2 pounds)
- 2 teaspoons vegetable oil (for potato skins)
- 2 teaspoons Better Than Bouillon Ham Base
- 1/4 cup (4 tablespoons) butter cut into pieces, set aside
- 1 1/2 cups shredded Colby-Jack cheese
- 1 green onion rinsed and thinly sliced, set aside
- 1/4 cup whole milk
- 1 tablespoon dried parsley
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/3 cup pre-grated Parmesan cheese

Spray 13 x 9 x 2-inch baking dish with cooking spray, set aside. Scrub and pat dry potatoes; prick potatoes with fork 2 to 3 times per side. Lightly oil skins with vegetable oil; place potatoes on a microwave safe dish. Microwave according to microwave directions.

Remove hot potatoes from microwave when done, set aside for 5 minutes to cool.

Cut potatoes in half lengthwise with a serrated knife. Fold a sheet of paper towel to hold hot potato half, use a spoon to scoop out potato flesh into a large mixing bowl, leaving about a 1/4-inch-thick shell. Place skins in prepared dish, set aside.

Add ham base and butter to mixing bowl with potatoes; beat with electric mixer on medium for about 1 minute. Add cheese, onion, milk, parsley, garlic powder and pepper; beat just until blended. Be careful not to over-beat potatoes.

Evenly spoon potato mixture into skins; shake pre-grated Parmesan cheese over tops.

Warm potatoes in microwave or place in a 350°F oven and heat through. To brown tops, place warmed potatoes under broiler for 2 to 3 minutes.

Twice baked potatoes can be made a day ahead. Stuff the potatoes, then cover and refrigerate them; then, on serving day, warm as instructed above.

Cream of Mushroom Soup

Serves 6

- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 16-ounce package button mushrooms, rinsed, stems trimmed and sliced
- 1/2 cup chopped yellow onion (1 small onion)
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon dried tarragon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon white pepper
- 2 teaspoons Better Than Bouillon Organic Mushroom Base
- 1 tablespoon Better Than Bouillon Organic Chicken Base
- 4 cups water
- 2 cups heavy cream
- Salt and pepper to taste

In soup pot, melt butter over medium-high heat.

Add mushrooms and onion; cook and stir until liquid evaporates, about 15 to 20 minutes.

Add flour, dry seasonings, mushroom and chicken bases; stir to combine.

Add water and bring to boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer uncovered for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Remove soup from heat and puree with a hand held immersion blender, or in batches in the blender.

Return blended soup to medium-low heat and add cream. Cook and stir until soup is thoroughly heated, about 5 to 8 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Sign of the times



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Lt. Sue Webb, left, of the Dunnellon Police Department watches as city employee Steve Wetmore, center, and Robert Scally of Scally's Towing secure the department's new message board Monday afternoon after unloading it from a delivery truck. The message board, which cost \$15,700, was purchased through a Marion County JAG grant the police department secured earlier this year. The Matrix Message Board is 80 inches wide, 76 inches tall and 5 inches thick and weighs 3,000 pounds. The item will be used to display messages during emergencies and special events.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

S. Dunnellon Civic Association meets

The South Dunnellon Civic Association Inc. meets at 4:30 p.m. the second Monday monthly at 1962 W. Test Court, South Dunnellon.

The facility is on the left side of street just before The Annie W. Johnson Center. The public is invited to come help, and give ideas to promote community improvement and safety.

For more details, contact Randy Campbell at 465-7135 or e-mail randolphcampbell@bellsouth.net.

Police collecting used cell phones

The Dunnellon Police Department is collecting cellular phones with chargers for Domestic Violence victims. The collected phones are turned over to domestic violent shelters

and provided to victims to use to call 911 for any emergency. Please drop off all unused cellular phones along with the chargers to the police department, 12014 S. Williams St. Dunnellon or at Repeat Boutique, 20491 The Granada, Dunnellon.

Boys and Girls Clubs seek donations

Many Boys and Girls Clubs are benefiting from car donations. The cars are sold at auction and the funds generated help support their many programs. Now is the time to donate for the upcoming tax season. People wishing to donate their cars or for more information call (800) 246-0493.

Cub Scouts meet at 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.

DCF seeks volunteers for program

The Department of Children and Families in your community has been awarded a Food Stamp Participation Grant. DCF is looking for committed volunteers with computer experience to help our food stamp customers navigate the online application process. For more information, call (352) 330-5518.

U.S. Naval Sea Cadets Corps seeks members

Manatee Division drills at Coast Guard Station Yankeetown, in Yankeetown, the second weekend monthly.

The Sea Cadets are for youths, ages 13 through 17 years old. There is also a Navy League Cadet unit for youths, ages 11 through 13 years old.

For more information, visit www.manateediv.org or call Commanding Officer LTJG Todd Dunn at (352) 212-5473 or tdunn@manateediv.org.

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Homeownership opportunities available

Have you ever dreamed of owning your own home? If you said yes to this question, Habitat for Humanity of Marion County Inc. might be able to make that dream a reality.

Do you have a monthly income of \$1,200? Have you been on your job for six months? Is your credit score 525 or higher? Even if you have had some credit issues in the past, we may be able to help you and your family get the keys to your new home. We have staff dedicated to work with you to resolve most obstacles that will prevent you from becoming a homeowner.

Habitat for Humanity of Marion County Inc. has housing opportunities available in the Dunnellon area. If you are willing to be part of our hand up, not a hand out program, we might be able to make homeownership a possibility. For more information, call 352-351-4663.

GOLDEN

continued from page 1

eral dogs and Skittles recently had a litter of 10. The puppies' father, Sam, is about to accompany Landers to the Eukanuba National Jr. Obedience at 8 a.m. Saturday in Orlando at the Orange County Convention Center.

Even though many people have told Landers and her parents that she has a natural talent, Landers still spends several nights a week working with a dog obedience club in Ocala. It is true though, that after working with her first pup for just two weeks, they began winning together.

Landers' currently shows dogs in several dif-

ferent classes according to their ages and performance records.

In order to qualify for the competition this weekend, Landers and Sam had to be invited after the leader of her club sent in a letter of recommendation.

Landers has learned a couple of tricks along the way also. The one that works best is that she always has hot dogs with her to use as treats.

When Sam finishes with the command and looks expectantly at Landers before making his next move, it is because he is expecting her to spit a piece of hot dog at him as a reward.

"It's mainly to help keep his focus on my face and not where my hands are," Landers said.

PARADE

continued from page 1

about the upcoming parade, her final one as chairwoman of the event after leading the charge for the past four years.

"Words cannot express my overall enjoyment and excitement about the parade," Williams said.

Among the groups and organizations that will follow the Scally family in the annual Christmas-time event include: Dunnellon Police and Fire departments, Dunnellon High School Air Force Jr. ROTC, Scally's, Dunnellon High and Middle school marching bands, Queen of the Rainbow Danille Prinz, Little Ms. and Mr. Dunnellon, Dunnellon Animal Hospital, Dunnellon Christian Academy, Boys & Girls Club of Dunnellon, First United Methodist Church Youth Group, Cub Scout Pack 469,

Dunnellon Women's Club, Viola Soffe, the Boomtown mayor, Cross at the River Cowboy Church with approximately 16 riders and two rodeo clowns, Sepulveda's ATA Martial Arts, the Kiwanis AKtion Club, the state Division of Forestry with Smokey the Bear, Meeks/Eason Family, Dunnellon 4-H and the Military Vehicle Preservation Association.

Girl Scout Troop 379 will sell drinks, food and glow necklaces and reindeer headbands during the parade to raise money Washington, D.C., for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts celebration.

The judge's station will again be in front of the Riverland News, a community partner.

For more information about the Christmas parade, call the Dunnellon Chamber of Commerce at 489-2320.

SANTA

continued from page 1

about 300 children to attend this year's event. Campfield explained no child will get turned away.

"I expect with the economy, that a lot of them won't get much," he said. "This allows them to get a little extra or something they might not have gotten at all. We get a lot of support from individuals and businesses in the community. They understand the need, too. I

cannot say enough about the support we receive from everyone involved."

Seeing the smiles on the faces of the school-aged children when they meet with Santa and Mrs. Claus and receive presents is worth all of the work, Campfield said.

"The kids just light up when they see him," he explained, noting Santa arrives via fire truck during the festivities. "Seeing those smiles, it just doesn't get much better than that."

Doors will open at 6 for the event; those who arrive early will have to wait in line to enter the Bingo Hall. Campfield said the event will likely wrap up about 8, depending on the amount of children present.

"We're excited about it, it's an event we love to put together," Campfield said.

For more information about the Children's Christmas Party, call Dunnellon Fire Rescue at 465-8745.

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THANK YOU



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News
An employee with Cross Construction Services, based out of Wesley Chapel, knocks down the remains of a burned-out house Thursday at 20717 Walnut St. with an excavator. The company, an asbestos-abatement specialist, needed less than five hours to knock down the old structure and haul away the remains. Ray Felver owns the property and a lien has been placed upon the cleared-out property until he pays for the demolition of the house. Otherwise, Larry Straus, code enforcement officer with the city, said the city will likely become owners of the property.



The operator of the excavator lifts up a large chunk of debris to be placed into a waiting dump truck.

A load of debris is about to be discarded into a waiting dump truck. Four loads of debris were hauled from the derelict house on Walnut Street.



Social Security helps the homeless

More than half-a-million Americans experience homelessness on any given night. Nearly 20 percent of them are "chronically homeless," meaning they are on the streets regularly.

Social Security has several programs that pay benefits to qualified individuals, including those who are homeless. These programs include retirement, disability, and survivors benefits, as well as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), which is a needs-based program for people who are blind, disabled, or age 65 or



Adon Williams

older. If you know someone who is homeless, and you want to learn more about how Social Security might help, a good place to get information is at www.socialsecurity.gov/homelessness. That page includes a link to the Spotlight on Homelessness — a website designed to help the homeless apply for SSI. It's available at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi/spotlights/spot-homeless.htm. The homelessness page also includes links to information on health care for the homeless, institutionalization, advocacy groups, reports on home-

less outreach, and even links to other websites like the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness and HUD.

You'll find other information helpful to the homeless on www.socialsecurity.gov. For example, there is a link to our Benefit Eligibility Screening Tool, or BEST. Based on answers to various questions, this tool helps determine the benefits someone might be eligible for and gives information about how to qualify and apply. Go directly to [\[rity.gov/best\]\(http://www.socialsecurity.gov/best\).

Tell anyone you know who is homeless or threatened with homelessness to use the Benefit Eligibility Screening Tool and to check out the different types of benefits and assistance they may be eligible to receive. Spread the word about the help available to the homeless.

Visit \[www.socialsecurity.gov/homelessness\]\(http://www.socialsecurity.gov/homelessness\) to learn more.

Adon Williams is the Social Security District Manager in Ocala.](http://www.socialsecu-</p>
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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

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Riverland News

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Joyful celebration



Photos by Jeff Bryan, Riverland News

Dunnellon Christian Academy second through sixth grade students hosted their Christmas program, "Miracle on Main Street," last Thursday. Students, from left, are: Stacey Popp, Taylor Joiner, Savannah Pochis, Rebecca Carameros, Sarah Durst, Jacob Nicholson and Jonathan Nicholson.



Students, from left, are: Angelina Zimmer, Brice Connelly, Andre Hendrix, Mya Mills and Jacob Green, gather around the manger where baby Jesus is born.



Alana Florida participates in a scene from the program.



DCA students from left, Alexa Hastings, Mya Deller, Ryan Rowles, Danny Casanora and Levi Suarez participate in the school's Christmas program.



Mya Mills, portraying Mary, holds baby Jesus during a part of the students' performance.



Sissy Elliott is all smiles after her singing performance.



Liam Bishop sings during a portion of the program.



Jill Booth of St. John Catholic Church Craft Group displays one of the many Christmas items that were being sold Saturday, Dec. 10, at the Craft Fair at the church. A record crowd attended, with more than 30 vendors selling their crafts.

Special to the Riverland News

CHURCH EVENTS

"Everlasting Light" presented by NOBC

North Oak Baptist Church will present "Everlasting Light" at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, by the Worship Choir of North Oak Baptist Church in Citrus Springs. A Christmas Goodies fellowship will follow the presentation. The community is invited to attend. North Oak is at the corner of North Elkcam Boulevard

and North Citrus Springs Boulevard in Citrus Springs. For more information, call 489-1688.

Lutheran Church to host candlelight services

Joy Lutheran Church will host two Christmas Eve candlelight services Saturday, Dec. 24, at 7 and 10 p.m. The Rev. Edward Holloway Jr., senior pastor, will preside and preach the Christmas message. The Joy vocal

and bell choirs will provide music at the first service and the bell choir along with special music is scheduled for the second service. Communion will be served at both services.

The Christmas Day worship service will be at 10 a.m.

Joy Lutheran Church is on Southwest State Road 200 at 83rd Place, Ocala. For more information, call 352-854-4509 ext 221.

Out to pastor

Christmas fruitcake always gets a bad rap

Many reasons exist why a person should love and embrace the Christmas season. I hear of those who attack the Christmas season and I take no notice to them at all. The thing that keeps buffoons energized is attention paid to them. If they were really serious about their so-called beliefs, they would leave the country during the Christmas season and go somewhere where it is not celebrated.

are all thumbs. My decorating expertise is simply to enjoy the work done. And that I do.



Rev. James Snyder

My recommendation is the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean.

Ignoring the holiday buffoons, I snuggle down and enjoy the Christmas festivities. So much about the season to savor and enjoy.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has our home all decorated for the Christmas season. In the evening, we sit down in the living room among all of the decorations, sip our hot cocoa and have a healthy slice of Christmas fruitcake.

When it comes to decorating things, I don't even have a thumb. During this time, I envy those who

I love everything about the Christmas season, except maybe shopping in the mall. I think there should be some kind of a law restricting shopping in the mall. It is not that I hate going to the mall... well, I guess if I am truthful, I really do hate going to the mall. If they had a nice good used bookstore, I might see my way to the mall more often and deliberately.

Apart from the mall, the Christmas season is a terrific time to be alive.

I love the Christmas trees. Go ahead and call it a "Holiday Tree" if you do not mind letting other people know how stupid you really sound. Solomon, in the Old Testament, had some of these people in mind when he wrote, "Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding." (Proverbs 17:28 KJV). If it is a "Holiday Tree," which holiday does it

represent? I love all the decorations associated with this time of year. Throughout the year, everything seems to be rather drab, but when Christmas comes along things begin to brighten up.

I love all the stories associated with Christmas. Yes, I know some of them are just stories made up; but every once in a while it is good to listen to a story. The fact that somebody has accused Santa's reindeer's of bullying poor little Rudolph only indicate that some people do not know the difference between fact and fiction.

Do not let this get out, but, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer does not even exist. He is just a made-up character in a Christmas story. I know that will come as a shock to many people, but the truth is the truth no matter whom it hurts.

See PASTOR page 19

OBITUARIES

Ron Kerschner, 60

Ron "River Ron" Kerschner, 60, of Citrus Springs died Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011. He was a member of Moose Lodge #1208 and was previously employed by Norfolk Southern Railroad.

Mr. Kerschner is survived by his son, Aaron Kerschner; daughter, Tracy Graham, Citrus Springs; granddaughter, Ashlee Graham of Citrus Springs; sisters, Kelly Hedrick, Ill.; Veronia Gibson, Ill.; and Patty Mattel, Ariz.; mother, Mary Doak, Arthur, Ill.

A Memorial Service will be Saturday, 1 p.m., Dec. 17, 2011, at Roberts Funeral

Home of Dunnellon with Rev. Christopher Greaves officiating, please feel free to wear Harley Davidson attire.

Elsie Whitney, 94

Elsie Whitney, 94, died Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011 at Legacy House in Ocala. Ms. Whitney was of Presbyterian faith and is survived by one daughter, Adrienne Brown and one sister, Lorraine Lundstrom, R.I.

Arrangements are by Roberts Funeral Home of Dunnellon. Condolences may be left at www.RobertsofDunnellon.com.

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Kayla Spinelli, left, drops a donation in the Red Kettle as Cathy Williams, volunteer bell ringer for the Salvation Army continues to ring the bell. Salvation Army volunteers recently wrapped up their Red Kettle campaign in the Dunnellon area.

JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

PASTOR

continued from page 17

I love the music of Christmas. Particularly, because 90 percent of the Christmas music is religious. Go figure? Nothing is more inspiring than listening to a choir sing Handel's Messiah. Of course, there is a danger that the wrong people will get hold of this great piece of music and want to change the title. I am looking for someone to protest this and insist we call it, "Handel's Person."

The music of Christmas is uplifting and inspiring despite all the naysayers who seem to come out of the ground during this time of the year. I wish they would stay underground and celebrate whatever they celebrate with Punxsutawney Phil.

Dare I mention the food of Christmas? I'm going to anyway. The best thing about the food at Christmas time is that nobody, and when I am talking about nobody, I am

referring of course to my wife, says, "You shouldn't be eating that." The beauty of Christmas food is that you can eat it whenever and as much as you like.

When I come back for my second slice of fruitcake and somebody looks at me I always say, "I'm starting my diet next month." And I get away with it.

Speaking of fruitcake, it is the best part of the Christmas food frenzy. My biggest concern in this area is that the fruitcake has gotten a very bad rap by people who do not understand this delicacy. It is a very wonderful way for a person to get their daily portion of fruit. How nice of it to be mixed in with cake. After all, if the word "fruit," is associated with it, it must be good, right? Everybody knows fruit is good for a person.

I take my portion of vegetables in carrot cake and my portion of fruit in fruitcake. This is the cuisine of the gods.

There is a very practical side to this fruitcake business. As I am picking up my fifth slice of fruitcake, I begin thinking about the New Year and how I need to add more fruit to my diet. As I slowly chew on the fruitcake, every aspect of my being is energized with glorious delight and goodwill toward men. After a few slices of fruitcake, I am in such a good mood that even the "Holiday Tree" people do not bother me so much. Nothing comes between my fruitcake and me.

Christmas is the season to rejoice in God's love for the world so much that he sent his only son, Jesus Christ.

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or email jamessnyder2@att.net. The church website is www.whatafellowship.com.

CHURCH EVENTS

Church of the Advent slates holiday services

Episcopal Church of the Advent will host Christmas services on the following days:

Christmas Eve, 5 p.m. — Family Service, Holy Eucharist.

Christmas Eve: 10 p.m. — Solemn High Candle-light Mass.

Christmas Day: 8 and 10 a.m. — Holy Eucharist. New Year's Day Sunday Services: 8 and 10 a.m. — Holy Eucharist.

Church of the Advent is at 11251 S.W. County Road 484, Dunnellon, 1.2 Miles west of State Road 200.

For more information, call 352-465-7272.

Universalists to present series on mandala

Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists have scheduled a series devoted to learning about mandalas. The series will begin at 10:30 a.m. Jan. 8 with a talk by Patricia Kittleman, a student and teacher of the mandala. The following three topics will be at 1 p.m. Sundays, beginning Jan. 15. Learn how to draw your own personal mandala for enjoyment, relaxation and meditation. The drawing sessions will be led by Jan Hitchcock, art instructor from CCF. Cost is \$10 for each art class. Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists is at 7633 N. Florida Ave., Citrus Springs. For more information or to sign up, call Pam Ricker at 489-3545.

Church to host bible study

First Baptist Church of Dunnellon will host a series titled, "Precept Upon Precept," a community-wide, interdenominational study of Abraham:

Becoming a Friend of the Faithful God, a beginner's class. The study will be from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursdays, starting Jan. 12, at the church at 20831 Powell Road. Cost is \$13.50 plus a few other one-time supplies. For more information, call Debbie Coradi at 445-9528.

Advent Sunday School programs slated

The Episcopal Church of the Advent has started a series of Sunday School classes for children ages 3 to 12 from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Sundays. Immediately following Sunday School, the children may participate in the Celebration of Holy Eucharist with the congregation. Children do not need to be church members to attend.

The curriculum is called Godly Play and is taught by Maryann Brennan and her helpers. Advent is 1.2 miles west of State Road 200 on County Road 484, across from the Fire House. For more information, call the church at 465-7272.

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 about this ministry, e-mail Cindy Greaves at women@caringpeople.org.

Rainbow Springs Vil-

lage 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.

'Forget-Me-Not' program open to public

The First United Methodist Church is opening its "Forget-Me-Not" Program to the community. This is a program provided by the church to offer four hours of respite care for caregivers of early dementia and Alzheimer's patients. The program is also including seniors who just need to get out of the house for a few hours and socialize with other seniors. This program is free and meets from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the church Friendship Hall. Trained volunteers provide activities and refreshments.

For more information, call Grace Burks at 489-2580 or Joey Weisbaum at 489-6963.

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Officials discuss future of Dunnellon airport

County hopes to entice companies to use facility

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

A bright future lay in the cards for the Dunnellon-Marion County Airport, at least officials are hopeful as the county presented its plan Nov. 29 to recruit both aviation and non-aviation business to the former military training facility under county control since the late 1940s.

The County Commission, in April, adopted a business plan for the airport to go along with its master plan. "We feel the airport is one of the lesser known assets in the county," Charlie Stone, commission chairman, said. During the meeting, Airport Manager John Helms laid out future plans for expansion at the facility.

"There are potential areas for growth on the airside of the airport," he noted. "And we looked at developing outside areas that can't be used for aviation."

One key component of developing growth at the decades-old facility, Helms explained, was improving entry points such as roads and taxiways at the airport.

"The roads are in need of rejuvenation," he told County Commissioners.

Stone agreed, but asked for more information such as costs to im-

prove roads leading to the area. He also asked for the cost estimates to relocate current signage to a more visible location.

Recently, the airports runways were improved. The facility's main runway was repaved while the secondary runway was rejuvenated using grant funding from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as well as from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The FAA funding was provided through a tax on aviation fuel.

"It's a big step forward," Helms said. "It's a nice giant billboard from the sky. In the aviation world, it'll bring a lot of attention to the facility."

Though some were in favor of expansion, residents in attendance wanted to know who was going to pay for expansion at the facility.

"All this planning is nice," Dave Walker said. "But why put money into it that doesn't show a return on it. I don't think it's appropriate to spend taxpayers' dollars on it. Only a handful of people use this facility. I don't think using taxpayer dollars on it is wise unless you're going to see a return on it. Let (businesses) that want to come here pump money into it."

Mayor Fred Ward, who

was one of four Dunnellon City Council representatives present at the meeting, said it's important to create job growth for future generations.

"We need to entice businesses to come," he said, countering Walker's comments. "We certainly need to be prudent, but we need to do things to attract folks here."

"This is for our children, our grandchildren, so they can find jobs in Marion County so they can stay close to home."

Walker said spending money so future generations can pay for it isn't the right way to approach it.

"We say we're doing it for our children and our grandchildren," he said. "But we haven't even asked them what they want."

Dunnellon City Councilwoman Penny Fleeger asked if businesses could pay for development at the airport without taxpayer dollars being used. Helms said they could do so through an agreement with the county.

"They would lease the property," he said. "After so many years, the building reverts to county ownership."

While the meeting was established to focus on future development, some residents made sure the focus strayed from course as the oppo-

nents of the much-maligned aerobic box spoke out against it.

"The aerobics is not conducive to people coming in here," resident Valerie Weinke. "The noise over here is not good for us."

The Dunnellon-area resident was pointed in her comments to commissioners.

"I want you to do another decibel reading," she said. "I want one to be done. Why isn't this being followed up? I want you people to investigate it."

Earl Otting, who lives south of the airport, said he bought his home in the area about 50 years ago and is not against growth at the facility. He explained commissioners need to consider the neighbors around the area in their plans.

"It scares me when you talk about development," he explained. "I don't want some second-rate operation out here, that all they are going to do is fly above the airport 24 hours a day."

He said he certainly wouldn't object if a 747 flies in.

"They are here for a few seconds and then gone," he noted.

Otting then finally took commissioners to task about the aerobic box.

"Who's making the decisions out here?" he asked. "Who makes the calls out here? I want you five to be doing it."

Tree lighting



Photos by Jeff Bryan, Riverland News
ABOVE: Aaron Powell, left, Zaria Hamilton, center, and Micaiah Hill, members of the Dunnellon Community Choir, sing during the city's tree lighting ceremony. **BELOW:** Tia Ard, left, and Susan DeSimone clap along to the choir's songs.



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Notices to Creditors/Administration
270-1222 RIV
Carlson Sr., Robert J. 2011 CP 1319 (F) Notice to Cred.
PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File Number: 2011 CP 1319 (F)
IN RE: ESTATE OF ROBERT J. CARLSON, Sr. a/k/a ROBERT JOSEPH CARLSON, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the Estate of ROBERT J. CARLSON, Sr. a/k/a ROBERT JOSEPH CARLSON, deceased, whose date of death was September 13, 2011, and whose Social Security Number is 089-12-8895 File Number 2011 CP 1319 (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, upon whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE 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 including unsecured, contingent or unliquidated claims, 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 PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this Notice is December 15, 2011.

Personal Representative: /s/ ROBERT J. CARLSON, JR. Personal Representative of the Estate of Robert J. Carlson, Sr. a/k/a Robert Joseph Carlson 326 Portland Place, Lutz, Pennsylvania 17543
Attorney for Personal Representative: BRETT & REYNOLDS, P.A. /s/ Robert J. Reynolds, Esquire Florida Bar No.: 0021415 Attorney for Petitioner, 8810 S.W. Highway 200, Suite 122, Ocala, FL 34481 December 15 and 22, 2011.

Notices to Creditors/Administration
271-1222 RIV
Hutchinson, Elvira S. 2011-CP-1410 Notice to Cred.
PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MARION COUNTY FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No.: 2011-CP-1410 Division: Judge Robbins
IN RE: ESTATE OF ELVIRA S. HUTCHINSON Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of ELVIRA S. HUTCHINSON, deceased, whose date of death was September 30, 2011, is pending in the the Circuit Court for MARION County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 110 NW 1st Avenue, Ocala, FL 34475. 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 required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE 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 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS, NOT 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 first publication of this Notice is December 15, 2011.

Personal Representatives: Dale Hutchinson 13 Wild Plum Court, Stafford, Virginia 22554
Attorney for Personal Representative: /s/ Lorenzo Ramunno, Esq., Florida Bar No. 765813 RAMUNNO LAW FIRM, PA, 7500 SW 61st Avenue, Suite 100, Ocala, FL 34476 Telephone: (352) 854-5570 www.flprobate.net December 15 and 22, 2011.

Misc. Notices
273-1222 RIV
PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO VACATE PLAT OR PORTION OF PLAT OF ROLLING RANCH ESTATES
Notice is hereby given that, John E. Taylor Jr. proposes to petition the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida to adopt a Resolution to vacate and annul that certain Plat or portion of Plat of Rolling Ranch Estates, subject to the Family Division access being from SW 134th Court, not State Road 484. The property to be vacated and annulled is described as follows:
Tract 21, Rolling Ranch Estates, a subdivision as per Plat thereof, recorded in Plat Book "K", Page(s) 10 through 22, of the public records of Marion County, Florida.
Parcel Identification Number: 35290021-000
This procedure shall be in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 177, Florida Statutes. A petition for vacation and resolution to vacate shall be considered by the Board after required publication of this Notice. Persons wishing to do so should provide their written comments on this subject to the Office of the County Engineer, 412 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, Florida, 34471, prior to the 8th day of February 2011.
December 15 and 22, 2011.

Misc. Notices
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American Legion Post 58 to offer free Christmas dinner

Special to the Riverland News

Throughout the year, the American Legion makes it a point to give back to and support its local community through fundraisers, donations to organizations such as the

Boy Scouts of America, the Boys & Girls Club as well as visits to Hampton Manor residents, Boys State functions in Tallahassee, and many other worthwhile charitable functions.

It is with this desire to give back to the community in mind,

that your local American Legion Wall Rives Post 58 of Dunnellon, will host its annual, come one come all, free Christmas dinner from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 25, at the Legion Hall at 10730 N. U.S. 41, just north of the Wal-Mart.

Post Commander John Taylor

mentions that this dinner is planned and prepared for you by the Post to give thanks and share with the community, to open the hall for any and all local folks to come and share the Christmas spirit, a wonderful hot Christmas ham dinner and take part in some good na-

tured camaraderie.

The dinner is free of charge to all that come. Helping out with this year's dinner, as in years past, is the Post 58 American Legion Ladies Auxiliary. Also helping out will be, Jan and Leo DeWitt, of Families In Need Of Dunnellon Inc.

SOCIAL SECURITY Q&A

Question: Can I get an estimate of my retirement benefit at several different possible ages?

Answer: Yes. We suggest you use our Retirement Estimator at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator to test different retirement scenarios. This online tool will give you retirement benefit estimates based on current law and real time access to your earnings record. The Retirement Estimator also lets you create additional "what if" retirement scenarios. It's even available in Spanish at www.segurosocial.gov/calculador. You can test even more alternatives at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/calculators.htm.

Question: If both my spouse and I are entitled to Social Security benefits, is there any reduction in our payments because we are married?

Answer: No. We calculate lifetime earnings independently to determine each spouse's Social Security benefit amount. When each member of a married couple meets all other eligibility requirements to

receive Social Security retirement benefits, each spouse receives a monthly benefit amount based on his or her own earnings. Couples are not penalized simply because they are married. If one member of the couple earned low wages or failed to earn enough Social Security credits (40) to be insured for retirement benefits, he or she may be eligible to receive benefits as a spouse. Learn more about Social Security at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Question: Is there a time limit on Social Security disability benefits?

Answer: Your disability benefits will continue as long as your medical condition has not improved and you cannot work. We will review your case at regular intervals to make sure you are still disabled. Learn more by reading our publication, Disability Benefits, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10029.html.

Question: When a person who has worked and paid Social Security taxes dies, are benefits

payable on that person's record?

Answer: Social Security survivor benefits can be paid to:

A widow or widower — unreduced benefits at full retirement age, or reduced benefits as early as age 60;

A disabled widow or widower — as early as age 50;

A widow or widower at any age if he or she takes care of the deceased's child who is under age 16 or disabled, and receiving Social Security benefits;

Unmarried children under 18, or up to age 19 if they are attending high school full time. Under certain circumstances, benefits can be paid to stepchildren, grandchildren or adopted children;

Children at any age who were disabled before age 22 and remain disabled; and

Dependent parents age 62 or older.

Even if you are divorced, you still may qualify for survivor benefits. For more information, go to www.socialsecurity.gov.

Solstice practice



Special to the Riverland News

Unitarian-Universalists members Joan Burnett, left, and Joe Wetzel, of Dunnellon, practice their light-heated winter solstice service based on an early representation of the shifting seasons. This pre-Christian Celtic battle between the Oak King and the Holly King will be at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, at 7633 N. Florida Ave., Citrus Springs. For more information, call 465-4225 or visit naturecoastuu.org.

BRIDGE SCORES

Rainbow Springs Country Club Bridge

Results of play from Dec. 6:

Winners: 1. Luise Pellett, 8,000; 2. Evelean Clarkson, 7,150; 3. Barbara Hanington, 6,170; 4. Millie Morales, 5,840; 5. Betsy Davis, 5,680.

Slams: Millie Morales and Wilma Jester, 6S; Millie Morales and Luise Pellett, 6D; Betsy Davis and Evelean Clarkson, 6 NT; Barbara Hanington and Nick Caspero, 6S.

Rainbow Springs Country Club Dinner Bridge

Results of play from Nov. 30:

Winners: 1. Millie Morales and Luise Pellett, 5,510; 2. Bill Smead and Carol Jensen, 4,900; 3. Billie Barnes and Ruth Brucker, 3,810; 4. Gordon and Betty Quigley, 2,870; 5. Richard and Betsy Davis, 2,420.

The next dinner bridge will be Jan. 25 hosted by Betty Koehler (489-7509) and Nancy Meyer (489-5664). Any club member who would like to join us, call either Betty or Nancy.

Jacobson marks 15 years with TLC Rehab

Lee Jacobson, MPT, recently completed 15 years of service with TLC Rehab Inc. He currently serves as a physical therapist in the Dunnellon Clinic. He has been practicing since 1993 when he graduated from Loma

Linda University with his Master's Degree in Physical Therapy. After moving to Florida, Jacobson began working for TLC Rehab Inc. in November 1996. He is a member of his professional association, and

has been active locally on Ocala's sub-district chair, at the state level as an assembly representative of the Northern District and, nationally, as a House of Delegate. He volunteers locally with Habitat for Humanity.

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