

Riverland News

Thursday, January 12, 2012

Vol 30 No. 13

75 cents

Residents push for boycott of Greenlight



Lisa Algieri

City manager: We hope that's not the case

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

Residents of Rainbow Springs, angered by the decision of the City Council to

tack on an additional 25 percent surcharge to their utility bills, won't likely put any extra money into the city coffers, not if they follow through with their threat to

boycott Greenlight Dunnellon Communications.

That was the message they left the City Council with Dec. 28 as they filtered out of City Hall after council

members voted 4-0 to approve the purchase of Rainbow Springs and Juliette Falls' utility systems, bond \$6.5 million to acquire the Rainbow Springs' system and require residents in that area to pay an additional 25 percent above the

normal rate.

Most residents felt like the acquisition of their system and higher rates was to offset the losses from Greenlight, which has spent more than \$5 million and has yet

See **BOYCOTT** page 3

HOMETOWN HERO



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Officer Mike Miley has been with the Dunnellon Police Department for more than 18 months. The Dunnellon High School graduate says he considers it an honor to serve the community in which he grew up in. Miley was recently named the department's Officer of the Year.

Homegrown officer, Miley, selected as department's Officer of the Year

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

He championed the Dunnellon Police Department's inaugural efforts in the Special Olympics Polar Plunge.

He organizes the agency's annual bicycle rodeo.

His arrest rate increased in the past year, including solving a case in which a person was stabbed at Crock's Pub in

June 2011. The defendant, Joshua Dale Larkin, was charged with aggravated battery using a deadly weapon. Miley also solved a robbery at Circle K in which three people were apprehended and charged with robbery and petit theft.

Now Officer Mike Miley can claim Officer of the Year honors as voted on by his peers at the department.

"It's a very humbling

honor," Miley, who joined the agency in June 2010, said. "I don't think I deserve it any more so than the rest of the crew. That they think highly of me says a lot about what Chief Black, Lt. Webb and Sgt. Gonzalez and everyone else sees in me."

However, the journey into law enforcement wasn't at the forefront of the 2007 Dunnellon High graduate.

Miley would spend the

following two years taking classes at what is now Central Florida College in Ocala. Miley sensed then it wasn't the right fit.

That's when Miley would meet Brian Marra, a deputy with the Levy County Sheriff's Office, and forge a friendship that would alter Miley's life.

"I wasn't sure what I wanted to do," Miley explained. "In the back of

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Police: Man found passed out in bathroom

Durham of Morriston faces pair of charges

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

A 53-year-old Morriston man discovered passed out, straddling a toilet with his head resting on the wall of a bathroom Jan. 2 at the Murphy gas station was charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, police reports stated.

According to reports, officers with the Dunnellon Police Department were called to Murphy Oil USA shortly after 10 p.m. in reference to a white male found unresponsive in the restroom. Upon entering the restroom, Officer Mike Miley found Jackie R. Durham with his head resting against the wall and snoring loudly. Officer Bruce Arnold confirmed the defendant had a pulse at which time he requested Dunnellon Fire Rescue respond to further evaluate Durham, who would not awake after multiple attempts.

Miley stated in his report that he saw drug paraphernalia, including liquefied blue in color residue on a metal spoon, a syringe while observing a black in color belt fastened around Durham's arm. The report stated Miley photographed the items and defendant as found.

According to the report, Arnold and Miley assisted Durham up off the toilet at which time he became more responsive. Durham was secured in handcuffs and escorted outside for a medical evaluation. Once he was cleared medically, Miley conducted a search of Durham and found a bottle of Aleve brand pain relief pills, a silver in color tube, which contained a capped syringe, two metal spoons

See **POLICE** page 3



Jackie Durham was found passed out in the restroom of Murphy Oil.



MLK festivities continue Sunday, Monday

Special celebration will conclude with walk

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

"All I'm saying is simply this, that all life is interrelated, that somehow we're caught in an in-

escapable network of mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. For some strange reason, I can never be

what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. You can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality."

— Martin Luther King Jr.

Participants make their way down U.S. 41 during last year's march to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This year's march will be at 9 a.m. Monday, starting at McDonald's on U.S. 41.

File photo

As the nation prepares to pay tribute to Martin Luther King Jr., an instru-

mental figure in the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, those in and around town will embark on their own journey Monday to pay homage to the 1963 Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Festivities, which began last Saturday, continue with a tribute to Dr. King at 3 p.m. Sunday at Union Missionary Baptist Church in Chatmire.

The celebration will

See **MLK** page 2

WHAT'S HAPPENING

2008 DHS Valdeictorian graduates from UF

Meghan Brumby, the Dunnellon High School Class of 2008 Valedictorian, graduated Dec. 17, from the University of Florida with honors with her Bachelor's degree in Animal Science. She has been accepted to the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University



Meghan Brumby

of Florida. She will start in the fall.

DPD selling T-Shirts for Special Olympics

The Dunnellon Police Department finished 13th in the state of Florida for raising more than \$10,800 in 2011.

The 2012 Special Olympic T-shirts and hats are now available at the department or Cadence Bank.

For information, contact Darlene Parker at 465-8510 or e-mail at dparker@dunnellonpd.org.

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.

Tri-County Pregnancy Center has relocated

Tri-County Pregnancy Care and Family Resource Center has moved to a new location. The facility is now at 20892 Second Ave., just behind First Baptist Church. Tri-County Pregnancy Care and Family Resource Center is a nonprofit agency focused on helping women and families facing crisis pregnancies with resources and lay counsel. For more information or to make an appointment, call 352-489-9994.

Riverland News

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Dunnellon Police Department receives parade award



Dunnellon Police Department was awarded first place for Best Themed float by Charlene Williams, left, chairwoman for the annual Dunnellon Christmas Parade, and Beverly Leisure, right, executive director of the Chamber. Accepting the award for Dunnellon Police Department are Chief Joanne Black, second from left, Lt. Sue Webb and Alexis Williams.

JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

AARP Driver Safety Class slated

An AARP Driver Safety Class for those 50 and older, which with certain exceptions, qualifies graduates for a discount on their automobile insurance, class will be given over two days, three hours each day.

Cost is \$14 per person for all materials, except pen or pencil. However, if you are an AARP member, the cost is \$12 and bring your AARP card with you.

The course, which has no pass/fail test, will be from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, and Wednesday, Jan. 25, at Rainbow Lakes Estates Clubhouse.

Class size is limited. For information or reservations, call 489-1574.

Rainbow Springs Garden Club to meet Jan. 26

The Rainbow Springs Garden Club will meet at 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, at the American Legion Hall, 10730 U.S. 41, across from Jan's Nursery. Horticulturalist Bruce Ide will be the guest speaker. Bring your extra plants for the Grow and Share table, and be sure to sign in to be included in the door prize drawings. For more information, call Barbara Roberts at 489-9680.

Peripheral Neuropathy group meets

The Ocala Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 4, 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.

'Horses for Hospice' Trail Ride slated

Hospice of Marion County Inc. will host its 12th annual "Horses for Hospice" Trail Ride Saturday, Feb. 18, on the Central Florida Greenway at the Florida Horse Park in Ocala. This year's ride is in memory of Wayne Vaught, former Cross Florida Greenway enthusiast and Trail Ride chairman.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the first ride leaves at 9:15 a.m. Following the ride, participants can enjoy lunch, live entertainment and door prizes.

Proceeds from this event will benefit Patient Care Programs. The minimum donation to ride is \$30. Wagons are welcome; \$30 for driver and \$10 per passenger. Horse lovers who are unable to ride may purchase a \$10 ticket to enjoy lunch and entertainment. For more information or to register, call 352-854-5218.

Master Choir holding auditions

The Central Florida Master Choir is hosting auditions for the group. The ability to read music, harmonize and match pitch are required along with prioritizing rehearsals and performances. For more information or to schedule an audition, call Hal McSwain at 352-237-3035 or 352-615-7677. For more information about the group, visit www.cfmasterchoir.com

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.

CERT training slated to start Feb. 16

A new Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training will begin Thursday, Feb. 16, at the Marion County Sheriff's Office, 692 N.W. 30th Ave., Ocala.

This is an eight-session training, which is available either from 1 to 3:30 p.m. or 6:30 to 9 p.m. The afternoon and evening classes run concurrently and attendance can be mixed, depending upon availability. Only one class can be missed in the eight-session series and the CPR and last class is mandatory.

The CERT program is made up of volunteers under the direction of the Division of Emergency Management of the sheriff's office. The purpose of CERT is to train and certify volunteers to be first responders in their communities in the event of a disaster such as a hurricane or tornado.

The CERT training includes basic skills in disaster preparedness, fire safety, assessment and treatment of life-threatening conditions, light search of structural and non-structural damage, psychology of the injured and terrorism. The training is free. For more information and for an application, contact Bob Conn, trainer, at 352-812-0853.

MLK

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conclude Monday, with a memorial walk slated to start at 9 a.m. at McDonald's on U.S. 41. From there, walkers will make their way south on U.S. 41, cross onto County Road 484 and conclude at Ernie Mills Park with entertainment, food and drinks.

For the Rev. Eric Cummings of Union Missionary Baptist Church and this year's chairman of the event, he said it's important for Dr. King's legacy to carry on and continue to the next generation of leaders.

"For me, it's extremely important to promote it in the community, or else we'll lose it," he explained. "There'll be a part of history that will be lost in the shuffle in so many ways. We need to make sure we're teaching the next generation about him, because there's so many out there that might not know that this great man ever came along. We have to keep it in on our forefront for our kids."

The Rev. Cummings said it's encouraging to him personally that what Dr. King envisioned so many years ago is happening today.

"I wasn't born when Dr. King was alive," the Rev. Cummings said. "But I learned about him from my forefathers, from my parents, from so many others."

The theme for this year's festivities is "Peace and Justice."

"We want to go beyond it being just day off," the Rev. Cummings said. "These holidays are meant to be memorial services; it's something

that is important. The march is important to, marching is great. But it has to be a day of service. We want to build a community to be a better place. There has to be action behind all that."

The Rev. Cummings, who has been the pastor at Union Missionary for the past five years, said Monday's event is not just a "black holiday, a black event."

"We'd love for everybody to participate, everyone is included," he said. "My vision is to go beyond people thinking this is just a black holiday, a black event. I want it to be a community event."

"In the few years I've been there, I've seen Dunnellon is a unique community, a diverse community. Those issues of racial, ethnic culture, it doesn't happen often. I go to the football games, different from other celebrations and it's a multi-cultural event. That's a great thing. As small as Dunnellon is, that's a great asset. It shows the community in many ways, is far advanced in their philosophy about getting along, living in harmony, being a diverse community. That's encouraging, very encouraging for the younger generation."

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City step closer to changing ordinance

Non-resident property, business owners could be eligible to serve on planning board

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

Non-resident property owners and non-resident business owners, both with three years as owners, are now one step closer to having a say in some form at City Hall.

The Dunnellon City Council on Monday approved the first reading to change the rules permitting non-resident property owners and non-resident business owners to serve on the city's Planning Commission Board.

The city, in changing the ordinance, requires that the property or

business owner must have been owned by them for at least three years to be eligible. In addition to that change, the City Council will allow for two spots to be filled by non-residents on the board as well as one alternate, still allowing for city residents to have a majority vote on the Planning Commission Board.

Before it can be finalized, the City Council will have a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23. If approved then, the changes will become effectively immediately. Currently, there are no vacant spots for the Planning Commission Board. City Manager Lisa Algiere with-

drew the resolution to approve small business rates for Greenlight Dunnellon Communications, telling the Council she would have it for them at its next workshop, scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 18, at City Hall. Algiere also withdrew the request for the Council to approve Joe Renda as a consultant for marketing and sales for Greenlight Communications.

In other action, the Council:
 • Approved the quote submitted by Pittsburg Tank & Tower Maintenance, in the amount of \$12,000, for the dismantle and disposal of elevated water tower No. 1, which is

next to the Dunnellon Chamber of Commerce.

• Authorized Mayor Ward to sign an agreement with Enviro-Masters Pro-Tech for Juliette Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant Maintenance.

• Approved an agreement with Jones Edmunds for Resident Project Representative and Construction Administration Services for
 • Wastewater Collection System Improvements Phase IV.

• Appointed Jane Keele to a three-year term as a regular member of the Historic Preservation Board. Her term will expire Jan. 9, 2015.

- Appointed Jeanie Cowan to a three-year term as a regular member of the
- Historic Preservation Board. Her term will expire Jan. 9, 2015.
- Appointed Linda Fernandez as an alternate member of the Historic Preservation Board.
- Appointed Dane Myers as an alternate member of the Historic Preservation Board.
- Reappointed David Lewis as first alternate member of the Planning Commission Board effective Jan. 12. His term will expire Jan. 12, 2015.
- Appointed Sherry Smith as an alternate member of the Tree Board.

BOYCOTT

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to begin offering services.

"It's not our fault Greenlight has bombed," Joan Duggins, a Rainbow Springs resident, told the Council. "You haven't seen how upset we will be. They will not benefit from us using their system."

Steve Swett, in a Letter to the Editor, urged his fellow neighbors in Rainbow Springs to boycott Greenlight Communications.

"It is clear the city only considers our community a 'cash cow' to be milked," he wrote. "I would not trust the city not to raise rates at will if you sign up for Greenlight. If Greenlight is the major provider in Rainbow Springs, they will control the market."

"If Rainbow Springs' residents boycott Greenlight cable, we at least will show our displeasure and our mistrust of the City Council that can raise our rates 'because they can.' The City Council's decision to pay top dollar for a utility to make money will come back to haunt them if Greenlight fails."

Not luring customers from Rainbow Springs could be damaging to the city, especially after officials secured \$7.3 million in bonds from Regions Bank in Orlando. City officials were targeting the area, because the current options for residences there are strictly satellite providers. Both DirecTV and Dish Network require customers to sign a two-year contract. The lone Internet

provider is AT&T (Bell-South). City officials have no plans on requiring customers with Greenlight to sign a contract.

Greenlight, which officials had hoped to have up and running last spring, started installing fiber throughout town in November. Algiere said officials expect to begin running fiber to Rainbow Springs beginning in February.

However, the loss of up to 1,500 potential customers could have an effect to the city, though city officials would not say how much.

"We hope the people won't boycott," Algiere said. "However, the service Greenlight provides is a voluntary service; it's up to the customer if they want to subscribe. We believe we have superior state of the art services and when they compare rates and combination of phone, internet and television, that we can be competitive."

Algiere said in November they had gotten an extension on its first bond payment. No official paperwork for that extension has been brought to the Council for approval.

"Why did you plunge into Greenlight Communications when it should have been obvious that you can't compete with the large, well-established communications companies?" Burt Eno, Ph.D., questioned the Council. "There is less and less interest in Greenlight in the Rainbow Springs community as you continue to gouge us with your utility enterprise and your misuse of red-light cameras for revenue purposes."

Scally's Towing an award winner



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

The Scally family, including Scally's Lube & Go, Scally Towing and the Front Porch Restaurant were recognized as the parade marshalls for this year's parade as well as being awarded the second-place prize for Most Spirited float by Charlene Williams, left, chairwoman for the annual Dunnellon Christmas Parade, and Beverly Leisure, right, executive director of the Chamber. Accepting the award for the Scally family is Robert Scally.

HERO

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my mind I always wanted to do go through the academy and become a police officer. I started hanging out with my buddy Brian and going on ride alongs. That's what it was that changed my mind."

So in July 2009, Miley enrolled at the Withlacoochee Technical Institute's Police Academy, setting his sights on a career in law enforcement.

While his choice was met some resistance from his parents, they supported and encouraged him for his decision. Miley called his parents "his role models for life."

"My parents taught me between right and wrong," he explained.

"But as for law enforcement it's always been Brian that's the one I would call. I'd call him and ask him what he'd do in specific situations."

Sgt. Jacob Gonzalez, who served as one of Miley's Field Training Officers, said he enjoys working with Miley because of his humor.

"He's very funny," Sgt. Gonzalez said. "He loves to make others laugh. That's one of the many reasons I enjoy working with him."

Police Chief Joanne Black praised Miley for both his community efforts and his commitment to his home town.

"He's community oriented, he has a lot of ties to the community," she said. "He always wanted to work here. I think he's

doing an outstanding job."

However, it's not always been easy being a "hometown cop," Miley said.

"I've been in several calls where people will bring up that we went to school, that we used to be great friends," he explained. "But at end of the day they made decisions that put them in jail. It's my job to uphold the law, and when the make bad decisions that go against it, I'm going to do my job, regardless of who it is."

But his brief career has certainly been rewarding, especially when it comes to protecting the citizens.

"The most satisfying part is making a difference in the community," Miley explained. "In that respect, everything we do our effects the flow in the community. (The department) definitely has a great relationship with the community. We can come out and put on events such as the Bicycle Rodeo or the Torch Run, and the folks know who we are and they support us."

"That, to me, is most rewarding. The things we do, people come together and support us and it's very contagious. I love it when that happens."

Police: Vehicle burglaries reported

Several vehicle burglaries have been reported in different locations within the city of Dunnellon during the past week-end, the Dunnellon Police Department reported. All of the incidents were in open view and items taken were limited to purses, medications and money.

"We are asking that the public be sure and secure their vehicles and place all items of value and medications in the trunk or in a very secure and non-visible location," Police Chief Joanne Black said.

If anyone has information about these burglaries or seen anything unusual, they make contact the Dunnellon Police Department at 465-8510 or Crime Stoppers of Marion County at 368-7868.

POLICE

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and a capped syringe.

According to the report, Miley found three blue in color Roxicodone pills and eight blue in color Xanax pills inside the Alev bottle. Arnold read Durham his Miranda rights, which he stated he understood and agreed to speak with officers. Durham stated he had a prescription for the Roxicodone pills, which was confirmed by contacting a local pharmacy; however, Durham did not have a prescription for the Xanax pills found in his possession, nor could he advise where or how he obtained them.

Durham was transported to the Marion County Jail. According to jail records, his bond was set at \$20,000. Jail records stated his is the 10th time since February 2000, Durham has been charged with a crime.

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 The Riverland News is delivered on Thursday to subscribers by our carriers and mail. The newspaper is also available inside area stores and at various boxes throughout the community. Local subscription rate is \$27 a year. Call for Florida and out-of-Florida rates.
 The Riverland News is published in Dunnellon, FL by Citrus Publishing, Inc., 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429-5760.
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OUR VIEW

Taking frustration out on businesses will worsen city decisions

Many have heard the term "Don't shoot the messenger." We may need to create a new term after the sentiments expressed by Rainbow Springs' residents in today's and last week's issue of the Riverland News, "don't shoot your neighbor."

That's right. If the messenger had nothing to do with the bad news, how much less does the business community of Dunnellon have to do with the City Council's decision to purchase water utilities in Rainbow Springs and Juliette Falls and tack on a 25 percent surcharge?

In truth the business community exercises no, nada, zip that is zero influence over the City Council.

The business community has been not a little, but absolutely ignored by the City Council. In fact the businesses community has been ignored by City Hall. Perhaps that has some-

thing to do with the fact that non-resident property owners and non-resident business owners have no vote within the city limits, the city's charter states the only folks with political sway are those who are residents.

For many years, most of the businesses in town have expressed a tremendous concern for the direction the Council has been taking from its zoning and comprehensive plans to retail building moratoriums and red-light cameras that have incensed our customer base, the exclusion of permitting for reasonable growth, refusal to realistically address the need for a vibrant and diverse economy. The list goes on and on.

So how is it that Rainbow Springs' residents feel the place to express your justifiable anger is on the local businesses that have absolutely nothing to do with the decisions made by the City Council?

Could it be that they feel the Cham-

ber of Commerce played a role in this decision. We can assure you they did not.

However, boycotting your neighbors' business for the misdeeds of the City Council is seriously misplacing blame. One has to ask if we boycott local businesses and they go under, the coffers of the city will shrink and then more get rich quick scams, such as Greenlight Communications and the purchase of nearby utility systems, will ensue. Not to mention the terrible injustice done by punishing the innocent.

One can of course demand retribution from wherever and from whomever they like, but if they feel boycotting business in Dunnellon is going to change the minds of Council, they are sadly mistaken.

At some point, perhaps, this entire community will begin to recognize that red-light cameras, fiber optics and utility takeovers are symptoms of

a disease. They are not, however, the disease. This disease will continue to mature and ultimately destroy us, unless we face the facts and make hard choices; unless we collectively design an economy that both protects our environment and grows our economy.

We are a city located at the confluence of two special and unique rivers. This community has a wealth of eco-resources that should be used to create economy.

If you refuse to effectively utilize your most valuable assets, don't be surprised when you become low on cash. We are rapidly moving toward a fly-by of endless containers moving through Dunnellon from Port Citrus to Ocala.

In the absence of an economy that Tallahassee officials can clearly view as something that they do not want to disturb, we will be run over by far worse fates than water rates you can be assured.

LETTERS

Utilities purchases are a cash grab

Rainbow Springs' residents have now received their "welcome letter" from the city of Dunnellon concerning water and sewer billing.

So the first year, a 3,000 gallon per month user would only experience a \$6.74 increase per month. Of course, almost no Rainbow Springs residents use only 3,000 gallons.

Dunnellon will bill everyone on a flat rate for all water usage including water for irrigation, which will result in enormous bill increases. The letter notes the Rainbow Springs average of 13,000 gallons per month.

The city's letter essentially chastises Rainbow Springs' residents for over-watering their lawns. In truth, water is not so inexpensive now as to encourage waste. Most residents try to use enough water to keep the yard presentable and to meet POA standards.

It is not at all helpful for either the city or any environmental zealots to suggest that everyone re-landscape so that watering is not necessary. The initial cost to change a landscape to one with almost no water requirement is staggering for anything bigger than the smallest property. A desert landscape is not a cheap thing to create.

Dunnellon's management has provided a bogus forecast of a \$250,000 per year "profit" from the acquisition of Rainbow Springs Utilities.

First of all, this is not really profit, but rather confiscation. It would seem that the confiscation gains will be at least several times the phony \$250,000 figure, and perhaps will be sufficient to bail out the Greenlight losses that Dunnellon now has to face up to. That offset may be the real motivational driver, beyond the obvious spillover of the city's utility problems onto the unfortunate captive neighbors.

One has to wonder why a municipality can engage in confiscatory pricing of utilities, while electricity providers, for example, must have rates approved by the state. Over the next few years of Dunnellon fleecing its neighbors, will the city stand up under an audit of its books?

The Florida Supreme Court relied on the American Water Works Association in ruling on rate differentials for non-city customers. That Association supported a surcharge so that in-city investment would be compensated through surcharges to outside users.

"Investment" is all about real property, facilities and equipment acquired and built to provide service to in-city and outside customers. That is the intent of the law.

It should never be applied to a city's purchase of an existent utility system, when that purchase is for the purpose of generating revenues on the backs of the customers of an existing utility network.

The actions by the city of Dunnellon are an immoral disgrace, a naked grab



THE OTHER GUY

Officials off to rocky start in 2012

To say the turnout at the final 2011 City Council meeting was a surprise might be an understatement; however, the same cannot be said about the vote.

Knowing full well about the Dec. 31 deadline to complete the transaction and sign off on \$6.5 million in financing, the pending vote to approve the deal was a no-brainer.

That the City Council ruffled the feathers of 1,500-plus folks to the north of the city line is no surprise either.

However, this isn't a decision that affects the folks in Rainbow Springs.

This is going to have an impact on the residential and business taxpayers inside the city limits.

It might not come quickly, but it will come.

If those who live in Rainbow Springs follow through on their promise to boycott Greenlight Dunnellon Communications, it's going to make for a tricky situation when it comes to the financial obligations the city locked itself into in November 2010. You know, the \$7.3 million in financing for a system that has yet to launch.

Hypothetically, let's say those 1,500 folks would have signed up for

triple play combo feature Greenlight recently touted in its rate study, added a couple of features to it and were paying on average about \$135 per month for services. That would total \$202,500 worth of business per month, more than \$2 million per year.

Of course, that's just gross revenue, not net figures.

Let's say the 1,500-plus residents and businesses add the same features, minus the business rates established by the City Council. That's another \$2-plus million in net revenue flowing in.

It would certainly make it easier for the city to pay off its \$7.3 million in bonds a lot quicker; perhaps enabling city leaders to lower taxes because of the potential profits coming in.

Take away the revenue steam from the potential Rainbow Springs' residents and it paints a bleak picture.

Two questions not brought up at the Council meeting regarding the fate of the pair of utilities the city agreed to purchase, I found interesting.

First, and foremost, when the City took over the Rio Vista system, those folks were required to pay a deposit to



Jeff Bryan

THE JERSEY GIRL

Columnist has kissed a few frogs

So who were you kissing at midnight on New Year's Eve? That seems to be a big question every year.

I was kissing the same man that I've kissed for the past 20 years. That's 20 years of living together; 1,040 weeks of co-habiting; 7,300 days of saying good morning; and millions of kisses.

Russell and I will soon reach a milestone, our 20th anniversary. And I hope to be kissing that man every New Year's Eve for a very long time.



Audrey Beem

Has it always been easy? Definitely not. Did I think we would make it to this point? Yes and no.

Chris Rock says if you love somebody you have thought about murder, and although he's a famous comedian and I'm sure that joke got plenty of laughs, there is also a bit of truth in it, don't you think?

We have had extreme highs and extreme lows. We have cheered for each other through awards and accomplishments, hugged and screamed through kids and grandkids, and nursed each other through all kinds of illness and injury. We have also endured the biggest test of all, the long downhill trek after losing a child, and then climbing our way back up somehow.

Know what my husband's best trait is? It's that he loves me.

As I sit here writing this with tears in my eyes I know in my heart that that is the one true thing that has kept us together - not my love for him, but his love for me. For there is no greater feeling than knowing somebody truly loves you. That somebody thinks you are the best and would do anything for you. Everybody deserves to feel that at least once in their life.

He was the one that said the right words when I lost my job. He was also the one that gave me the confidence to pursue new dreams and goals I wanted. He thinks I look like J-Lo - love is most definitely blind.

I don't believe in fairy tales or the stories we tell as young girls about the princess waiting for true love, but Lord knows I've kissed a few frogs along the way.

There was the guy who pursued me for months and then once he got me, he decided he didn't want me. There was one time I had the best first date ever, but then never heard from the jerk again. The time I thought the guy was hitting on me, but he really wanted my best friend. Of course, there's the man I dated that lived in a travel trailer and had two DUIs. Yeah, he was a real keeper. Oh, and the time I thought I was in a great relationship, only he was also in a relationship with his wife. Run, Forrest, Run!

Oh those were the good 'ol days - not!

Until my handsome prince came along and saved me or maybe I saved him. It doesn't matter. All that matters is that both our lives are better for it.

I was a single mom, working three jobs and living in a tiny apartment. Russell was a drifter, going from one job to another and never worrying about the future. But boy, look at us now.

Have I mentioned how totally opposite we are? We both love our home and our family. And the opposition has seemed to work. We actually complement each other, he encourages me to clean and I encourage him not to



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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.

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LETTERS

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for cash that cannot be justified by either cost or environmental considerations. These actions may not violate the letter of the law, but they certainly violate the intent.

Beyond strictly legal considerations there is consideration of the administration of utility pricing, which the state needs to address as it should any pricing by a monopolistic provider.

**Ted Apple
Dunnellon**

Boycott Greenlight Communications

As residents of Rainbow Springs, we deeply regret the mayor's attempt to balance his budget by purchasing Rainbow Springs Utilities and adding an extra 25 percent to our water bill.

We had signed up to be a customer of Green light Communications, but because of the mayor's actions, our only means of protest is to boycott Greenlight Communications and keep our current cable and television providers.

I hope there are other residents in Rainbow Springs who will join us in this boycott.

**Nelson and Sheila
Hildreth
Rainbow Springs**

Adopt-A-Class program ready to launch

The Adopt-A-Class Program is ready to launch. We are looking for 40 businesses, individuals or organizations to adopt a class.

As of now, we have 20 sponsors ready to go. The meet and greet for the sponsors and teachers to get together is set for Jan 19. Sponsoring a class is a great way to give back to the community. After all, the next generation will be running the country in the future. Let's give them the education they need to excel in their dreams of what they want to be when they grow up just like we did 20 or 30 years ago.

Helping a teacher can be as simple as supplying a few students in the class you adopt with the basic learning tools like paper and pencils, calculator or folder, or as much as helping keep the class room stocked.

You can give the teacher a gift card each month to help curb the cost of the supplies needed or work with the teacher on an as need bases. It will be a personal choice between you and the teacher of the class you adopt. You will be working directly with the teacher, no middle man.

If you are interested in signing up to help or need information, call Viola Soffe at 465-8000 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday or call 445-0728 anytime.

The Grumble House, Creations by Clovis, Carol Scott, Doris Magursky, Joyce Bergeron, and Sue Carpenter are ready to go. Also Coldwell Bankers, Jack's Cool Treats and the Insurance Center of Dunnellon.

We would like to thank them for their support.

**Viola Soffe
Dunnellon**

Flag flying upside down is disgrace

Art Taylor writes in the Jan. 5 issue that he was "very upset to see an American flag flying upside down at a home on Camp Drive." Moreover he goes on to say "this is a slap in the face for all Americans." I own the home to which he refers and respectfully, especially considering Mr. Taylor's 30 years service, disagree.

There are specific reasons our flag hangs upside down and, had Mr. Taylor cared enough to ask, I would have been more than willing to discuss those reasons over a cup of coffee. Our flag hangs in protest, a form of political speech, describing our family's view of our nation's current state of affairs – and its immediate distress.

But, rather than ask why a fellow veteran would resort to such protest, Mr. Taylor reacted emotionally and without thought. Indeed he calls upon Dunnellon police officers and firemen to "respond to the

distress call" in what can only be interpreted as an effort to intimidate our family for merely exercising our First Amendment right.

Sadly, this insistence upon political correctness at any cost and attempted resort to government authority for its enforcement, either officially or unofficially, is one reason our flag hangs in distress.

Mr. Taylor, both you and I swore an oath to "support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic." At present, I hang the American flag upside down because the Constitution is under attack.

What do you consider more important – a symbol – or the foundation upon which our nation defines limited government of the people, for the people, and by the people, and thereby safeguards our liberty?

Although you have my sincere apology because our protest offends you, I cannot and will not end it simply for that reason. The freedom to speak one's mind is a precious right, especially when that speech disagrees with conventional wisdom and majority opinion. You and I both served and sacrificed for that right.

Would you now deny us liberty by using government to intimidate and silence us?

Sincerely,

**Dave Sams
Dunnellon**

Wake up Rainbow Springs, boycott Dunnellon

In reference to Dunnellon Council acquiring Rainbow Springs Utilities, this is just another example of Dunnellon Council looking for more revenue to waste on meaningless projects.

First the traffic cameras, then the fiber-optic cable and now repairing Dunnellon sewers.

Wake up Rainbow Springs! Rainbow Springs' residents get nothing from the increased utility costs.

Either initiate a lawsuit against this action or, at least, boycott Dunnellon stores and force the stores to help vote out all of Dunnellon City Council. If this type of activity continues, Dunnellon will try to annex the Rainbow Springs properties for tax revenue.

Then Rainbow Springs property will be just another Citrus Springs type place to live. Don't laugh at this. Keep in mind the question; how did Dunnellon get permission to run cable on Rainbow Springs roads?

**Pete Creighton
Dunnellon**

Accidents in area are disturbing trend

Does the number of accidents in this area bother you?

I am totally astounded by the number of stupid accidents that take place daily; however, I am not surprised at why so many accidents occur.

The No. 1 reason: People are preoccupied with cell phone conversations, snacking, putting on make-up, chatting, reading, etc.

The No. 2 reason: They do not allow enough space between vehicles or are so far behind the vehicle in front of them it endangers other drivers.

The No. 3 reason: Trying to be over polite by thinking they are doing drivers a big favor by wanting them to turn illegally. When drivers try to wave me on illegally, I totally ignore them or wave my arms to discourage them.

The No. 4 reason: People who speed up at merge areas and expect everyone else to allow them to pull in ahead of other folks. Please take your turn like everyone else.

My advice to drivers: Just follow the rules of the road! I moved here from Pennsylvania and drove most of my life in rain, sleet, snow – you name it I drove in it. But here in Florida with such beautiful weather most of the time, with no snow or freezing rain it amazes me that there are so many stupid drivers on the highways.

How about making this your No. 1 New Year's Resolution: I will drive safely. I will be considerate of other drivers.

And last but not least, I will not be stupidly polite to other drivers to encourage them to make illegal turns.

Sincerely,

**Patricia C. Hess
Dunnellon**

Enough already with surcharge

The elected officials of Dunnellon have made their decision. Come hell or high water they are going to charge a 25 percent surcharge to Rainbow Springs Utility customers.

All of the letters to the newspaper and comments to friends and neighbors about how unfair this is will not change their minds. Being typical politicians they will hunker down till the fury dies down and then they will proceed as if nothing happened. Well this time, there will be a price to be paid for arrogance.

— A petition will be mailed to every homeowner in Rainbow Springs asking them to pledge not to purchase anything from Greenlight Communications between now and the next election. If the 25 percent surcharge is still in place, we will proceed to step two.

— It is not our intent to hurt the businesses or residents of Dunnellon; however, they must take responsibility for electing these people to office. Therefore, if this group is elected again and the surcharge has not been refunded, we will boycott all Dunnellon business. This will also include the many volunteers that give their time to make Dunnellon a better place to live.

We have no problem with your purchase of Rainbow Springs Utility. It is a private company and is available to the highest bidder. However, the surcharge is another matter. Quite frankly you are ripping off the residents of Rainbow Springs to cover your own incompetence.

There is an old saying "Don't kick the dog or it will bite". You kicked, we bite, your move.

**Lynn Black
Rainbow Springs**

Praise for Children's Christmas Party

2011 was a spectacular year for the annual Needy Children's Christmas party. We were expecting between 250 to 300 children, but were pleasantly surprised when 480 children came to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus. They enjoyed a wonderful baked ziti dinner, with all the fixings, provided by the Dunnellon Bingo Hall before being greeted by Santa.

Dunnellon Fire Rescue can't say enough about the generosity of the business community and the residents of Dunnellon area. Their donations and support make this event possible year after year. Truly a lot of these children may not have had a Christmas if it weren't for this event, which has been held continuously for more than 20 years.

We at Dunnellon Fire Rescue would like to extend special recognition to the Dunnellon Bingo Hall, Tri-County RC Club for co-sponsoring, Personal Mini Storage/U-Haul and, of course, Gary's Nuts for locating Santa at the North Pole for this special event. We would also like to thank the residents for their donations and time wrapping the gifts for Santa and to recognize all of the businesses listed below for their generosity.

— Ace Hardware, A to Z Beverages, Aunt Bobbys Antiques, Anglers Resort, Avonelle Mackerell, attorney, Badcock Furniture, Blue Gator, Bentley's Restaurant, Blue Run Bicycle, Born Again Country, Community Thrift Shop, Crock's Pub, Coast to Coast Heating & Air, Captain Bob's Airboat Tour, Curt Bond Signs, C.J.'s Transmission, Cross at the River Cowboy Church, China Wok, Clean Cut Barber Shop, Central Florida Armory, Creations by Clovis, Coldwell Banker/Riverland Realty, Dunnellon Tires & Auto, Dunnellon Bingo Hall, Dunnellon Garden Club, Dunnellon Moose Lodge No. 2308, Women of the Moose No. 1662, Dunnellon Chiropractic, Dun-

nellon's Turner House, Dunnellon Square Residents Association, Dunnellon Marine, Dunnellon Christian Academy, D'Arville & Company, Dunnellon Pawn, Dunnellon Auto Upholstery, Dunnellon Plumbing, Dunnellon Presbyterian Women's Exercise Group, Dunnellon Mulch, D & D Custom Cabinets, H. Michael Evans Attorney at Law, Eastern Star No. 235, Electric Beach Salon, Epoxy System, Fero & Sons Allstate Insurance, FUMC Harmony Preschool, Fryes Tool Rental, Genesis Hearing, Grumbles House Antiques, Gigi Hunter State Farm Insurance, Go for Donuts, Gary's Nuts, The Historic Village of Dunnellon, Hometown Auto Mart, Knights of Columbus No. 8510, Neal Lumapas, MD, Medical Center, Mike Scott Plumbing, Myriam's Restaurant, Dr. Dane Myers, DDS, Nichol's Lumber, Olsen Insurance, Dr. Oliverio Family Medical, Personal Mini Storage/U-Haul, Paradise Nail & Spa, Perkins Dentistry, Penn Station Deli & Grill, Roxanne Caraway DBA Allstate Insurance, Rainbow Springs Golf & Country Club

Rainbow River Club, Roberts Funeral Home, Rainbow Jewelers, Riverland News, Rainbow River Animal Hospital, Riverland Trading & Loan, Repeat Boutique, Red Fox Gallery, Scally's Lube & Go, Singing River Tour, Two Sisters, Tri County R/C Club, United Methodist Women Group, Walmart and Ye Olde Subs & Pizza.

**Bill Wetmore
Dunnellon Fire Rescue**

Legion Post 58 says thanks to community

On behalf of the American Legion Wall Rives Post 58 of Dunnellon, I would like to offer our heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation for your support of the annual Thanksgiving Day Feast and Christmas Dinner at the post on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day 2011. Giving back to the community is one of the leading reasons the American Legion exists.

Many, many thanks go to the Volunteers of Families

in Need of Dunnellon, the Ladies Auxiliary of Post 58, members of Post 58, Cadenca Bank, Dunnellon Police Department, Front Porch Restaurant, A to Z Liquors, Grandview Church, Greater Dimensions Christian Assembly, Volunteer Thrift Store, LLC, The Riverland News and many anonymous cash donors.

Without any of you, these events could not take place. The donations of food, pastries, soft drinks, and hands-on help are what made this the best year ever for these holiday meals.

It is with great pride in our community that we thank all of you, for your kind and generous efforts to help. It is because of all of you, that more than 570 people were able to partake of these wonderful Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day Dinners.

With Heartfelt Thanks,

**John L. Taylor
Commander
Wall Rives Post 58**

Letter writers will spend our money elsewhere

I'm a resident of Rainbow Springs and I strongly oppose the purchase of our water and sewer system by the city of Dunnellon.

The city has graciously offered to sell the water back to us, albeit at an initial 32 percent increase in cost (6.75 percent, first-year rate increase, plus 25 percent surcharge), in a naked attempt to increase their revenue and thereby make up for several of their egregious financial blunders.

I guess the water company's \$250,000-a-year profit, plus the rate increase wasn't enough, because the greedy city administration then decided to tack on the optional 25 percent surcharge.

The residents of Rainbow Springs can't vote in city elections, so who cares if they get upset? Easy pickings, for sure.

Mayor Fred Ward and City Manager Lisa Algieri didn't even have the good manners to respect the formalities – aren't you supposed to say something like, "Hands in the air, this is a stick up" when you do

stuff like this?

All the mayor can do is crow in the Riverland News about what a wonderful deal this was for all and how everyone benefits. Everyone but the people in Rainbow Springs.

We have all been treated to the Greenlight cable fiasco and the consequent rescheduling of the first payment in the debt bond repayment schedule. This doesn't bode well for the rest of the project.

At first, I looked forward to the possibility of fast internet cable service, but now I think I'll stay away from Greenlight Communications and stick with AT&T and DishTV, even if it costs more, just to keep my subscriber money out of Dunnellon's coffers.

Then we were entertained by the red-light camera boondoggle in which the installation is reportedly supported by accident reports that bear little or no relation to those conditions the cameras will supposedly improve.

I've changed my driving habits to avoid the punitive fine; again, not because I wish to be an ultra-safe driver, but simply to keep potential fine money out of the city's grubby little paws. I can put up with the red-light cameras, because I can avoid their financial affect by driving differently. Not so with the water and sewer grab.

As if these two questionable financial adventures aren't enough, now the city residents will have another bond issue to swallow – this time for \$6.5 million – to pay for the purchase of the Rainbow Springs water and sewer system. I'm left to wonder why Dunnellon avoided having this bond rated by the ratings agencies.

All this ugliness and its attendant financial burdens have been foisted on a seemingly complacent and uninterested citizenry that hopes to go about its business unmolested by the administration it elected.

No chance of that, given this track record.

The city administration, from the mayor on down (and abetted by a compliant

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Great News!

Hello from beautiful Rainbow Springs, where warm greetings are being sent your way!

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The office will continue to have access to

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which provides YOU Exposure to Marion & Citrus Counties + 39 additional Counties. Our Website remains unchanged, still bringing National and International inquiries.

We welcome your call and look forward to serving you. We hope that you will feel free to spread the "Good News" that we are now the new owners of **Rainbow Springs Realty Group, Inc.!** We are excited to bring our office to "Greater Heights" and Deliver the "Ultimate Results" for You!

Please know that we are here to serve you with Pride and Integrity!

Warmly,
The Entire Group here at Rainbow Springs Realty Group, Inc.

www.myrainbowspringsflorida.com

LETTERS

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city council), is now sitting on a financial burden that may well lead to bankruptcy. Unthinkable, you say? It happened to Central Falls, Rhode Island (reference online at wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110801-709370.html) and to many other cities that took on too much debt during a declining economy - it might well happen here.

What happens if Greenlight Communications can't deliver its expected subscriber base? What if all Dunnellon drivers wise up and avoid the red-light cameras and the right-turn-on-red gotchas - does the monthly equipment rental cost go away if nobody gets fined? What if the Rainbow Springs residents refuse to water their lawns? What if a sizable number of those same residents decide to not shop within the city limits of Dunnellon in protest? Who's gonna pony up the cash to cover the shortfall? And who loses if heaven forbid the city does have to declare bankruptcy?

Certainly not the consultants with their power-point slides or the city administrators who put forward these ideas and embraced them with open arms.

Sigh. A line from the old "Rocky and Bullwinkle" cartoon series keeps running through my head: "Hey, Rocky, watch me pull a rabbit out of a hat!"

I don't live in the city of Dunnellon, so I can't vote

in its elections. But there is a way I can vote. I can vote with my wallet. The Rainbow Springs water and sewer grab is going to cause me financial harm, so I'll return the favor.

I can choose where I spend my money. I don't have to spend it in Dunnellon, though, I have up until now because I favor supporting local businesses. No more. There's very little if anything inside the city limits that can't be found elsewhere.

Let's see now, grocery shopping? There's Winn-Dixie and Publix.

Plumbing and hardware supplies? I'll trek to Lowe's or Home Depot.

Auto parts retailers, perhaps? Plenty on State Road 200.

Dry cleaning? Not in Dunnellon.

Prescriptions? I'll use the pharmacy in Winn-Dixie or Publix.

Restaurants? There are loads on State Road 200.

The list of businesses I'll avoid could go on, but no need. You get the idea.

If there's anything I can do to keep my money from flowing into the city of Dunnellon, I'll do it. I'll rearrange my shopping trips to get what I need on West Dunnellon Road or in Ocala or on State Road 200.

For me, the city of Dunnellon will now become just a place I have to drive through to get somewhere else while doing my best to avoid the red-light cameras.

Who knows, there may be others like me in Rainbow Springs who feel as I do. It

could add up.

As much as it pains me, I'd rather spend the money on gas than give it to a city that treats its neighbor - me - like a cash cow, or worse, like a rube on a carnival midway.

Sincerely,
Al and Marti Spalmacin
Rainbow Springs

Rainbow Springs needs to disconnect from city

Throughout history, governments have abused their power until the people got fed up and took a stand.

During the Middle Ages, the lords of the manor dictated what was best for the serfs without consulting them. Their decisions were based on what was best for the Lords.

History had just repeated itself. The lords on the Dunnellon City Council have decided to use the residents of Rainbow Springs as a tool to pour more gold into their coffers. They recently installed red-light cameras that would achieve the same goal.

Now, the "Fathers" have purchased Rainbow Springs Utilities, and informed the people who live there of their plan to at least double the water rates. I am sure the knights sitting around the Round Table are already planning their next monetary scheme.

Recently, I received the letter from the city manager of Dunnellon informing me of the purchase of Rainbow Springs Utilities. Lisa Algieri welcomed me

as a new customer. I cannot respond in kind because her actions prevent me from trusting or believing her. It is a win-win situation for the city of Dunnellon and a lose-lose situation for the residents of Rainbow Springs.

When I crumbled the letter and threw it in the trash, I thought of "Les Miserables." Residents of Rainbow Springs, we can either roll over and play dead accepting the abuses and dictates that will certainly come when the city coffers need replenishment or we can stand together and send a clear message. Our strength is in our numbers and our actions. We will be only as strong as our weakest link. If you are not with us, don't whine about the consequences. We are the victims of a money grabbing scheme by the Dunnellon City Council.

The main goal of the city purchasing Rainbow Springs Utilities was money, which they expect to get from us. We must use the same strategy against them. When Greenlight cable system is ready to come on line simply refuse to subscribe. When you receive a brochure in the mail telling you about Greenlight throw it in the trash. When a telemarketer calls simply tell them you do not wish to subscribe. When a salesperson rings your doorbell tell them you are not interested and close the door. When the city needs revenue to pay off the money they borrowed for Greenlight, let

the subscribers who live within the city limits have their rates increased and a 25 percent surtax added to their bills.

When we drive to Ocala or Inverness, we can buy our groceries, fill our vehicles with gas and purchase whatever else we need. We must all remain together to send our message: "United we stand, divided we fall."

The letter I received stated: "There is a 10 percent late charge if the bill is not paid by the 15th of that month, and the account is scheduled for disconnect if not paid by the end of the month." Residents of Rainbow Springs, we need to disconnect the city of Dunnellon for their greed and imperialistic attitude.

Walter Urbanek
Rainbow Springs

Resident urges boycott of Greenlight

I believe the City Council has made very bad decisions based on bad assumptions.

If I had wanted the amenities of a "big city," I would live there.

This small, money-challenged city has borrowed \$7 million to compete against private enterprise. Why? In a free market society, if it was economically viable, private money would finance and run the business.

Now the city-backed entity is in direct competition with AT&T, DirecTV, Dish and Comcast, all of which are located in Dunnellon and provide jobs to local residents. Who thought this was such a good idea?

Now the city has purchased a free standing utility just for revenue generation. The role of the city government is to govern, not to generate revenue, backed by borrowed money. It's placing the city in great debt.

Unless you do not have cable, phone or Internet service now, I would not get Greenlight as you know your rates will skyrocket as it is only for revenue generation.

Based on the red-light cameras, Greenlight and now the quick utility purchase (\$2 million more than appraised value), who will trust the city?

What the city has done is taxation without representation. A quote from an Ocala Star-Banner article Oct. 15, 2011, is as follows "The little town along the rivers is making a big bet on the internet worthy of a riverboat." I believe it is a bad bet as people should boycott the unrealistic Greenlight operation.

The City Council paid a private company \$2 million more than the appraised value on the utility. Only a government entity could purchase the utility and do what they have done. Not good government management at all.

You make your decisions based on past performances; look at city decisions the last year and the Greenlight performance so far.

Not very impressive. Boycott them.

Rosemary Kleuker
Dunnellon

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GATHERINGS

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Rainbow Lakes Estates

Sunday
Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.
Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.
Evening Service.....5:00 p.m.

Wednesday
Prayer Meeting.....7:00 p.m.

Every 4th Sunday.....5:00 p.m.
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Tim Turner
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Sunday
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Worship 11:00 AM
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Wednesday
AWANA 6:30 PM
Youth Group 6:30 PM
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ELCA

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Citrus Springs

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Communion Every Sunday

Information: 489-5511

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Father Emmanuel Akalue, Pastor

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Saturday Reconciliation. :3:30 PM
Saturday Vigil.....4:30 PM
Sunday.....8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
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The Nature Coast Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship is a democratic and lay led congregation. All are Welcome. Details on our 7 principles, services and activities are at naturecoastuu.org.

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Sunday School.....9:45 AM
Worship.....11:00 AM
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Sermon.....11:00 AM

Tuesday
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7 pm.....Bible Study & Prayer

Christmas visit to Hampton Manor (West) Dec. 13



Twelve veterans were visited and a beautiful cake and punch was shared. Gifts were presented from Post 58 which included towel sets and cozy sox, patriotic pillow cases, planner notebooks and pens, puzzle books, personal item packets and a lap blanket was presented to one vet who did not have one. Four members of Post 58 attended the event in dress uniform. 1. Eugene Thomas, 2. Bernard James 3. Bob Anderson 4. Emily Cysz. Contributors for this event were 13 Legion members, Ladies Aux (who also purchased the cake) Gladys Murphy, Genesis Hearing Center, Dollar Tree, Emily Cysz and Larene Devito, Hampton Manor Activity director, Tammy Shepard did a super job of coordinating the event and getting all 12 veterans together in the activity room. My personal thanks to all who helped make this event possible.

BRIEFS

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.

The 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. Jan. 21 The public is welcome.

JERSEY GIRL

continued from page 4

spend every penny we earn. It's a give and take relationship. What's mine is mine and what's his is mine. I joke of course.

So I'd like to say Happy Anniversary to my hubby. No, the vacation to Hawaii that we planned is not going to happen but I'd be happy with you in a motel in Ocala. We can save the big trip for our 40th. See you there!

OTHER GUY

continued from page 4

connect to the city system. Will those folks in Rainbow Springs and Juliette Falls be required to do the same?

Second, and perhaps the most important factor in the City Council's deci-

sion to double the size of their utility customers, is how will this affect the billing department? Is the city equipped to handle the massive amount of billing that will be required to double the system, or will taxpayers now face the likelihood of a new employee being

added to the city payroll, benefits and all?

Certainly, all of the numbers and figures are a lot to digest. However, the city needs to keep the public in the loop on the financial status of all bond obligations. It's their right to know, they're paying the bills too.

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DHS earns 'B' from state for FCAT

School tops all county schools for graduation rate

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

Dunnellon High School has gotten a dose of good news from state officials in the past few weeks, one putting them in good company with other schools in the district, the

other making it head of the class in the district.

Officials with the Florida Department of Education announced last week Dunnellon High had earned enough points to be classified as an "A" school.

However, if schools don't

make the required "adequate progress" in various categories, they're automatically cut one letter grade. Here's the breakdown of Marion County's public high schools: Belleview (1,182), Dunnellon (1,068), Forest (1,199), Lake Weir (1,137), North Marion (1,121), Vanguard

(1,135), and West Port (1,191).

According to state officials, Schools must earn at least 1,050 points on the 2010 FCAT (Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test) and other grading criteria for an "A" grade.

Despite the loss of a letter grade, Dunnellon High Principal Michelle Lewis was pleased with the outcome and said the overall results show

her staff and the students are working hard.

"We are very proud of success," Lewis exclaimed. "We're working hard to achieve success, and our overall score indicates we're doing that."

Yet it was the news Lewis and district officials received prior to Christmas break that

See FCAT page 9

Boys & Girls Club ready for big year



Boys & Girls Club members Paige Cecere and Ashely Nagele enjoy making "edible aquifers" at Rainbow Springs State Park as part of field trip in which members learned about our water supply and pollution.

Club kicks off new year with trip to state park; readies for new building

BETTE NAGELE

For the Riverland News

Happy New Year from the members of the Boys & Girls Club in Dunnellon!

It looks like 2012 will be the year everything comes together for us. We look forward to a new facility and new program offerings that will come with our larger building.

We closed out 2011 with a special program at Rainbow Springs State Park. Ranger Nicki Aiken, park services specialist, directed a wonderful lesson about the Florida aquifer and sink-

holes.

Using gummy bears, lemon-lime soda and ice cream, members built "edible" aquifers to learn how fertilizers and pollutants filter down into our water supply. What a great activity! We look forward to our next visit to the park and another lesson from Ranger Aiken.

Members at the club are also earning points during Power Hour, the homework and educational program available each afternoon. Points are earned for completing homework, helping younger students study,

independent reading and other educational activities. At the end of the month, members will trade in points for items at the club store.

On Friday, Feb. 10, the Boys & Girls Club of Marion County will host "Roc with the Docs," a dinner dance and auction to raise money for all three clubs in Marion County. Table sponsorships are still available, as well as individual tickets. Please contact Bette Nagele if you would like to donate to this cause or purchase tickets.

Our special thanks to the Community Thrift

Store for their very generous donation of \$3,500. The donation will be used to maintain important programs and improve our current facility.

The Dunnellon Unit of the Boys & Girls Club of Marion County serves children in the greater Dunnellon area and is currently at Ernie Mills Park on Bostick Street. For more information or to make a donation, drop by the club from 3 to 6 p.m., or call director James Corne at 208-4812 or contact Bette Nagele at bnagele11@bellsouth.net.

Town Hall meetings scheduled to present Four-Day School Week

Special to the Riverland News

Superintendent Jim Yancey hits the road this month and next to share information about a four-day school week coming to Marion County classrooms this August. Marion County School Board members approved the plan last June.

The series of eight identical "town hall" meetings provides a budget history, steps the school board and district have taken over the last five years to cut over \$51 million from the operating budget, and alternatives to the four-day week.

Open to the public, the meetings also provide those attending the opportunity to offer budget-cutting suggestions not already considered by the district. School board members will also attend various meetings with Yancey.

All meetings start at 6:30

p.m., and take place at schools representing geographic areas throughout Marion County:

- Jan. 23 – Dunnellon Elementary (10235 S.W. 180 Ave. Rd., Dunnellon)
- Jan. 26 – Marion Oaks Elementary (280 Marion Oaks Trail, Ocala)
- Jan. 30 – Lake Weir Middle (10220 S.E. Sunset Harbor Rd., Summerfield)
- Feb. 6 – Belleview Middle (10500 S.E. 36 Ave., Belleview)
- Feb. 13 – Howard Middle (1655 N.W. 10 St., Ocala)
- Feb. 16 – Maplewood Elementary (4751 S.E. 24 St., Ocala)
- Feb. 23 – Oakcrest Elementary (1112 N.E. 28 St., Ocala)
- Feb. 27 – North Marion Middle (2085 W. Hwy 329, Citra)

For more information, contact the Public Relations Office at 352-671-7555.

District's annual Magnet Expo scheduled today

Special to the Riverland News

What is a magnet school? What's a magnet program? Can your child attend one in Marion County? What are the qualifications? Why do they even exist?

If you've ever wondered about or considered such a program or school for your child, come learn what's so attractive about these highly-competitive programs at a special Magnet Expo set from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, at Marion Technical Institute (MTI) at 1614 S.E. Fort King Street in Ocala.

See exhibits from Dr. N.H. Jones Elementary and Madison Street Academy, Oakcrest Elementary's International Baccalaureate (IB) Program, Reddick-Collier Elementary's Cambridge Program, Howard Middle's AAIT (Advanced Academics Integrated Tech-

nologies) and IB Programs, North Marion Middle's Cambridge Checkpoint Program, Belleview and North Marion High's AICE (Advanced International Certificate of Education) Program, Forest High's EMIT (Engineering, Manufacturing Institute of Technology) Program, Lake Weir and Vanguard High schools' IB Programs, Dunnellon High's Power Generation Academy, and West Port High's MCCA (Marion County Center for the Arts) and Early College Programs. These are all magnet schools or programs in Marion County. MTI will also display its by-application-only programs to potential students and parents.

No advance registration is required, and anyone from the public is invited to attend.

For more information, call Expo Coordinator Julie Shealy at 236-0550.

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Romeo students buzzing with 'World of the Week'

Romeo Elementary is back in the groove as school resumed Jan. 3.

Students are continuing to learn vocabulary weekly as we all strive to stretch our knowledge. This week's words are math related in an effort to increase math vocabulary.

Students learn the words, then share with an administrator or reading coach during the day in order to have their names put in a drawing Friday. The program has been exciting and the new vocabulary is being used throughout the day. Be sure and ask Romeo students what the word of the week is so that you can share with our new

vocabulary.

Monday, Jan. 16, is a school holiday with no school for students or staff. Tuesday, Jan. 17, is a teacher training day with no school for students. Wednesday, Jan. 18, is a teacher workday as we prepare for report cards, so students will not have class on that day either. Classes resume Thursday, Jan. 19.

Report cards will go home with students Friday, Jan. 27. Please review grades and comments carefully since this marks the mid-year point, and we want to stay on the same page with student academic progress.



Kathy Hultman
Romeo
Principal

State offers online help for students to prep for FCAT

Dunnellon Middle School students and staff are happy to be back in school after our restful Winter Break. We are all ready to meet the challenges and rewards as we soon end the first semester and move into the second.

Parents, DMS students are offered free tutoring daily from 7:30 to 9 a.m. in the Media Center. Our certified instructors are here to help any student with the desire to learn to overcome any difficulty they may be experiencing with their school work. Dunnellon Middle School is very happy to be able to offer this tutoring program and we welcome our students to take advantage of this opportunity to receive this free tutoring assistance or just enhance with their current skill levels.

FCAT testing will be here before we know it and we are reaching out to our DMS parents and students to remind you of the free FCAT learning tool from the Florida Department of Education – the FCAT Explorer. The

FCAT Explorer is a free, online practice program. It features four practice programs created especially for middle school students. All four programs offer practice for the skills tested on the FCAT and features tips to help students get the most out of their study time. The four programs offered for middle school students are:

- Reading Island offers 37 reading passages with over 250 practice questions.

- Reading Boardwalk contains 60 reading passages and over 500 practice questions to help students do their best on the FCAT.

- Math Navigator contains 140 math questions and features an online calculator and a handy formula reference sheet.

- Science Voyager contains 190 practice questions, along with vocabulary exercises and 8 lessons on each of the areas tested in the Sunshine State Standards.

The FCAT Explorer is



Jane Ashman
DMS
Principal

Junior Honor Society inductee



Special to the Riverland News

Twelve-year-old Emily Bowne of Dunnellon, a seventh-grader in Howard Middle School's gifted program, was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. She has maintained Straight A's in Howard's Magnet Gifted program since sixth grade. She graduated from Dr. N.H. Jones Elementary Magnet School, participating in its Millennium Gifted Program. She is the daughter of Jeff and Dawn Bowne; and the granddaughter of C.B. and Nita Bowne and Kathy Claffey.

EDUCATION BRIEF

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.

See ASHMAN page 9

ASHMAN

continued from page 8

online, it is free, and you can use it on any computer connected to the Internet; at school, at the library, even at home. Student performance on the FCAT can benefit from the extra time spent studying math, reading, and science on FCAT Explorer. Please sign-on today at www.fcatexplorer.com.

Student sign-on directions are:

- Sign-in: full last name and first letter of first name;

- Password: 42, first four letters of last name and the month and day of birth (include "0")

- Student Example: Johnny Smith born on 09/10/95

- Sign-in: smithj

- Password: 42smit0910

Parents/guardians wishing to speak with their child's teacher(s) may set up a parent/teacher conference through the DMS Guidance Office.

We also encourage and recommend our parents/guardians sign-up for access to the Parent Portal. The Parent Portal is offered throughout the Marion County School District. This is a real-time application to review how your child is doing in school right now. The Parent Portal is a priceless tool created to assist our parents help their student stay on task and alerts parents to any issues that may develop before a report card is issued. If you have not signed up for the Parent Portal we invite you to stop by our Guidance Office in Building No. 1 and sign-up

today.

Dunnellon Middle School also offers the following "Be There" tips to help improve your students learning:

- Talk to your child about school. Make it a habit to ask questions about what is going on in your child's academic and social setting. Find time when your child wants to talk, such as driving in the car or late at night. Encourage your student to be open-minded and meet new people.

- Stress the importance of education. Let your child know that their education is important to you and why it should be important to them as well.

- Help your child to build and use time management and organizational skills. Assist them in establishing a daily routine for doing homework and provide an ideal environment for them to work in.

- The second semester will begin Monday, Jan. 23. Dunnellon Middle School invites everyone to take advantage of all the learning tools offered to them for success now and in their future lives. Let's build a strong foundation together!

Finally, our DMS scheduled after-school activities for next week are:

Band: Monday, Jan. 9 – Percussion Band Practice, 3:40 to 5 p.m.

Basketball Practice:
• Tuesday, Jan. 10 – Boys and Girls Basketball – 3:40 to 5 p.m.

• Wednesday, Jan. 11 – Girls Basketball – 3:40 to 5 p.m.

• Thursday, Jan. 12 – Boys and Girls Basketball – 3:40 to 5 p.m.

We've got spirit, yes we do, we've got spirit, how about you?



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Cub Scout Pack 574 was awarded the first-place prize for Most Spirited float by Charlene Williams, left, chairwoman for the annual Dunnellon Christmas Parade, and Beverly Leisure, right, executive director of the Chamber. Accepting the award for Cub Scout Pack 574 are Mike Morgan, second from left, Brad Hart and Ian Drillick. "We'd like to thank Scott and Dora Robinson and their children, Scott II and Kenzie, for the use of their truck as well as CTA Audio in Inverness for helping us out," Morgan said. Cub Scout Pack 574 is now preparing for their annual Blue and Gold Dinner in February. For more information, see the Riverland News in the coming weeks.

FCAT

continued from page 8

has the school's top official and her staff on Cloud Nine.

The school's graduation rate, which is 94.9 percent, is tops in the district. It's almost 15 points higher than the state average.

Lake Weir and Forest

High are the only other two Marion County district schools to finish with a graduation rate 90 percent or better. The state average is 80.1 percent.

"I am very proud of the hard work and effort shown year-in and year-out by the staff and students at DHS," Lewis said. "Our students understand the importance and value of education

and our staff works hard to make the content relevant and meaningful to students.

"Even as the state continues to raise the bar, our students rise to the challenge and meet those increasing expectations. Earning a diploma is exactly what our students spend 12+ years in school to do. It's the culmination of many years of work for

our students, teachers, parents, and community. A graduation rate of 94.9 percent is most certainly something we should all celebrate. As a community, we're doing something right."

The figures, the report stated, does not include students who obtain their General Educational Development (GED) diplomas.

Villages of Rainbow Springs

Wishing you a Happy New Year, Much Good Health, and Happy Travels in 2012.

Jan. 29th-Feb 5th - Freedom of the Seas
From Port Canaveral - Cabins still available. Other Dates, other cruise ships and plenty of itineraries. Call me.

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DHS boys basketball falls to state-ranked Eustis in district tilt

RACHEL HORNE
For the Riverland News

The Dunnellon High School Boys started off 2012 with a tough test, facing the fifth-ranked Eustis Panthers, Jan. 6, proving they are one of the top-10 teams in the state with a 65-37 victory against the Tigers.

"We played really well the first quarter, but the second quarter we didn't play as well," Dunnellon coach Eric Hayes said. "We had dug ourselves into a deep hole by halftime and played better the second half, trying to dig ourselves out."

The players know the remedy for improvement now though.

"We weren't taking care of the ball, we need to practice harder and play hard from the start," Ngqabutho Sigogo said.

Jordan Loyola was another varsity player to recognize mistakes the Tigers

need to correct.

"Our minds weren't focused," he explained. "We didn't make smart choices with the ball, we took too many chances and couldn't finish the game."

Other players thought the major issue was "team chemistry," two of the proponents for increasing teamwork were Willie Robinson and Denziel Thomas. "We didn't play so well, because we didn't have team chemistry."

Dunnellon played Tuesday against Tavares. Results were not available at press time. The Tigers play at 7:30 p.m. Friday at home against Belleview and at 4:30 p.m. Saturday against Lake Weir. Dunnellon will celebrate Parent Appreciation Day against the Hurricanes.

The Tigers return to the road Tuesday, Jan. 17, when they travel to Brooksville to face Hernando in a district contest. Tip-off is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.



JULIE MANCINI/For the Riverland News
Jerrell White shoots over a Eustis defender during the Tigers' contest against the fifth-ranked Panthers.

Tourney to benefit Boys & Girls Club

The sixth annual Rotary Club of Ocala Sunset Golf Scramble, benefiting the Boys & Girls Club of Marion County, will at 12:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3, at the Golden Ocala Golf and Equestrian Club. Entry fee is \$125 per player, which

includes a deli buffet lunch and complimentary beverages. For more information about sponsorships or to register for the tournament, contact Nicholas Blaser at 352-427-9804 or e-mail nicholas.blaser@td.com.

HALL OF AN HONOR



Special to the Riverland News
Former Dunnellon High School football coach Richard Kennedy flanked by former DHS football players at his Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

Former DHS coach, Kennedy, Inducted into Hall of Fame

Riverland News

Richard Kennedy, former Dunnellon High School head football coach, was inducted into the Florida Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame Saturday, Jan. 7, at the Hilton Oceanfront Resort in Daytona Beach.

"Needless to say, I'm totally humbled by it," he said of the honor. "It was just awesome, mind boggling the support I received from the community. It just blew me away, it was incredible. There were more people from Dunnellon than all of the rest of them together."

More than 50 former Dunnellon football players and friends attended the ceremony to honor the former coach for his outstanding contribution to high school athletics and the coaching profession.

"It was a special day for Coach Kennedy, as well as the players who were fortunate enough to play for him and be there to support him during the induction ceremony," said Roger Sibbald, who played for Kennedy from 1977 to 1979, including the back-to-back state championship teams. "It was a well-deserved honor and his accomplishments rank



Special to the Riverland News
Coach Richard Kennedy shares memories with former Dunnellon High School football players, from left, Al Miller, Roger Sibbald, Ricky Easmon, Tom Boss, Kennedy and Vito McKeever, at the Hall of Fame Banquet.

right there among other great coaches who have been inducted into the FACA Coaches Hall of Fame.

"Coach Kennedy has touched the lives of a number of people in a number of towns throughout the state of Florida; however, none more so than the town of Dunnellon. He will always be appreciated and will always have a special place in the hearts of those who played for him."

Of his 35 years of coaching experience, 10 years were spent at Dunnellon High School where he won back-to-back State Football Championships in 1978 and 1979 and had

burg Times, and in 2006, he was named one of the state's winningest high school coaches by the Orlando Sentinel.

Kennedy's overall record was 230-81-1 in 28 years as a head football coach at Dunnellon, Trenton, Crestview, Leesburg and Liberty County.

Thirty-five of his players received college scholarships and three (Ernie Mills, Vito McKeever and Ricky Easmon) went on to play in the NFL.

Richard and his wife, Gayle, currently reside in Marianna, Fla. They are both retired from Liberty County High School.

"Totally the greatest memories of our life, my life, our daughters' lives, even though they were young, very young," he said of his tenure in Dunnellon. "It was an awesome experience. I'm the luckiest person in the world. I'm so, so thankful to a lot of people, a lot of people in Dunnellon."

Their daughter, Marie, teaches Language Arts at Liberty County Middle School, while their youngest daughter, Julie, coaches college softball at Southeastern Louisiana.

Jeff Bryan, the editor of the Riverland News, contributed to this report.

the state's longest win streak at 36 games.

"We loved it," he said of his time living here. "It's a great place to live. I've got to say, just great, great people there too."

"My wife and I were talking about it the other day on our way home. We've been gone for 26 years and we both have such fond memories of our time there, that maybe we need to move back. The community was so good to us. It's a very extremely special place. I think about Dunnellon a lot, it's home to us."

In 1979, Coach Kennedy was named the North Suncoast "Coach of the Decade" by the St. Peters-

DHS girls' soccer drops two games



AMANDA ORTMAN/For the Riverland News

Dunnellon High School soccer players Chloe Kuhlmann and Paige Volker attempt to clear the ball from against a pair of Belleview offensive players Jan. 5 at Tiger Stadium. Even though the Dunnellon High School girls' soccer team didn't win either of their games this past week, they are still keeping their heads up. On Jan. 4, Forest beat the Tigers, 10-0, at

Tiger Stadium, and on Jan. 5, Belleview racked up all their goals in the final 16 minutes to post an 8-0 victory against the Tigers. "We are really looking forward to growth and improvement for seasons to come," Dunnellon coach Becca Burton said. The Lady Tigers played Tuesday at West Port and Wednesday at Crystal River. Results were not available at press time.

'Race for the Kids' scheduled Feb. 11

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.

Eventually, the organi-

zation would like expand its site to include five houses with a total of 40 children being served. The event will help provide the funding required for operation of the Covenant Children's Home.

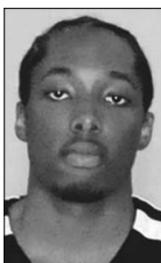
The entry fee is \$20 for those who pre-register and \$25 the day of race. All pre-registered runners and walkers are guaranteed a T-shirt and gift bag. Awards will be presented to the top finishers in each age group. All participants in the Kids Fun Run will receive a participation medallion.

Register at www.cchfl.org or www.drcsports.com.

DUNNELLON HIGH ATHLETES OF THE WEEK • PRESENTED BY YOUTOEPIDAY SPA

Jerrell White, Boys Basketball

White 10 points, seven rebounds and two blocked shots against Eustis for the Tigers. "He played very hard the entire game," said Dunnellon coach Eric Hayes.



Jerrell White

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Elizabeth Wright, Girls Soccer

Elizabeth Wright is always at practice, always works hard and does a great job on defense, communicating with the other players and makes it very difficult for the other team to get by her, said Dunnellon coach Becca Burton.



Elizabeth Wright

Women's Club of Dunnellon



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

The Woman's Club of Dunnellon was awarded the first-place prize for Best Decorated float by Charlene Williams, left, chairwoman for the annual Dunnellon Christmas Parade, and Beverly Leisure, right, executive director of the Chamber. Accepting the award for the Woman's Club of Dunnellon are Annie Laura Dickens, second from left, and Holly Fisk.

RIVERLAND GARDENER

Hydroponic gardening taking root

Growing plants hydroponically involves growing in a liquid filled with nutrients rather than the conventional soil gardening. You as the grower will control the amount of oxygen, and nutrients that the plants are given.

Vegetables such as lettuce, cucumbers and peppers are good choices to be grown. Tomatoes will enjoy this growing method. These systems can range from very professional expensive setups to homemade.

When you have chosen your plants look for a double walled pot, ceramic, or glass container. Plastic buckets can be used, and one lady told me she has even tried mason jars.

This method is known as static solution culture. Another method is continuous flow culture, but this involves a more expensive set up, and might be worth considering if you find this method of growing suits you.

Although it is fun to see the roots if the containers are clear, algae could then develop, so covering the jar with foil, or black plastic may help prevent this by blocking out daylight.

Vermiculite, or coconut husk, is a good medium to anchor the plants roots, although some will just use a plastic film, or net to poke the roots through, and then place in the water so the roots will dangle loosely in the liquid.

Oxygen needs to be supplied, and using a fish

tank filter can make the required bubbles.

The fertilizer must be specifically for hydroponic growing as this mix will contain the correct amount of macro and micro nutrients the plant will need. The ph level needs to be 6.0, so purchasing a ph kit will be needed.

The fluid will need to be changed every two weeks, and I have been told that allowing the fluid to drop to the base of the lowest root will help promote the oxygen take up.

Here in Florida this style of gardening could be good as the watering job has been replaced by the water the plant sits in.

Pests are generally less of an issue as the soil is removed. One must watch for wilt due to the high moisture levels that will be present, and good plant hygiene and water changing will be required to prevent plant deaths.

If you suffer from a bad back and find bending an issue then this may be a way to help you harvest your crops as you can place the tanks at a level to suit you.

I have seen some wonderful easy ideas for units, and will get instructions to pass on.

I understand that a hydroponics shop can be found in Homosassa, and another in Floral City.

Tracy Jenner, the Riverland Gardener, can be reached at tracyjenner@aol.com.



Tracy Jenner

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 on page 2

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Annie W. Johnson needs items for homeless program

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.

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 through Saturday at noon; and closes at 8 p.m. or later Monday through Saturday except for meeting nights, and 6 p.m. Sundays.

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

Creative Calligraphers to meet today

The Creative Calligraphers of Citrus Springs will meet at 12:30 p.m. today, Jan. 12, at the Citrus Springs Library, 1826 W. Country Club Blvd., Citrus Springs. Following a practice session on the Foundational Hand, the group will have a brief business meeting and Show and Tell session of last month's projects.

For more information, call the Citrus Springs Library at 352-489-2313.

Woman's Club of Dunnellon slates events

The Woman's Club of Dunnellon will meet at noon Thursday, Jan. 12, for their General Meeting at the Woman's Club. This will be a potluck. The donation for the month will be the "Homeless Children and Youth Center." They are in need of boys' sizes 5 through 10 underwear, socks in medium and large; coats, jackets and sweaters, plus men's size small for older youths. If you wish to donate money, make check payable to the Woman's Club of Dunnellon.

The Woman's Club will meet at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, for Game Day at the Woman's Club. Bring your favorite game(s) for all to enjoy. If you wish to bring snacks or drinks, please do. For more information, call Joan Cothorn at 465-0782 or Gerry Hess at 465-8195.

The annual Soup-A-Thon will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 4. For more information, call Holly Fisk, chairwoman, at 465-8305.

Methodist church to host spaghetti dinner

The Women of the First United Methodist Church of Dunnellon will host its annual spaghetti dinner Saturday, Jan. 14, at the Friendship Hall of the Church at 21501 W. State Road 40. There will be two seatings, the first at 4:30 p.m. and the second at 5:30. Adult tickets are available in advance for a donation of \$6, children 10 and younger are \$3. Adult tickets at the door will be a \$7 donation. There will be a limited number of tickets for each seating. It is an all-you-can-eat event. For more information or advance tickets, call the church office at 489-4026.

Dunnellon Garden Club to meet

The Dunnellon Garden Club will meet at noon Thursday, Jan. 19, at the Dunnellon Women's Club, 11756 Cedar St. Jewel Pontius will be the guest speaker and will talk about Lasagna Gardening. All guests are welcome. For more information call Bobbi Shaw at 489-8554.

Tickets for the annual fashion at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, at the First Methodist Church on West State Road, are on sale for \$15. This year's luncheon will be prepared and served by students of Dunnellon High School's Culinary Department.

The fashions and jewelry will be provided by "La Te Da" of Crystal River and modeled by members of the Dunnellon Garden Club.

Tickets may be purchased from garden club members or call Erlene Likens at 465-4656 or Sandy Robinson at 489-2785.

Christian Women's group to meet

The Dunnellon Christian Women's Connection will meet at noon Wednesday, Jan. 25, at Springs Banquet Hall (Springs Presbyterian Church), 1060 W. Withlacoochee Trail, (County Road 39), Dunnellon. "Pack up and Hit the Road" is the theme this month. Julie Mariner and Janet Baker will be the guest speakers.

Tickets are \$12 per person. RVSP by Thursday, Jan. 19. Call Dot at 465-1150 or Maggie at 465-6153. Tickets must be honored if canceled after Jan. 19.

Retired Nurses to meet in January

The Citrus Marion Chapter of The Florida Registered Nurses Retired (RNR) will meet at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 23, at the West Marion Medical Building, Room 240. Monica Beaton, a physical therapist and certified vestibular therapist, will be the guest speaker. The charity for January is Kids Central and cash-only donations can be made. RN's wishing to attend should call Gladys at 352-854-2677 or Mary Jane at 352-726-6882 by Thursday, Jan. 19.

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American Legion Mural



The American Legion Post 58 recognized the artists who helped contribute their time and talent to painting murals on the north side of the building at Post 58's recent meeting. Those recognized for their contributions by Post Commander John Taylor, right, from left, are: Jon Sharkey, Amy Sharkey, Doris Magursky, Michael Wilmshurst, Diane Sellner, Kourtnei Budy and Sue Ellen PeCord. Not pictured are Lois Brauckmuller and Mitch PeCord.

Special to the Riverland News

Ernestine Thomas: 'Rough on the outside, sweet on the inside'

NANCY KENNEDY
For the Riverland News

You didn't mess with Ernestine Thomas. You'd say, "Hello Miss Ernestine. How are you doing?" She'd put on her gruff face and say, "Like I want to."

Then you'd think, "That's one mean lady," but you'd be wrong.

That was just Ernestine's joking side. If you continued the conversation you'd know that she was probably one of the nicest, most caring ladies you ever met.

Ernestine Thomas died peacefully Dec. 30. She was 81.

Born and raised in Dunnellon, in her early years Thomas grew up during the days of segregation, attending grade school in the old Second Bethel Missionary Baptist Church building on West Test Court — now the Annie Johnson Center.

The high school she attended burned down during her senior year and the students finished school wherever they could find room, usually in churches, since schools were still segregated back then.

After high school, Ernestine worked as a teacher's aide and then as a housekeeper and a babysitter while raising her daughters, Sheri (Beeler) and Valerie (Williams). Later, she worked as a certified nursing assistant for Hospice of Citrus County for 10 years.

"It was my grandmother, my mom, my sister and myself in this house," Beeler said. "She and my grandmother lived in Marion County and then in 1957 they built this house, the only brick house in the neighborhood at the time, outside of Miss Annie Johnson's house."

Ernestine and Annie Johnson were friends. Together, the two women brought food all over town to the homebound. In her later years, Ernestine continued helping those in need as a daily volunteer at the Annie Johnson Center, the next street over from her house.

Every day Ernestine would walk to the center where she was affection-

ately nicknamed "Trouble." She came armed with a joke or two from the album where she kept a collection of them.

She told the Chronicle in 2010, "I'm always saying something funny. I like to keep people laughing and having a good time. I've always been that way. I have a gift for talking."

She had also admitted to being nosy, watching everything and informing the staff and others what was going on — like if someone came in and wanted to take more than two loaves of bread.

"She was our 'bread Nazi,'" said Linda Rutherford, center staff



Ernestine Thomas

She had also admitted to being nosy, watching everything and informing the staff and others what was going on — like if someone came in and wanted to take more than two loaves of bread.

"She was our 'bread Nazi,'" said Linda Rutherford, center staff

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"She was our 'bread Nazi,'" said Linda Rutherford, center staff

See THOMAS page 13

Obituaries

Sue A. Seitz, 69

Sue A. Seitz, 69, of Dunnellon, died Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012 at Legacy House, Ocala. Survivors include her husband, Walter; sons, Walter Seitz and Barney Wilkes both of Dunnellon. Services were at 11 a.m., Friday, Jan. 6, 2012 with Rev. Terry McKee presiding at Roberts Funeral Home of Dunnellon.

Ernestine Thomas, 81

Ernestine Thomas, 81, died Friday, Dec. 30, 2011 in Lecanto. Survivors include two daughters, Janice Beeler and Valerie Williams both of Dunnellon; step-daughter, Tracey Gray of Alachua; two sons, George Thomas Jr. of Arlington, Va., and Rev. Herbert Thomas of Tallahassee. Services were 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012 at 1st Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. Nathaniel Rawls Jr., and Rev. Michael Warren presided. Arrangements by Roberts Funeral Home of Dunnellon, www.RobertsofDunnellon.com.

Linda A. Winn-Lyon, 63

Linda A. Winn-Lyon, 63, of Dunnellon, lost her battle to cancer on Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012 at the Legacy House surrounded by family and friends, knowing she was loved. Her compassion was seen through all those she loved, cared for, and helped — especially her beloved cats.

Her recent hobbies included gardening, putting up newsworthy Christmas displays, elaborate renovations of the

family home, traveling, and if not those, she was fishing.

Linda was the amorous wife of John Lyon; dedicated mother of Nicholas (Margaret) Winn of Denver, Colo., committed step-mother over the years to Margaret Anne (Erik) Johnson of Smyrna, Ga., James (Anita) Hall of Buford, Ga., Warren (Andrea) Hall of Woodstock, Ga., Deidra (John) Martin of Davenport, Iowa., David (Jolene) Lyon of Idaho Springs, Idaho, and Michelle (Chad) Troska; loving grandmother of

Kaylee, Spencer, Cory, Kaitlyn, Keegan, Nickolas, Serena, Alex, Cody, Jacob, Justin, and Allison; loyal sister of Larry Register; and the devoted daughter of the late Cleo and Marion Register.

Her memorial will take place at Roberts Funeral Home 19939 E. Pennsylvania Ave, Dunnellon, FL 34432, Friday, Jan. 13, 2012 at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers donations can be sent to the Marion County Humane Society, 701 N.W. 14th Rd., Ocala, FL 34475.

OBITUARIES page 13

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OBITUARIES

continued from page 12



Thomas T. Coolidge, 98

Thomas T. Coolidge, 98, of Dunnellon, died Monday, Dec. 26, 2011 at Legacy House of Ocala.

Born in Hudson, Mass. on Jan. 1, 1913 residing in Massachusetts and Maine until he and his wife Ruth moved to Dunnellon in 1979. He was a dedicated member of Holy Faith Episcopal Church and affiliated with VFW 4864 of Citrus Springs.

Tom graduated from Bowdoin College, Brunswick Maine in 1936. He was a decorated officer in World War II and retired from the Army Reserves as a Lt. Col. 1962. Tom was an Architectural Engineer in Worcester, Mass. until his retirement the late 60's.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth Jackson Coolidge who died in 1999. He is survived by three sons, George A. Coolidge of Massachusetts, Jack J. Coolidge of Arizona, and Thomas S. Coolidge of

Florida; six grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren.

A memorial service will be at 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 28 at Holy Faith Episcopal Church, 19924 W Blue Cove Drive, Dunnellon. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Holy Faith Episcopal Church.

Roberts Funeral Home, Dunnellon, provided information.

Lynn Bickers, 64

Lynn Bickers, 64, of Dunnellon, died Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012.

She was born July 25, 1947 in Chicago, Ill., and is the loving wife of Gayle Bickers; mother of Janet Murray and Dena Sade of Champaign, Ill.; grandmother of 6; also sister of Bruce Hollinger of Redington Shores.

Her pride and joy were her children, grandchildren, and caring for her family and friends.

Memorials may be made in Lynn Bickers name to Legacy House Hospice of Marion County, Inc., 9595 S.W. 110th Street, Ocala, FL 34481 or The First United Methodist Church, 21501 W. Highway 40, Dunnellon, FL 34431.

Arrangements are by Roberts Funeral Home of Dunnellon.

Methodist church to host spaghetti dinner

The Women of the First United Methodist Church of Dunnellon will host its annual spaghetti dinner Saturday, Jan. 14, at the Friendship Hall of the Church at 21501 W. State Road 40. There will be two seatings, the first at 4:30 p.m. and the second at 5:30. Adult tickets are available in advance for a donation of \$6, children 10 and younger are \$3. Adult tickets at the door will be a \$7 donation. There will be a limited

number of tickets for each seating. It is an all-you-can-eat event. For more information or advance tickets, call the church office at 489-4026. Proceeds from the dinner will be used for UMW Mission projects.

Church to host bible study

First Baptist Church of Dunnellon will host a series titled, "Precept Upon Precept," a communitywide, interdenominational study of Abraham: Becoming a Friend of the Faithful God, a begin-

ner'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.

Lutheran church to host Gospel music event

Arizonans Dave Anderson and Kelly Patten will perform at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, at Joy Lutheran Church at Southwest State Road 200 at 83rd Place, Ocala. A

free-will offering will be asked at this event. For more information, contact 352-854-4509, ext. 221.

Church to host annual flea market

Dunnellon Presbyterian Church will host its annual flea market from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 25. The church is at the corner of Ohio and Chestnut streets in the Historic District. For more information, call the church office at 489-2682.

THOMAS

continued from page 12

member. "She was strict about that, but she also liked people and liked to help out — and she wouldn't let anyone do for her. She'd say, 'I'm slow, but I'll get it.' She was a real fighter."

Her daughters remember her as being strict, but also letting them have fun. The life of the party herself when she was younger, she let her girls have parties at the house.

But if you stepped out of line, or if you were out playing and it got dark and she had to call for you, you knew you were in big trouble, Beeler said.

"I think what I learned

from her was to look out for others and to give to others and not be selfish," Beeler said, "and to be strict on your kids."

Her sister, Valerie Williams, said she appreciated the way her mom always kept good records and was a good provider for them.

"That's one thing I took from her, to keep things in good order. I appreciate learning that from her," she said.

Another thing they learned from watching their mother — not to see the color of a person.

"People are just people," she believed.

Ernestine Thomas loved doing her puzzles and quilting. She watched soap

operas and "Jeopardy!" loved bringing the "girls" at her doctors' offices little gifts. She liked to shop and keep up with fashion, and always chose Golden Corral when she went out to eat.

She liked to curse and "take a little drink on the side" (gin) and play cards, and she was becoming a bit of a hoarder, but she would do anything to help anyone — and she made good biscuits.

"She liked to change cars a lot and take trips with her friends," Williams said. "It didn't matter if it was late in the day or not, they'd get in the car and go to Miami or Atlanta or Sarasota or the Carolinas." And she loved her cats —

wild cats, about 15 of them. Every day she would sit at her kitchen table and fix their food, cutting up leftovers to mix with dry food and then set out on her back porch. She'd yell, "Sarah" (the name of the original stray cat) and all the cats in the neighborhood would come running.

"She was rough-looking on the outside," Beeler said. "People would say, 'Your mama looks so mean,' but she was a sweetheart. People who knew her would say, 'Your mom's the nicest lady I've ever known.' That was her way."

Nancy Kennedy can be reached at nkennedy@chronicleonline.com or 352-564-2927.

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Game On!

Score big with great game-day food

FAMILY FEATURES

Sports-hungry fans need some serious eats to fuel their game-day fun. When friends and family get together at your place to take in the big game, make sure you have great food ready to keep them satisfied all the way until the clock runs out.

These Italian Sausage Sliders, Sausage Dippers and Sauces, Chipotle Monterey Jack Cheese Quesadillas and an all-star MVP Chili from Johnsonville are packed with flavor that will score big with fans of all ages. To get more game-day recipes to feed your hungry crowd, visit www.johnsonville.com.

Chili Station

Be a true chili champ by setting up a crowd-pleasing chili station with some of these winning ideas:

- Give guests the option to top brats or baked potatoes with chili.
- Serve it in large mugs so it's easy to manage.
- Serve in mini bread bowls — just hollow out small, round sourdough loaves, toast them in the oven for a few minutes to firm up the inside of the bowl, then fill with chili.
- Set out a variety of toppings and sides guests can use to customize their chili:

Sour cream	Sliced jalapeños	Cornbread/corn muffins
Scallions	Cheeses, like cheddar, pepper jack or queso blanco	Crackers
Chopped red onion		Tortilla chips
Tomatoes	Cilantro	

MVP Chili

Makes: 12 cups, 6 to 8 servings

- 2 packages (19 ounces) Johnsonville Hot Italian Sausage Links, casings removed (use mild links for a less spicy chili)
- 1 large onion, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons chili powder (use mild chili powder for less spicy chili)
- 1/4 teaspoon cumin
- 1 bottle (12 ounces) dark beer (can substitute with light beer or 1 cup beef stock)
- 1 can (28 ounces) crushed tomatoes
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- Salt and pepper
- 1 can (15.5 ounces) black beans
- 1 can (15.5 ounces) red kidney beans
- 1 1/2 cups corn (frozen or fresh off the cob)

Decase sausage and sauté in a large pot; use a wooden spoon to crumble sausage as it cooks.

Once sausage is nicely browned, stir in onion, garlic, chili powder and cumin and continue cooking until onion softens, about 5 minutes.

Add beer and allow it to simmer for an additional 5 minutes, scraping up any brown bits from bottom of pan.

Stir in tomatoes, tomato paste and allow it to simmer, uncovered for an additional 10 to 15 minutes on medium-low, stirring occasionally.

Taste and adjust seasonings with salt and pepper.

Finally, stir in beans and corn.

Let this come to a simmer and it's ready to serve.

Can be prepared a day ahead.



Sausage Dippers

Makes: 18 servings

- 3 packages (13.5–14 ounces each) Johnsonville Smoked Sausage (such as Beddar with Cheddar, Jalapeño & Cheddar, Turkey with Cheddar or Chipotle Monterey Jack Cheese Chicken Sausage)

Cut sausage links into 1-inch pieces.

In large skillet, cook sausage over medium-high heat until lightly browned and heated through.

Serve with toothpicks and dipping sauces.

Spicy Hot Buffalo Sauce

Makes: 2 cups buffalo sauce plus 2 cups blue cheese dressing

- 1/2 cup butter, cubed
- 1 bottle (12 ounces) hot sauce
- 1 bottle (16 ounces) blue cheese salad dressing

In microwave-safe bowl, combine butter and hot sauce. Cover and microwave on high for about 2 minutes or until butter is melted.

Stir until smooth.

Serve buffalo sauce in one bowl and blue cheese dressing in another bowl.

Orange Bourbon Barbecue Dip

Makes: 1 1/4 cups servings

- 1 cup original or bourbon barbecue sauce
- 1/4 cup orange marmalade

In microwave-safe bowl, combine barbecue sauce and orange marmalade.

Cover and microwave on high for 1 to 2 minutes or until heated through.

Chinese Dipping Sauce

Makes: 1 1/2 cups

- 1 jar (7 ounces) hoisin sauce
- 1 jar (7 ounces) plum sauce

In microwave-safe bowl, combine hoisin sauce and plum sauce.

Cover and microwave on high for 1 to 2 minutes or until heated through.

Creamy Mustard Dip

Makes: 1 1/3 cups

- 1 cup spicy brown mustard
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 2 tablespoons horseradish

In bowl, combine mustard, sour cream and horseradish.

Cajun Mustard Dip

Makes: 1 cup

- 1 cup spicy brown mustard
- 1 teaspoon Cajun seasoning
- Hot pepper sauce, to taste

In bowl, combine mustard, seasoning and hot pepper sauce.



Italian Sausage Sliders

Makes: 16 sliders, 6 to 8 servings

- 2 pounds Johnsonville All Natural Ground Sausage or links, decased
- 1 pound ground beef
- 16 slider buns or mini sandwich rolls
- Condiments

In large bowl, combine sausage and beef. Using your hands, blend meats together and form into one large ball. Use a spoon or a small measuring cup to gather up about a 3-ounce ball and press into patties.

In large skillet over medium-high heat, pan fry 4 or 5 sliders at a time. Cook for about 3 minutes, then flip and continue cooking for another 3 minutes.

Test for doneness. Internal temperature should be 160°F.

Slice buns and top sliders with your favorite condiments.



Chipotle Monterey Jack Cheese Chicken Sausage Quesadillas

Makes: 6 servings

- 12 flour tortillas (8 inches)
- 1 package (12 ounces) Johnsonville Chipotle Monterey Jack Fully Cooked Chicken Sausage, chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, finely chopped
- 3 green onions, chopped
- 3 cups (12 ounces) shredded Colby Jack cheese
- Salsa (optional)

Place 3 tortillas on a large greased baking sheet. Sprinkle each with sausage, red pepper, green onion and cheese. Top each with a tortilla.

Place baking sheet on the center oven rack. Broil for 2 minutes on each side or until golden brown.

Cut into wedges. Repeat with remaining ingredients. Serve with salsa.

Out to pastor

Some amazing words for the New Year

Topping the list this year of words not to be used is the word "amazing." Allegedly (which I think is one word that should not be used this year) 1,500 people voted to ban the word "amazing."



Rev. James Snyder

Of all the words I would like to see canceled during this year, "amazing" is not one of them.

One word I would like to see banned is, "caucus." I have no idea what this word means. Sure, I can look it up in the dictionary and find out what it is supposed to mean, but when used in the political arena, I am all confused.

Yet, this word is employed in the process of determining who will be the nominee for the political office of President of the United States. I think it is interesting that in order to get to the White House every politician needs to start with a Native American caucus.

Another word I would like to see banned for the year is the word "polling." It seems no politician can do anything without first doing some polling. They will spend millions of dollars doing this polling.

Contemporary politicians would not know what day of the week it was if it was not for the latest poll. Even though the Creator gave each

politician two legs to stand on, they are always switching from one leg to the next. Now I know why a politician has a left foot and a right foot.

"Earmarks," is another word I would like to see banned for this coming year. A politician without his or her earmarks is like a skunk without his

stink. If you take a skunk, you are going to have to put up with his stink.

I guess the politician needs to do something with his or her ears for they certainly are not employed in hearing anything from their constituents. If a politician insists on earmarks, I think we ought to do some marking of their ears.

When I was a youngster in school, my teachers found a wonderful use for my ears. Whenever they wanted me to do something, they would grab me by the ears and jerk me into the right direction. Where are those teachers when you really need them? I would like to help them with their ear jerking operation. I know. Let's call it the Ear Jerking Operation.

One final word I would like to see obliterated is the word "party." Especially when associated with something political. Let's face it. The political world is just one great big party after another, usu-

ally, at someone else's expense. If I could go to a party with somebody else paying for it, I guess I would go to.

Whenever somebody asks me which political party I belong to I usually respond by saying, "The birthday party." At a birthday party, at least you get to eat cake and sometimes in the excitement get a little bit on your face. At political parties, everybody is eating their own words and ending up with egg on their face.

I suppose there would be a whole lot of other words I could add to my list. One word I am not going to ban and that is God's Word. There is nothing more amazing to me than the relevance of God's word in my life today. One word I love is, "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

I am quite content to allow God have the last word in my life. I have found it to be amazingly true.

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 e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

Parade Winners



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Dunnellon Christian Academy was awarded the second-place prize for Best Decorated float by Charlene Williams, left, chairwoman for the annual Dunnellon Christmas Parade, and Beverly Leisure, right, executive director of the Chamber. Accepting the award for Dunnellon Christian Academy is Principal Kristy Nelson, second from left, and Katey Fontaine.

CHURCH BRIEFS

Church to host monthly fish fry

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church at the corner of U.S. 41 and State Road 40 East in Dunnellon hosts a fish fry the first Friday monthly. Cost is \$7 for adults; students and children are free. The fish fry is open to the public and is in the church pavilion.

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 Bren-

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

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Residential SA Educator

The Centers is seeking an Educator to provide educational services to adolescents in our 24/7 residential substance abuse treatment facility in Lecanto. Teach lesson plans according to each county's requirements, i.e., math, social studies, science, English, etc. Assist individuals with special and specific needs, interactions and goals. MA or BA Degree in field of Education or Human Services, with a Middle School or High School level State of FL teaching certification req'd (two or more certs desired). Full benefits pkg DWFP/EOE/We E-Verify Fax or e-mail resume to HR, The Centers, Inc., (352) 291-5580. jobs@thecenters.us For more info visit www.thecenters.us

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Medical

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RAINBOW SPRINGS 2 Bedrooms 1 1/2 Bath, 1,400 sq. ft. newly furnished, \$900. Utilities Included On Golf Course, (352) 489-5439

Rental Houses

BEVERLY HILLS 2/1, 20 S. Osceola, \$525. mo. 352-697-1907

Rent Houses Unfurnished

CITRUS SPRINGS Newer 3/2/2, tile flrs, nice area, across rails to trails \$825. no pets (352) 598-0235

DUNNELLON

2/2, Riverbend Rd. near plant \$650 727 631-2680

DUNNELLON

3/2, Near City Beach and Shopping, No Smoking, No Pets \$750 Mo., \$700 Sec. (352) 538-5795

DUNNELLON

3/2/2 RENT TO OWN Close to Rainbow River RUBLESRENTALS.COM (561) 719-8787 (561) 575-1718 after 7pm

Rainbow Lakes LOVELY 2/1/1

Lanai, Laundry Room NO PETS No Smoking \$650. mo. 1st/Last /\$500 dep (352)465-0683

Rooms For Rent

DUNNELLON HISTORICAL DISTRICT 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Cable included. Off street parking. Shared kitchen. I have 3 bedrooms to choose from. \$400.00 per month. Call 352-489-5955

Real Estate For Sale

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-699-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



Inverness Homes

FOR SALE OR LEASE

2/2/1, enclosed porch, Central Heat and Air All Kitchen Appliances \$95.K (352) 742-2770

YOU'LL ♥ THIS!

Have it all! Inverness Highlands, S. Carol Terrace. Huge 1 Family. Major updates you'll enjoy only in a new home. Owner down sized, will negotiate. In nature's paradise this 4 bedroom 3 bath on 2.8 acres fits a family with children who love to play explorer. Own deep well (no water bills), plus new whole-house water treatment system, 16x34 in-ground screened pool with fountain and lights. New 2-zone energy efficient heat/cool; new full attic R-30 insulation; new attic solar fan; new ducts/vents; updated bathrooms; 2 new AirMaster air cleaning units to remove dust, pollen, mold spores. Majestic trees. Extra long concrete driveway. Watch the deer play from the lanai or living room window. Newer (2002) Timberline roof, ridge vents, 7 solar tubs thru out the house. Two hot water heaters. Wired for generator. Completely chain link fenced. Corral your horses, park your boat or RV. ON property 7 palm trees value \$10K each. Occupancy at funding. Approx. 2700 sq ft under air. \$209,900. (Price below Estimate 211.com) Contact owner, 352-556-1510, 352-238-6274 email: rosepub@excite.com

INVERNESS

Waterfront 55+ Park w/5 piers for fishing & enjoyment, clubhouse, onsite shuffleboard and much more! Single wide 1 & 2 BR, starting @ \$6,900. Lot rent \$274/mo. H2O included, 3 mo. free rent with purchase. 352-476-4964

Homosassa Homes

Riverhaven Village, Homosassa, FL GREAT LOCATION, GREAT HOUSE, GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD! 2147 sf, 3/2 + l/rdr comb, den, sun-room, inside laundry, all appliances. blt. by Rusaw in 1989, well maintained, upgrades, move in ready. Asking \$160,000 all offers considered. Realtors 3% See visual tour: www.visualtour.com/show.asp?i=2656780&prt=10003&st=13 Frank or Helen Harris, 352-628-1434 email: hharris3@tampabay.rr.com

Sumter County Land

For Sale

10 ACRES FOR SALE - SANTERRA RANCHES - SUMTER COUNTY Beautiful 10 acre vacant property in deed restricted neighborhood of Santerra Ranches in Sumterville, Sumter County for Sale - Mature Oak trees and open pasture make a perfect atmosphere for your future home and barn..start living the Florida country lifestyle asking \$110,000 Call George (954) 383-7109

Recreation Vehicles

Infinity 99 M/Home by 4 Winds, 35' Triton V-10 gas, 44K mis, front rear a/c, Onan Gen. back up camera, leveling jacks, TV, fully equipped incl tow bars & hitch + brks buddy, assisted for tow vehc. all manuals for coach & appls. NON Smoker incl hoses, sewer & electric hook-ups, 7 new NEW Goodyear tires, See at Oak Bend Village Route 40 W. Dunnellon, call for tour (352) 444-3335 \$22,500 Now \$19,750

Campers/Travel Trailers

I BUY RV'S, Travel Trailers, 5th Wheels, Motor Homes call me 352-201-6945

Vehicles Wanted

BUYING JUNK CARS • Running or Not • CASH PAID - \$200 & UP (352) 771-6191

Boats

Affordable Mobile mechanical, electrical fiberglass, OB/IO/IB. WE BUY BOATS 711 NE 6th Av. Citr Rlv 352-795-5455

Care For the Elderly

Are you in need of a Home Companion/Personal Assistant to help with your everyday needs?

Available full or part time

Call Cindy at Changes of Life Home Services, Inc. (352)208-0802 to schedule an appointment

Handyman

Andrew Joehl Handyman. Gen/Maint/Repairs Pressure cleaning. Lawns/Gutters. No job too small!Reliable ins. 0256271 352-465-9201

Notices to Creditors/Administration

209-0119 RIV

Ostrander, Elaine G. 2011-CP-1430 (F) Notice to Cred. PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: ESTATE OF ELAINE G. OSTRANDER, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of ELAINE G. OSTRANDER, deceased, whose date of death was November 8, 2011 and whose Social Security number is XXX-XX-4023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Marion County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 110 NW 1st Avenue, Post Office Box 1030, Ocala, Florida 34476-1030. The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's attorney are set forth below.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All other 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 THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN §/S733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is January 12, 2012.

Attorney for Personal Representative: /s/ AVONELLE R. MACKERELL, Florida Bar # 521980 AVONELLE R. MACKERELL, P.A. 20743 W. Pennsylvania Ave., P.O. Box 717, Dunnellon, FL 34430 352-489-2264 January 12 and 19, 2012.

Foreclosure Sale/Action Notices

210-0126 RIV

Vs. Sylvia, Robert A. 2011-2310-CA Notice of Action. PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

EDWARD E. TELLE, Plaintiff vs. ROBERT A SYLVIA, et al, Defendants

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: ROBERT A SYLVIA last known address 127 Alsoda Rd., Swansco, MA 02777

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of a mortgage, has been filed against the following property located Marion County Florida; 10081 SW 97th Ave., Ocala, FL 34481 Lot 2, Block N, PINE RUN ESTATES III, as per the plat thereof in Plat Book W, Pages 1 and 2, of the Public Records of Marion County Florida Parcel ID 35323-014-02

and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Plaintiff's Attorney LORENZO RAMUNNO, ESQ., whose address is 7500 S.W. 61st Avenue, Suite 100, Ocala, Florida 34476 on or before 30 days after the first publication of the notice and to file the original of the defenses with the Clerk of this Court either before or after service on the Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a Default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint for Foreclosure. Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office, 110 NW 1st Avenue, Ocala, FL 34476. Dated: December 30, 2011

DAVID R. ELLSPERMANN, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT By: /s/ N. Hernandez, Deputy Clerk

January 12, 19 and 26, 2012.

Misc. Notices

207-0112 RIV

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE #ORD2011-13

QUALIFICATIONS OF PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

The City of Dunnellon proposes to adopt the following Ordinance:

ORDINANCE #ORD2011-13

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DUNNELLON, FLORIDA; AMENDING, CHAPTER 94-PLANNING, ARTICLE II-PLANNING COMMISSION, SECTION 94-32-QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES; AND ALLOWING MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO BE PROPERTY OWNERS AND BUSINESS OWNERS AFTER THREE YEARS DURATION OF SAME WITHIN THE CITY OF DUNNELLON; FOR RELATED PROCEDURE AND PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; CONFLICT; REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A public hearing is scheduled for the Regular City Council Meeting on January 23, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at Dunnellon City Hall, 20750 River Drive.

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

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, ANY PERSON REQUIRING A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION AT THIS HEARING BECAUSE OF A DISABILITY OR PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK AT (352) 465-8500 AT LEAST THREE CALENDAR DAYS PRIOR TO THE PROCEEDING. IF A PERSON DESIRES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT THE ABOVE MEETING OR HEARING, HE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING, AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE, HE MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.

January 12, 2012.

208-0112 RIV

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE #ORD2011-14

OMITTING GUN REGULATIONS

The City of Dunnellon proposes to adopt the following Ordinance:

ORDINANCE #ORD2011-14

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DUNNELLON, FLORIDA; AMENDING THE CITY CODE BY DELETING CHAPTER 22- CIVIL EMERGENCIES, ARTICLE II-EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, SECTION 22-36 - POWERS OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR DURING STATE OF EMERGENCY WITH REGARD TO FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION AND CHAPTER 42, OFFENSES, SECTION 42-2 - DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR RELATED PROCEDURES AND PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CITY CODE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A public hearing is scheduled for the Regular City Council Meeting on January 23, 20

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DIRECTIONS 352.341.3515

INFORMATION 217.787.7767

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JEFFERSON "WAR" NICKEL
UP TO \$2,000*



LIBERTY "V" NICKEL
UP TO \$2,800*



SHIELD NICKEL
UP TO \$4,000*



CAPPED BUST HALF DIME
UP TO \$10,000*



BARBER DIME
UP TO \$2,800*



MERCURY DIME
UP TO \$3,600*



SEATED LIBERTY DIME
UP TO \$6,500*



STANDING LIBERTY QUARTER
UP TO \$4,400*



BARBER QUARTER
UP TO \$3,200*



WALKING LIBERTY HALF DOLLAR
UP TO \$4,700*



KENNEDY HALF DOLLAR
MANY TIMES FACE VALUE*



BARBER HALF DOLLAR
UP TO \$6,750*



PEACE DOLLAR
UP TO \$3,000*



MORGAN SILVER DOLLAR
UP TO \$100,000*

*This amount depends upon rarity, condition and what collectors are willing to pay

Other Items of Interest



COSTUME & GOLD JEWELRY



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