

Riverland News

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County: It's city's job to check wells

All city utility customers required to have inspections

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

For those city utility customers upset about the possibility of annual well inspections, a county official confirmed it is well within

their right, but more importantly, it is the law.

"All community water systems have service areas," Flip Mellinger, utilities director for Marion County, explained. "They're required to make sure it's safe and there's no back

flow of containments in the water system."

Mellinger explained the reason for residents' concerns, especially those in Rainbow Springs, is likely a simple one. "Rainbow Springs rates were low enough, they didn't worry

about irrigation wells," he said. "They didn't realize as soon as those irrigation wells went in, they would have to be inspected."

Mellinger noted the county has to do the same with its utility customers who have irrigation wells.

"We suffered, too," he said. "We get a report monthly from

the Department of Health about whose installing wells."

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has delegated that the Department of Health issue well permits; however, because wells also require plumbing and electrical work, permits must be pulled

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Chronic disease workshops slated

Local health professionals will offer workshops from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesdays, starting March 7 and running through April 11, to empower individuals to take control of their chronic illnesses. The workshop takes place once a week, for two and a half hours, for six weeks. People with different chronic health problems can attend together. Class size is limited to 16 people.

Classes cover the following topics: techniques to deal with frustration, fatigue, pain and isolation; appropriate exercise for maintaining and improving strength, flexibility, and endurance; appropriate use of medications; communicating effectively with family, friends, and health professionals; nutrition; and how to evaluate new treatments. To enroll in this class and begin improving your quality of life, call Lisa Varner at 352-854-5230. Classes will be at First United Methodist Church, Dunnellon.

Friends of the Library to meet March 6

The Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 6, in the Library Meeting Room at 20351 Robinson Road. For more information, call 438-2520.

Michelle-O-Gram schedules fundraiser

The Michelle-O-Gram will host a yard sale Saturday, March 3, at the Lion's Club on State Road 40 in Historic Downtown Dunnellon.

The foundation needs items for the event; however, clothes and shoes will not be accepted. The staging and drop-off location will be at Elaine Hobb's home at 20962 Second Ave., behind First Baptist Church of Dunnellon.

If you have large items and need a pick-up, call Susie Blausner at 489-4885 or 433-5353.

In 2011, the Michelle-O-Gram assisted 131 women obtain mammography testing at a cost of more than \$20,000.

Stop on Green(light)?



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Walter Pletcher, holding a sign promoting a boycott of Greenlight Communications, talks with other residents about the reason for the boycott of the city's fiber to the home program. Residents in the retirement-laden community are upset with the city's 25 percent surcharge on utility bills.

Residents take boycott of city's fiber program to next level

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

Rainbow Springs residents say they have a little less love for the city of Dunnellon, especially after the recent purchase of the Rainbow Springs Utility two months ago in which the City Council approved a 25 percent surcharge on their water bills.

So exactly how much less love do residents of the community north of the city limits have?

Twenty-five percent to be exact, as the buttons several residents have been wearing lately states.

Those living in the community, who have promised to boycott the city's highly touted fiber to the home program, Greenlight Dunnellon Communications, remain staunch in their position.

More than 1,000 homes in the mostly retiree community signed a petition pledging their support of a boycott, but they're not stopping there.

Last week, residents of Rainbow Springs started picketing with signs in the mornings and afternoons asking their neighbors

and others to boycott the city's utility system, which secured \$7.3 million in financing from Regions Bank in Orlando in November 2010.

Since starting the lofty project, Greenlight Communications has run into several problems, most notably achieving its original start-up date. Officials had hoped to launch the system in April 2011, but pushed the start-up to July 2011. However, the system wasn't able to achieve that targeted launch date because of the inability to secure the much-needed fiber to complete the system.

The city, which has spent more than \$5 million of the \$7.3 million in bonds, finally obtained the fiber last November but Greenlight has yet to fully launch its system. Officials are still testing the video system and currently offer Internet and phone service in one community.

Yet, Rainbow Springs was a focal point of Greenlight Communications because of the lack of options residents there had for television, Inter-

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Resident Bob Judd speaks with a motorist who wanted to know what Greenlight is and why the boycott.

Y'Town loses Tarmac appeal

WAR's suit continues

LOU ELLIOTT JONES
For the Riverland News

BRONSON — The 1st District Court of Appeal has denied the Town of Yankeetown's request to review Levy County's conditional special exception permit granted to the Tarmac King Road mine project, possibly closing that case.

Another suit filed citing different grounds for challenging the permit, which was filed by WAR, the Withlacoochee Area Residents, is still alive in the appeals court.

The appeals court's denial on Feb. 15 of Yankeetown's petition for certiorari — a judicial review of a local judge's decision — is not likely to reach the state Supreme Court.

Mayor Dawn Clary said no member of the town council has asked to put an item discussing an appeal on the next meeting agenda.

"Oh gosh, no, unless the council reverses its opinion on that when it was discussed in the meeting to approve the appeal," she said. "It was said at that time that that would be the end of our involvement. That is not to say they may not revisit that."

In August 2011, 8th Judicial Circuit Court Judge Robert E. Rountree Jr. dismissed the town's petition that wanted to undo the Levy County Commission's 3-1 decision in May 2011 to conditionally approve mining on a 4,750-acre site near Inglis for 100 years. Tarmac first filed for a permit in 2004 for the mine that will leave more than 20 lakes on the property and create about 500 truck trips per day from the operation.

Yankeetown argued the

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State pitches future plans to widen U.S. 41

Officials: Project years from starting, lacks funding

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) pitched its plan to widen U.S. 41 from 111th Place Lane to approximately Southwest 61st Street, despite the fact the project is six years away and currently not funded.

According to FDOT, the agency conducted a Project Development and Environment Study (PD&E) in 2007. The purpose of

the study was to examine the widening and rehabilitation of U.S. 41 from two lanes to four lanes. Three public meetings were conducted, including a formal public hearing in December 2009.

The project is now in the Final Design phase, and is expected to be completed in the fall of 2012, officials told a crowd gathered at the meeting at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church.

The project discussed Feb. 9 entailed the recon-

struction of the existing roadway from two to four lanes and includes grass medians, paved shoulders, sidewalks, driveway reconstruction and full and directional median openings.

According to officials, the estimated project cost for this project includes \$3.25 million, if the Chat-mire Connector is included for Project Development and Environment and Design and



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Elizabeth Bartell, center, an FDOT representative, answers questions about the road-widening project.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Artist to host paintine workshops

Artist Sidney Ann Pitchford, a resident of Rainbow Springs, with more than 20 years of experience, will host oil painting classes from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays at Dunnellon Chamber of Commerce. Classes are for beginners to intermediate. For more information, call 465-0702.

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.

Free AARP Tax Services will be available from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays now through April 11. For more information, call Wayne Sloan at 489-5066

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 is from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. The public is welcome.

The Legion will host its annual Law & Order Dinner and Awards Banquet on Saturday, March 10. RSVP by calling 489-4453.

STATE

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\$33.7 million for Right of Way and \$20.6 million for construction. Currently, the funding year for Right of Way is 2018. If funding is secured and the project moves forward, the report stated prior to the beginning of the construction, another public meeting will be held for informational purposes.

According to the report shown at the meeting, the U.S. 41, or State Road 45, widening and reconstruction begins near 111th Place Lane and ends just south of S.W. 61st Street, tying into the proposed realigned State Road 40. The project length is approximately 4.3 miles.

The project corridor includes shopping centers, the emergency services facility, Rainbow Springs State Park as well as many residential communities and places of worship.

In areas in which the existing right-of-way is inadequate to accommodate the proposed improvements, additional right-of-way will be obtained.

The purpose of the proposed improvements are to:

- Increase capacity to accommodate the projected future growth.
- Improve the operation and safety of the facility such as improved sight distance and turning lanes.
- Introduce pedestrian



Residents view an aerial photo with proposed changes to the widening of U.S. 41 north of Walmart to just north of State Road 40.

and bicycle facilities such as sidewalks along the corridor.

In addition, an adjacent County project will address the extension of Southwest 110th Street. This project will provide a connection for the Chatmire community to U.S. 41 (S.R. 45) at a signalized intersection.

The report indicated there are two typical sections that will be utilized within the project limits to increase the capacity.

The first is an urban section, which has two lanes in each direction with the opposing travel lanes separated by a raised median. Curbs are adjacent to the inside edge of the travel lanes.

Bicycle lanes can be accommodated adjacent to the outside travel lanes

and a curb is used to separate the travel lanes from the sidewalk.

Water is captured in an underground collection system and transported to storm water retention basins. This typical section is applied from just north of the Walmart entrance for approximately 970 feet.

The second typical section that will be applied is the suburban section, the report stated. The suburban section is similar to the urban with the curbs and narrow median separating the opposing directions of travel.

However, the outside lanes are now bordered by a flat shoulder area and the storm water is collected by a swale system for conveyance to the storm water treatment

ponds.

The sidewalks are farther removed from the travel lanes and are placed adjacent to the right of way lines, the report stated. Bicyclists can use either the paved shoulder or the sidewalk. This typical section is applied to the remainder of the project.

According to the report, during the PD&E Public Hearing, the access management classification of this portion of road was revised to Class 3. This resulted in a median type that is restrictive and spacing criteria is as follows:

- Signals — Approximately 1/2 of a mile.
- Full median openings — Approximately 1/2 of a mile.
- Partial median open-

ings — approximately 1/4 of a mile.

- Side connecting roads — 1/8th of a mile.

This will impact the existing traffic patterns that exist today, the report stated.

The reports stated current locations for the signalized intersections will remain, but will be improved. These locations include:

- Southwest 99th Place, Southwest 86th Place Lane and existing State Road 40.

- Southwest 86th Place Lane, according to the report, will remain an emergency signal.

The locations that will have a full median opening but without signals includes:

- Southwest 93rd Lane Road and Southwest 81st Place Road, which is also the entrance into Rainbow Springs State Park.

Directional median openings will be installed at the following intersections:

- Southwest 107th Lane;
- Southwest 102nd Street Road;
- Southwest 88th Place Road; and
- S.W. 77th Street/Southwest 77th Loop.

The median will be closed at Southwest 108th Lane, Southwest 80th Place Road and Southwest 75th Street, the report stated.

A pond-siting report has been provided to FDOT, according to the report, and all of the retention ponds for this project will be dry ponds.

Seven drainage basins exist along the corridor, with each basin containing a stormwater treatment pond.

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District increases water restrictions

City of Dunnellon included in order

Special to the Riverland News

Five counties within the Southwest Florida Water Management District's 16-county region are now under a Modified Phase III water shortage order due to below normal rainfall this winter.

The District's Governing Board voted today to declare the Phase III order for northern counties in the District's region which are: Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Levy and Sumter as well as the city of Dunnellon and The Villages in Marion County. A Modified Phase I alert remains in effect for the remaining counties in the District's region.

Under Phase III, lawn and landscape watering will be reduced to once per week starting March 10 on a specified day based on address. Microirrigation and hand watering of non-lawn areas still are allowed any day; but like all irrigation, it must occur before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m.

Groundwater and surface water conditions continue to experience a downward trend based on lack of rainfall. Generally, conditions are worse in the five most northern counties than other regions of the District.

Water utilities and other large users in the northern counties

don't have access to water stored in reservoirs and aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) wellfields like utilities operated in the central and southern counties of the District.

Phase III also includes restrictions for other water use activities. For example, pressure washing for aesthetic purposes will be prohibited. Residents also can wash vehicles only once per week. See attached fact sheet for more information.

The Phase III order gives local enforcement agencies the power to immediately issue citations instead of warnings for first offenses.

"Groundwater levels have been critically below normal for more than 12 weeks now, and river and

lake levels are so low that some boat ramps have been closed," said Lois Sorensen, District demand management program manager. "Everyone needs to do their part."

Counties remaining under the Phase I order continue to follow the District's year-round water conservation measures. That means lawn and landscape watering remains limited to a two-day-per-week schedule and residents only may water before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.

For additional information about water restrictions and water conservation, please contact your local utility or visit the District's website at www.WaterMatters.org/conservation/.

APPEAL

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county should have waited for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers review of the operation under the federal Clean Water Act before deciding on the permit. The town said doing so departed from the county's own rules.

Jeff Harris, project manager for the mine, said the appeals court essentially decided Roundtree did nothing wrong in his ruling rejecting Yankeetown's petition.

"I think he laid out the definition of protected and prohibited in his statement," he said. "I think Levy County did a pretty good job of reviewing the permit."

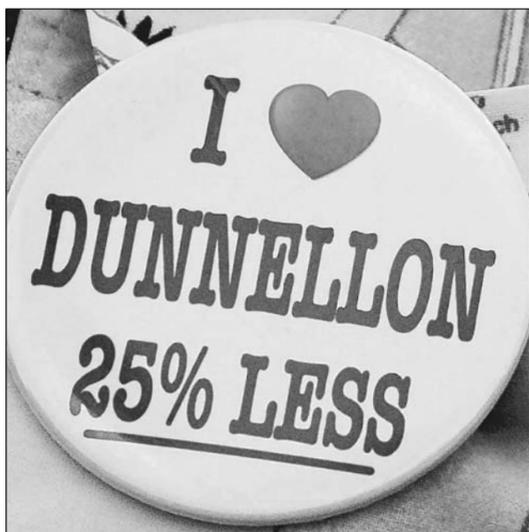
In the WAR Inc. appeal, the group is arguing that the county violated its own land-use plans, including the section about mining on environmentally sensitive lands.

The group's attorney Robert N. Hartsell of Pompano Beach said the appeals court will be receiving initial briefs from all sides in the group's case by March 19.

He said the Yankeetown decision does not affect the group's case.

"In the case we filed, the appeal is different, totally different standards," he said. "It deals with goals policies and objectives" in the county's land-use plan.

Lou Elliott Jones is the editor of the *Chiefland Citizen*, a sister newspaper of the *Riverland News*. She can be reached at editor@chieflandcitizen.com.



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Walter Pletcher sports one of the buttons Rainbow Springs residents are now wearing in protest of the 25 percent surcharge on utility bills the city has tacked onto their bills after buying the utility system in late December 2011.

STOP

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net and phone.

Residents said city officials could avoid the problem by eliminating the 25 percent surcharge; however, at this point they are certain the city will not consider that as option. Most residents noted Mayor Fred Ward's pointed comments at the Dec. 28 meeting in which the Council approved the purchase of the utility system and adding the 25 percent surcharge.

"Because we can, we're going to," Rainbow Springs resident Chip Sturm said, recalling Mayor Fred Ward's statements about the 25 percent surcharge. "Just because they can, doesn't mean they should."

Residents in the community said they are aware of the financial implications a boycott of the fiber to the home program could have on the \$7.3 million in bonds the city secured to start the program, but noted city officials should understand their position.

"Because we can," said Sturm, using Ward's comments in the same fashion.

Residents in Rainbow Springs explained they are not against the city's purchase of the utility system; they're against the city's stance when citing Florida Statue 180 to implement a 25 percent surcharge.

"It's a travesty," resident Bob Judd said about the surcharge. "It's not meant for what they're trying to do. To charge extra was meant to help establish a water

system lying outside the city, and they have taken a system already existing and raising rates."

Motorists passing were taking notice of the sizable placards asking them to join their neighbors in boycotting Greenlight, honking their horns, waving or giving a thumbs up.

Other motorists were stopping to ask questions about the situation, and the most notable question being asked: "What is this Greenlight?"

The folks asking that question live in Rainbow Lakes Estates, an area city officials hope to reach in the future. However, City Manager Lisa Algiere explained several months ago officials do not have enough funds available to expand that far in the inaugural build-up phase of Greenlight. The first phase of Greenlight is expected to go as far as State Road 40.

"I think a lot of the problem is they didn't take the right approach," Sturm said. "It's a very unfortunate situation. I came from Maryland, where there's a lot of crooked politicians. I've never seen anything like this; it's going to cause a lot of heartburn."

COUNTY

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through the building department, Mellinger said.

That's part of the problem, City Manager Lisa Algiere said.

"The problem for us is that we don't issue the irrigation well permits in the county, so we don't immediately know if a well is getting installed," she said. "Before we purchased Rainbow Springs we only had a small number of customers in (Chattire and Rio Vista).

"We are working with the county staff to share information so that we can respond in a quick manner. We are requiring the account holder to be responsible for the annual inspection. We will send them an advance notice of when the annual inspection is due."

Algiere stressed this is about following the laws and protecting the public water supply.

"We require backflow preventers on our system when there is an irrigation well present on

the property, regardless if it is connected to our system," she explained. "This is to prevent contamination in the event of cross connection. The state mandated local governments require backflow prevention devices back around 1985. This is to protect the public water supply and to ensure water quality."

Algiere explained when there is a cross connection there is the potential for contamination.

"Irrigation systems typically do not operate a 24/7 positive pressure," she said. "Most systems have the pop up sprinkler heads. When the system is shut off the sprinkler heads pop back down.

"In doing so, water puddles around the sprinkler head and back siphons into the irrigation system taking with it fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and manure that the homeowner may have put on their lawns and landscapes. This contaminated water then travels to the point of cross connection and contaminates

the public water supply. That is why a backflow prevention device is required. Most residents don't want to drink untreated water from their neighbor's lawn."

Algiere said once the irrigation well has been installed, officials cannot see where the lines connect.

"That is why we require the backflow device when there is an irrigation well, to guarantee that in the event of cross connection our water is protected," she explained, noting this past week officials discovered at least four cross connections. "If the city does not act to protect the water supply, we could face severe fines and penalties from FDEP."

Algiere said contrary to rumors, this is not an attempt to put more regulations on residents.

"This is about the health and safety of our community," she said.

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River views

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OUR VIEW

Is it time to expand voter base in city?

Recently the City Council made the decision to amend the city ordinance, allowing for non-resident property and business owners with three year or more vested years to be eligible to serve on the Planning Board.

Mayor Fred Ward, in championing the change, called business owners stakeholders in city's current and future plans and should have a voice in how the city moves forward in its plans.

We couldn't agree more, because we view the business community as a diverse group of folks with a lot on the line, especially as the economy continues to remain stagnant especially in the construction industry and no foreseeable development of residential growth in this area on the horizon.

Business leaders, who have pri-

vately remained silent in recent months, deserve a right to be heard in this community whether they are a city resident or not. Opening a businesses and continuing to operate in a successful manner is no small feat in today's economy

However, as the nation, states and local counties and municipalities, including Dunnellon, prepare for their own respective elections, it left us pondering who might join the race later this year for the Dunnellon City Council as two seats will be open.

While qualifying for the positions for seats currently held by Mayor Fred Ward and Councilwoman Penny Fleeger are months away, the talk throughout town is eerily quiet.

Most residents are fearful of challenging the incumbents because of

the current financial mess the city has locked itself into with the reported debt at \$20-plus million.

With a limited voter base to encourage potential candidates to challenge for the seats this fall, it's no surprise. Let us also not forget the fact three current council members ran unopposed in 2010, securing four-year terms.

Certainly, no one is to blame for wanting to enter politics. It can often be a tiring experience dependent upon the current landscape of events.

But we believe the solution is right at hand; however, we aren't sure if it will solve the current debacle, but we believe it's time for current officials to take the lead in changing the city charter and allow those non-resident property owners to have a voice on the City Council.

We believe it will not only provide the potential for new candidates, but give a new voice to those who currently do not have one in City Hall.

We believe our non-resident property owners, most of whom are likely astute businessmen and women, should have a chance to share their astute acumen in city business, because they have just as much at stake, if not more. Let's face it, the current economic malaise has forced many business owners to change their standard operating procedure, tighten their belts and reign in spending.

We also believe it might be the proper time for the City Council to broach the subject of annexation, which would have probably seemed

See OUR VIEW page 6

LETTERS

'Miracle worker' might serve Greenlight well

As a courtesy to the city of Dunnellon, DBA Greenlight, this letter is to inform Greenlight that its website has been down for quite some time. This does not look good for a high-tech operation especially during start up.

It seems that with the city manager, utility manager and finance manager all splitting the duties and the \$55,000 annual salary of the long vacant Greenlight manager position, it slipped through the cracks.

I think that the past year of Greenlight management and how well things are going for Greenlight show how well a trio of management works.

Who has for sure benefited from Greenlight so far?

All the suppliers and contractors for sure have benefited. The three managers who are splitting the salary have benefited - \$55,000 divided by three equals \$18,300. I am assuming the salary was split equally, who knows?

We know the bank has or will benefit as eventually the city will have to repay the \$7.3 million loan, plus interest. I am not sure how many times you can restructure a loan, but I believe we are going to find out.

My estimate is \$5 million of the \$7.3 million has been spent in sunk cost with little cash flow yet. Who knows?

Perhaps Anne Sullivan, Helen Keller's teacher, known as the "Miracle Worker" will apply for the communications manager position. I believe it is going to take a miracle worker to make Greenlight a viable business and sell it to the public.

David Bates
Dunnellon

Is Rainbow Springs going down Dunnellon's sewer?

If you ever plan to sell your house in Rainbow Springs or if you were considering the purchase of a home in Rainbow Springs, you'd better revise you plans.

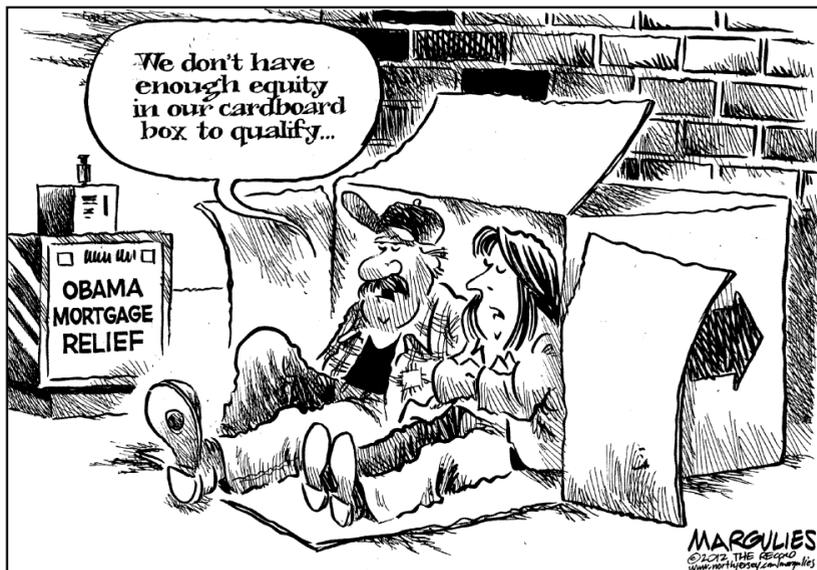
Our formerly friendly city of Dunnellon's stated plans for water and sewer costs will make selling or purchasing Rainbow Springs real estate unaffordable.

What can current residents of Rainbow Springs and Dunnellon do to protect our property values from declining further?

Perhaps our Property Owners Association (POA) could get involved. By that, I do not mean having our POA President going before the City Council on Dec. 21, 2011, and stating that "most of the residents are elderly and only have single incomes."

He then "asked the Council to waive the 25 percent surcharge for the first couple of years of this purchase to allow residents the opportunity for financial order." There is no rational reason to ever charge us 25 percent, unless greed on the part of the city counts as reasonable.

I know that the POA manager and president were at the front of the line to have



THE OTHER GUY

Friend wants to set sail

When it comes to a midlife crisis, men go to the extreme, so I've been told. However, my best friend I believe has hit that midlife crisis wall.

Either that, or he is just plain crazy.

I'm holding out hope for the latter since he's younger than I am.

I would be worried he's got a foot in the grave. Of course, if I was a few years away from retiring from a 20-year career in the military I might be a few bricks shy of a load too.

Then again recent decisions made by the Dunnellon City Council has certainly made folks go crazy at their rationale, but that's another topic for another day.

Needless to say my life-long friend shot me a series of emails the other day asking if I would be interested in competing in a boat race from Tampa Bay to Key Largo.

"Sure, sounds fun as long as you're providing the boat," I replied.

His response came quickly. "There is some paddling, not much," he said, adding "motorized vessels aren't allowed."

Joe, my friend has spent the past 17 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, returns stateside this fall from a three-year tour in Japan, but come next spring wants to take the Everglades Challenge.

He explained his rationale for the need to spend eight days next March completing the task of traveling 800-nautical miles in a boat with no motor.

"I feel like doing something adventurous," he explained.

OK, an adventure I understand, but why not skydiving, a cross-country trip with his buddies to see some national

landmarks, even a week-long trip to Vegas I could understand.

An eight-day, 800-nautical mile trip through the Gulf of Mexico into the Everglades?

I've done crazy in my day, but this is the tip of the iceberg. It might not be climbing a mountain but he picked the Mount Everest of boat races, I think.

Now what makes this even more intriguing is two factors that if we follow through this must happen. Two middle of their 30s men will have to get in serious shape. That means workouts, eating right and more workouts.

There's two major obstacles associated with the above statement. I'm not a workout guy, nor am I a health nut. I'm much like my father in the sense that I'm a meat and potato man. Vegetables belong in a salad, not on my burger or sub sandwich.

That'll have to change because for eight days, there won't be a McDonalds or Subway at the ready. And firing up a grill in a small watercraft is probably not the best decision one could make.

The other factor, I've got to learn how to sail. I'm generally up for learning new skills, but this might take a little longer to master. But why not, right?

Now my buddy sent me a lengthy email explaining his rationale. Two surgeries on his right knee in a year have forced him to realize certain sports he can no longer compete in.

Plus, he said, what better way to see the west coast of Florida than on an adventure with your life-long friend and the stories to be shared among our children.

If it doesn't work out, Carnival cruises that way too, I told him.

He wasn't laughing.



Jeff Bryan

TIME TO SMILE Grandma's soup

It's time to buy the escarole, acini di pepe, and all the other ingredients and make a giant pot of Italian wedding soup.

That's what I do every year on my brother, Bob's, birthday. Only I never knew that's what it was. It's only by accident that I discovered this, but let me start at the beginning.

Rose Cavaliere, my grandmother on my mother's side, was the best cook ever. Unfortunately, she passed away before any of us had a chance to ask for her recipes.

Not that it would have helped. She always cooked with a little bit of this and a little bit of that. Nothing was written down, but it still would have been nice to ask.

For our whole lives, Grandma would make this chicken soup with tiny, little meatballs but none of us ever knew what it was. We just always called it Grandma Soup. She would cook it on the stove all day and she would make plenty.

When my brother, Dominic, would go off to college for the week, she would pack him the biggest bowl she could find and she always wrapped it in a dishcloth.

Likewise, she would also make bowls for me and the rest of the family, too. The soup seemed to have no end and we all looked forward to the days when she'd make it. Bob was always a fussy eater, but this soup was his favorite.

Several years ago, I set out on a mission to make the soup or some version of it anyway, as a surprise for his birthday. The first thing I did was "google" it of course. I put in all the ingredients that I could remember - tiny pasta, chicken, little meatballs, Italian tomatoes, and every site I went to said the same thing. My grandmother was making Italian Wedding Soup and we never knew it.

The term "wedding soup" is a mis-translation of the Italian language minestrina maritata, which is a reference to the fact that green vegetables and meats go well together. Yes, when my grandmother cooked, everything went well together.

Maybe she did know it, maybe she wouldn't have cared.

After all, my grandmother marched to the beat of her own drummer. She was funny, loud and feisty. She said bad words and she drank one can of beer every day. Not your typical grandmother, but we loved her very much.

Growing up, she lived right next door. Every day after school, I would run over there to watch "General Hospital" with her. She used to yell at the TV and make me laugh. She would let me talk about boys and I could tell her anything. She was my best friend back then and I hope she knows how much I adored her.

She would also cook for me while I was there. Wonderful things like rotisserie chicken smothered with lemons, egg and potato omelets, stuffed artichokes and spinach pie. I don't remember her house ever not smelling of food. She would make egg bread or fried dough, which she called Pizza Fritte, and her cooking was more a joy than a chore.

I have so many good memories of her. The times I'd spend the night and

See JERSEY GIRL page 6



See LETTERS page 5

OPINIONS INVITED

- The opinions expressed in Riverland News editorials are the opinions of the editorial board of the newspaper.
- Viewpoints depicted in political cartoons, columns or letters do not necessarily represent the opinion of the editorial board.
- Groups or individuals are invited to express their opinions in a letter to the editor.
- All letters must be signed and include a phone number and hometown, including letters sent via e-mail. Phone numbers will not be printed or given out. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, libel, fairness and good taste.
- Letters to the editor must be no longer than 550 words, and writers will be limited to two letters per month.

LETTERS

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irrigation wells drilled recently, but that doesn't really solve the residents' problem. One way to help solve the problem might be to have the current POA attorney find a law firm that has expertise in the area of water regulations.

Maybe CCW of Marion County LLC., the people who purchased the undeveloped lots from Rainbow Springs Ltd. and all realtors who do business in Rainbow Springs might take an interest in solving our problem with Dunnellon.

After all, how are they going to sell lots or existing homes in Rainbow Springs with the grossly inflated water and sewer rates making Rainbow Springs uncompetitive in the real estate market?

Picture a prospective buyer's reaction when they find out that Dunnellon has one of the highest water/sewer rates in North Central Florida and Rainbow Springs gets to pay an additional 25 percent. I think the buyer's reaction will be "No thanks, I'll look elsewhere."

How about the residents of Dunnellon?

The debt that your City Council has taken on is now in the neighborhood of \$20 million, or \$10,500 for every man, woman and child living in Dunnellon. Do you have any idea what your taxes will be in the near future?

Maybe some of your neighbors would consider running for council seats in the next election. If the present council members continue their big city spending, your homes will become worthless.

Charlie Barrett
Rainbow Springs

If surcharge doesn't end, city will be ghost town

The city of Dunnellon per the latest estimates has approximately 2,000 residents. Again, per the latest estimates, the city has outstanding debt of about \$20 million dollars.

It doesn't take a genius, but only a cheap calculator to figure out that every man, woman and child in the city of Dunnellon would have to pay \$10,000 each to satisfy the estimated city debt. This is a page right out of the federal government's fiscal responsibility play book.

The city has tried one hare-brained scheme after another to pay down the debt.

First, it was the traffic cameras, but it didn't take long for folks to figure out that if you waited an extra half second before making your right turn, you would not get a ticket. I predict that due to declining revenue, the cameras will be soon gone.

Then it was Greenlight Communications. With such a small potential customer base, is Greenlight viable when pitted against all the other communication options already available in the area?

Now the city has purchased the Rainbow Springs water utility, and their plan is to satisfy their financial ineptness on the backs of the residents of Rainbow Springs with a 25 percent surcharge on all water services provided.

More than 1,800 "Boycott Greenlight" petition forms were mailed out to the Rainbow Springs residents actually affected by the utility purchase. To date almost 80 percent have been signed and returned. I'd bet, that if a business case was actually completed on the Greenlight option, it included a very high percentage of Rainbow Springs residents signing up for the service. I don't see that happening, and I don't see Greenlight Communications surviving in the Dunnellon area.

The city had every right to purchase the fully operational Rainbow Springs utility. The only thing in question is the 25 percent surcharge.

As a privately held utility, the rates were controlled by the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC). The rates allowed a reasonable rate of return and profit.

The city doesn't fall

under PSC controls, and will eventually charge Rainbow Springs residents the same higher tiered rates that Dunnellon city residents currently pay, plus the 25 percent surcharge. The intent of the surcharge was to provide for enhancements to an existing facility to accommodate an additional customer base. But this is not the case in this situation, as a fully operational and profitable utility was purchased.

I predict that if the city doesn't remove the 25 percent surcharge, the boycotts will not end with Greenlight, and the city of Dunnellon could end up as a boarded up ghost town.

Dennis P. Birdsall
Dunnellon

Boomtown or ghost town?

I'm sure by now everyone in the area is aware of the mistreatment by the city of Dunnellon to the residents of Juliette Falls, Rainbow Springs and Rio Vista.

This "money grab" accomplished by stretching the limit of state legislation designed to protect the public interest and well being of it's residents. The "because we can" attitude of Dunnellon officials is now permeating many of us who are being affected by this unfair "get rich" scheme.

The Chamber of Commerce has asked that we do not boycott the merchants and professional offices within the city limits.

I, as well as the majority of other affected residents, agree with this policy. These establishments need our support for their livelihood. They cannot exist on the city's 1,743 residents alone.

In this light, I ask these establishments to support our boycott of Greenlight Communications. Those who are unwilling to support the boycott can depend on the city for their bottom line. We can shop elsewhere "because we can."

In closing, I ask that all affected homeowners and renters avoid attending the upcoming "Boomtown Days" as a show of our effect on the activities within the city.

In the late 1800s, phosphate mining produced the "Boomtown." Now, 100 years later, water thieves will create a "Ghost Town."

I wonder how many successful graduates will want to return here?

Bill Descalzi
Dunnellon

City manager's recent comments a scare tactic

First, Lisa Algiere tells Lynn Black and his 1,200 petition signers to go stuff it.

In the next issue of the Riverland News, she tries to stuff a bunch of nonsense down the throats of my neighbors. Dunnellon leadership is terrified that their "house of cards" is about to collapse, and with it, their jobs.

Algiere's proclamation that the "City must inspect wells" is a tactic intended to scare Rainbow Springs residents into not drilling irrigation wells.

Dunnellon desperately needs that \$300 per house, per month to pay off the horrendous debt they have run up, about \$30,000 for every man, woman and child unfortunate enough to live there.

The problem is that Dunnellon ordinances are null and void outside the corporate limits of the city.

Yes, there is a state statute, which requires backflow preventers on wells and stipulates that a state inspector may check to insure that the installation was made correctly.

There are legitimate inspections but usually the state depends on the licensed well driller to do things correctly.

Since Rainbow Springs Country Club Estates and our utility system are located in an unincorporated area and have no physical connection to Dunnellon, their ordinances cannot trump state statute.

Any employee of Dunnellon who tries to enter your property to "inspect your well," should be treated as a trespasser.

Now to get back to the stuffing; one of the worst

things about this fiasco is the terms Dunnellon has attached to our utility bills. I'm sure all of you remember the terms we used to enjoy - 30 days net with no penalty for a late payment.

As another desperate fund raising attempt, the terms are now - net 15 days with a usurious penalty of 10 percent for even one day late!

Let's stuff them back. Until the surcharge and usurious late fee are removed, I want everyone with a free checking account to divide your bill by 20, i.e. \$49.61 divided by 20, which equals \$2.48.05; then write 19 checks for \$2.48 and one for \$2.49.

Stuff the envelope and send it back. If enough will do this, they'll have trouble getting all the deposits in before the next billing cycle.

Dan Techtin
Rainbow Springs

PS. - Ms. Algiere's interest in Public Safety is admirable, but her threat that miscreants will soon have DEP, SWFWMD, Marion County Health and Homeland Security in their yards is a little over the top. If she doesn't stray past that little green sign north of Walmart, which reads "Dunnellon" we'll all be happier. In the meantime, drill baby, drill.

Confused about backflow preventer regulations?

The Feb. 23 Riverland News lead article and the city of Dunnellon City Manager's letter to all of its utilities customers appeared to be punitive and confusing. As in all issues we need to get to page 2, so that we may understand what they're writing about.

The EPA Clean Water Act of 2009, keeping pace with the new normal and voluminous mandates, added residential backflow protection to utilities water supplies. The state of Florida then had to change its plumbing code to meet this new mandate.

The mandate requires residential properties that have more than one source of water supply and service by a public utility must have a backflow preventer that meets the present code.

This means if you have a well, pond or you irrigate with river water, you definitely need a backflow preventer. Although the government classifies this as a low-level hazard, they are still required. State legislature may be working on a code change at this time. Contact your representative to get more information regarding this issue. They are listed on the Association's website at rainbowspringspoa.org

For residential use, Florida Plumbing Code requires RPZ valve. This type of valve will be placed in a box much like your meter box, so that inspections and repairs can be done easily.

The city of Dunnellon Utilities is responsible to permit and inspection of these devices. To simplify matters within the city limits, the city of Dunnellon is responsible for well permits and inspections.

Locations north of the city, Rainbow Springs, well permits and inspections are the responsibility of Marion County.

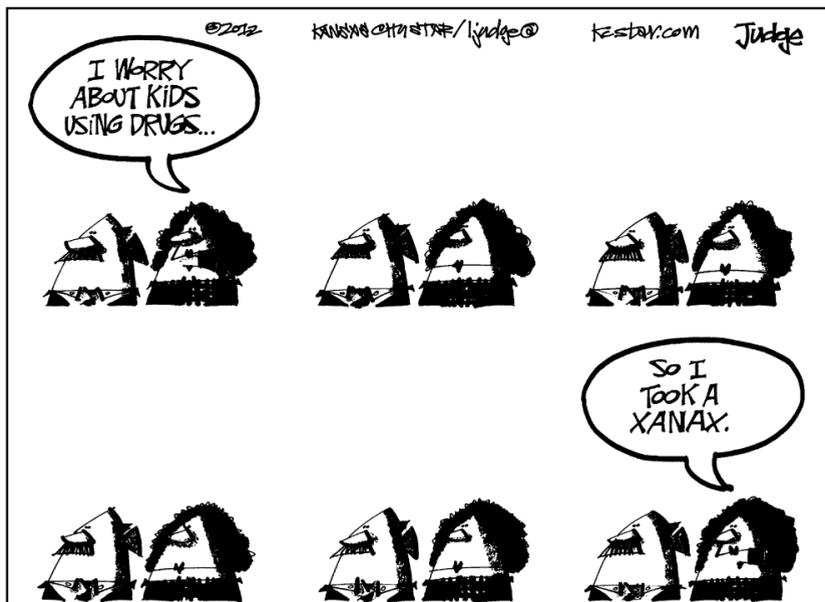
Bob Frankenfield,
President,
Rainbow Springs Property Owners Association

City should open lines of communication

As a resident of Rainbow Springs, I think the current Dunnellon situation might have been avoided if different actions and management style was taken by the city administration.

I believe Rainbow Springs residents have always acted in a manner that showed they had an interest in the well being of Dunnellon and the surrounding areas. This is borne out by the involvement, interest and support of city events, civic clubs, volunteer groups, library, state park and local schools. Most Rainbow Springs residents made it a point to shop locally.

Knowing the character and good citizenship inherent in Rainbow Springs residents, if the city had honest, open communications and worked with



Rainbow Springs residents to develop a viable road map, Rainbow Springs residents might have been agreeable to being annexed by the city.

Of course, that would have entailed the city working with all residents and our well-managed Property Owners Association (POA) in a straight, no nonsense manner, laying all the facts on the table, including future plans.

Even if the plan did not completely work to the financial benefit to Rainbow Springs residents, if it was workable and would better the entire area, it would have been given consideration.

Unfortunately, that is not the history, style or persona of this current inept city administration. The "we can do it because we can" style is more in vogue in Dunnellon. Working well isn't it?

With a callous, contemptuous, arrogant and unwise string of terrible public relations, financial and governance decisions, you have alienated and united the vast majority of Rainbow Springs residents.

Once, what was at least a possible solution to the woeful financial shape of Dunnellon, is not even now a remote consideration or ever will be. The "well" of good feeling/support by Rainbow Springs residents should have been honestly explored before the "well" was forever poisoned by terrible financial and governing decisions. This is when a "well" inspection might have been a good idea.

The legacy of this current city manager, mayor and City Council will be one of lasting harm to the finances, image and stability of the once nice little city. The only persons who benefited from the Rainbow Springs utility purchase were the owners who sold it to the city.

That purchase did not cost just \$5.9 million; it might have eventually cost Dunnellon its future.

Just know whatever happens to the city's relationship with Rainbow Springs, the city's blatant disregard for our input, our household finances and the total lack of respect to us as good neighbors precipitated the actions of Rainbow Springs residents.

Mary Swett
Dunnellon

What are the benefits of purchase?

An Open Letter to Dunnellon Officials:

The week I moved to Rainbow Springs, I received a letter asking me to boycott Greenlight Communications because the town of Dunnellon had procured the Rainbow Springs Utility and was raising water rates.

Before relocating, I was impressed with state-of-the-art Greenlight Communications as a forward-thinking business decision.

The only reason I didn't sign up was because it was still "in testing." I had no knowledge or preconceived notions relative to the Rainbow Springs Utility purchase.

After receiving the letter, I sought information to help me understand both sides of the issue.

I've learned much from the perspective of Rainbow Springs.

I've seen virtually nothing from Dunnellon officials. (Perhaps I missed it?) I have, however, seen fur-

ther dictums over well backflow valves and annual inspections at consumer expense. Little has been said of the real "benefits" of these changes other than vague references to "laws" and water management "responsibilities."

In business jargon, Dunnellon's purchase of the utility seems analogous to a "hostile takeover," with the stockholders unhappy with it and threatening to boycott the city's new communications "subsidiary."

Furthermore, it appears Dunnellon plans to "upstream" profits from their solvent acquisition to the parent company to help offset and defray considerable corporate debt.

This is, unfortunately, not uncommon in business, with sometimes dismal results.

Successful acquisitions and mergers do occur with appropriate management, assuring customers the move will benefit them. If not, customers will take their business elsewhere.

The fact that Rainbow Springs utility customers have no such option is all the more reason for the town of Dunnellon to answer the all important question any successful business should: "What's in it for the customer to support Dunnellon's plans?"

Businesses cannot assume that customers automatically know. Features and benefits must be clearly articulated to encourage support or at least a grudging acceptance until the real benefits, if any, accrue.

I haven't seen anything from the town of Dunnellon since moving here that does that.

Should I therefore assume it's because there are no benefits to me as a new property owner in Rainbow Springs?

I'd like to see a Dunnellon public official publish an article or fact sheet that specifically answers:

— What are the features and benefits of Dunnellon's purchase of the Rainbow Springs utility to the customers whose rates will be increased and projected timeframes for any anticipated long-term benefits;

— What are the features and benefits to customers of Greenlight Communications?

Successful businesses do it even when they don't have to.

Dunnellon owns the utility, with the legal "right" to raise rates, upstream profits and require additional installations to private wells. They have a captive group of customers with no voice in their decisions, other than to boycott.

A smart move by Dunnellon leaders would be to communicate the benefits of their plans to those paying for them. The best case scenario would be for the town to invite representatives of Rainbow Springs to participate in some manner in decisions affecting them.

The letter asking for my boycott of Greenlight Communications still awaits my signature. I'm waiting to hear the other side of the story before signing, or not. It's just good business.

Kathryn Taubert
Rainbow Springs

City's financial efforts setting stage for bankruptcy

Last week's front page article in the Riverland News reported on the fervent efforts by Dunnellon City Manager Lisa Algiere to protect the residents of

Rainbow Springs potable water supply.

Ms. Algiere's actions and comments appear punitive and shallow minded. Her concerns bring to light some interesting topics and questions.

It has been stated by current and past City Council members and the Dunnellon Public Works Department that the city of Dunnellon loses at least several hundred thousand gallons of potable water every day because of leaking antiquated water mains and supply lines within the city limits.

Where is City Council's and Ms. Algiere's concern in this instance for the potential for massive backflow water supply contamination to the residents of the city of Dunnellon?

The city of Dunnellon does not currently enforce its own recently discovered requirement of installation of back-flow devices for residences within the city limits with irrigation systems not connected to Dunnellon's water supply.

The city of Dunnellon also has never enforced its newly discovered requirement of at least annual inspections of existing back-flow prevention devices that are present on all commercial structures (Dunnellon businesses).

Further, it is doubtful that Ms. Algiere and City Council are likely to ever enforce these regulations on Dunnellon residents and businesses. To do so would result in a huge cost to many homeowners within the city limits and all local small-business owners.

Clearly, to enforce these regulations on one group of municipal utility consumers but not on another subset of customers would constitute a blatant ethics violation according to Florida Statute.

Apparently, the city of Dunnellon is going to selectively and punitively enforce these requirements on Rainbow Springs residents only. Rainbow Springs residents can access the Florida Ethics Commission online for complaint forms and can initiate this specific complaint directed against Ms. Lisa Algiere, city manager, and the current Dunnellon City Council members.

The issue is that all elected officials and public employees in the state of Florida are required to treat citizens equally and fairly and in this instance they have not. The Florida Ethics Commission will fairly investigate all legitimate complaints and this appears to be a valid complaint.

City of Dunnellon residents should also realize that the Dunnellon City Council paid 80 percent more for the Rainbow Springs utility system than its very recent appraised value. Adding the cost of the utility purchase to the city's Greenlight Communications investment has resulted in a staggering amount of debt for which ultimately every taxpayer in the city of Dunnellon will be responsible.

Regrettably, our elected and appointed public officials have possibly sent the city of Dunnellon onto the path of bankruptcy and unincorporation and have failed miserably in their fiduciary responsibilities.

Matthew P. Fox
Dunnellon

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JERSEY GIRL

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we'd stay up late and watch "The Carol Burnett Show." Grandma is the one that took me to New York City to get my ears pierced when I was 8 years old. She even took me to Coney Island on vacations with her

and her lady friends.

I miss my grandmother like crazy, but every year eating Grandma Soup brings her back to life somehow. It took years of trial and error, but I think I finally got the recipe just right. I have no doubts she is looking down at us and smiling. I think I'll try to copy her

spinach pie next.

In some ways, I'm probably a lot like my grandmother. I love to cook, love to laugh and like a can of beer most days. And like her, my grandchildren always come first.

Audrey Beem, The Jersey Girl, can be reached via email at abeemer22@att.net.

OUR VIEW

continued from page 4

taboo years ago. However, recent decisions made by our current City Council certainly bring the issue to light.

So, we ask the residents of Rio Vista and Rainbow Springs, before you cringe at the notion of being city residents, hear us out.

First, annexation would make those taxpayers city residents, and being part of the city, the 25 percent surcharge imposed automatically goes away. That, in our opinion, puts the city in a pinch.

Secondly, being residents of the city gives you a voice in the decisions made today that have a large impact on the future of our town.

Third, being city residents gives you more than an out for the 25 percent surcharge and a voice, it gives you the right to run for City Council and expands the candidate pool three times what it is now.

Being on the Council would allow you a say in many policies set forth, most notably, establishing water rates and the cost of annual well inspections.

While we're not sure of the overall financial

impact for those living in Rio Vista and Rainbow Springs, it certainly will make for interesting conversation at the breakfast table for the next week.

If our current City Council truly believes our business community is stakeholders in the town's future and that we need the support of our neighbors to the north, then we challenge them to let voters decide the fact of amending the current city charter as well as letting the residents in their respective communities decide if it's time for change.

Dunnellon Community Thrift Shop

BETTY POOLE/Special to the Riverland News

Bill Whetmore of Dunnellon Fire & Rescue presents an appreciation plaque Feb. 7 to the Dunnellon Community Thrift Shop in recognition of our financial support for their annual Needy Children's Christmas Party and Dinner. Dunnellon Fire & Rescue provided gifts for 480 children and dinner for more than 650 people this year. Community Thrift Shop volunteers Pat Rettke, middle, and Carole Menge, right, accepting on behalf of the store.

LETTERS

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Boycotting business only action writers can take

The city of Dunnellon's disrespect for the residents of Rainbow Springs about water issues has caused us to stop doing business in the city.

We enjoyed eating in many of Dunnellon's small restaurants and shopping in Dunnellon's unique retail stores. It is with deep regret that the mayor's policies have made us take this action.

The only recourse that we have as non-residents of the city of Dunnellon is to unite with our neighbors to take legal action and boycott the city, spending our money elsewhere.

*Nelson and Sheila Hildreth
Rainbow Springs*

Is city aiming for No. 1 water rate charges?

Here is some information I was given by a long-time resident of the Rainbow Springs area. The information was gathered from a water sewer rates study conducted June 16 by Burton and Associates.

For the purpose of this letter, we will compare Dunnellon city water sewer rates to the Sugarmill Woods subdivision in Citrus County as presented in the Burton and Associates report.

For 7,000 gallons of water, the Dunnellon customer rate is \$59.88; whereas, Sugarmill Woods resident would pay only \$27.10. As stated in an January edition of the Riverland News, Dunnellon has the third highest water rates in Florida, and it seems like the city manager is aiming for the No. 1 title.

Evidently, the city of Dunnellon has spent the money of the good folks of the Rainbow Springs area

without asking permission. At the very least, they could have tried to assess the "pulse" of the community. Without doing so, they have left us feeling betrayed with no sense of representation or consideration. In fact, we feel financially abused.

I am now hearing rumblings around the town of people making plans to move out of the area. Also, many local folks are seen sporting lapel pins saying "I love Dunnellon 25% less."

How sad it is that we have come to feel this way about our nice little country town?

*Janni Gibbons
Rainbow Springs*

Bring back the silence

Peace and quiet - words often used together.

Some may remember receiving Barnett Bank's brochure welcoming them to Marion County when they moved here.

It told of the quiet, placid nature of the county, using words such as bucolic and tranquil, while showing pictures of horses grazing in pastoral settings. Pictures in fact much like the present day Marion County logo.

Many of us chose to live in the Hills Of Ocala or surrounding areas for just those reasons. Barnett Bank is no longer around, but their brochure was mostly correct, and for a long time we could delight in the quite enjoyment of our properties.

Now that enjoyment has been destroyed by the obnoxious, nerve-wracking noise derived from aerobic activity at the Dunnellon airport.

As a letter writer noted, this activity can be heard indoors with windows closed at least 3 miles from the airport and outdoors much farther. Talk about disturbing the peace!

More and more citizens

are becoming "fed up" with this racket and it simply cannot be allowed to continue.

For information about what you can do to restore your right to live your life free from the irritation and aggravation of this totally unnecessary noise pollution, call 465-7830.

*Valerie Wienke
Dunnellon*

New utility customer receives first water bill

As a resident of Rainbow Springs, I received my first full month's water bill from our new utility provider last week.

For the period Jan. 17 through Feb. 15, 2011, my irrigation usage was 15,000 gallons for a cost of \$21.45.

This year, in the same period, I used only 13,000 gallons and the cost was \$60.61, which is an increase in cost of 325 percent, and it is my understanding we are not yet being subjected to the 25 percent surcharge.

Bearing in mind that my sprinkler system was turned off for approximately two weeks during this time, it is apparent that the cost of maintaining a lawn on a 0.4-acre lot in the spring and any dry summer months is going to be prohibitive for anyone unfortunate enough not to possess a well, or be unable to afford several thousand dollars to install one.

Ms. Algieri's article in last week's Riverland News was clearly pure intimidation, and threatening to cut off people's water supply to their homes for failing to comply with the city's regulations is, to say the least, reprehensible.

Rainbow Springs is basically a retirement community and there are a number of elderly residents on fixed income who are being forced to have backflow preventers installed in existing wells

that are in some cases over 20 years old and presumably have never caused any kind of problems with cross contamination.

I would like to know if the citizens of Dunnellon are currently being subjected to these inspections and if so, how much they cost, and also if the residents of Rainbow Springs are being treated identically to the residents of the city.

*Stuart Bollen
Rainbow Springs*

Editor's Note: Rainbow Springs Utility users are currently being charged 80 percent of the current city rates, plus the 25 percent surcharge. Full rates won't be in effect until 2016. All utility customers, according to City Manager Lisa Algieri, are subject to having their irrigation wells checked annually by officials. At this time, no cost has been established for a maintenance check.

Visionary bike plan, pedal on

Congratulations to the Dunnellon City Council for adopting the visionary master plan described in an article by Jeff Bryan in the Feb. 23 edition of the Riverland News.

Hopefully, city officials follow through with trail and landscaping plans to make the city more pedestrian and bicycle friendly, and provide easier linkages between residential, commercial and school complexes.

The planned bicycle bridge across the Withlacoochee River to link up with the existing rail-trail running from Citrus Springs south should do much to help the city's business district capitalize on an abundance of potential customers.

I ride the Withlacoochee Trail frequently - having to drive to the Citrus Springs trailhead because there is no safe way to bike there. I

often encounter new visitors who have biked up from Inverness and are dismayed to find themselves "in the middle of nowhere," far from restaurants, lodging and other services. Rather than risk their lives riding the shoulder of U.S. 41 into Dunnellon, they take their business back south.

Bike trails have provided economic boosts and drawn visitors to several prosperous towns across the country. In Florida, these include Venice and Sarasota, Boca Grande and Mount Dora. Benefits are also increasingly apparent in nearby Inverness and Floral City.

Such trails also allow locals to get around easier. One of the more visionary possibilities mentioned in the city master plan are another bicycle bridge over the Rainbow River. Councilwoman Penny Flegler was quoted as predicting it will be "a cold day in hell" before that happens, but the proposal is not really so "far out."

Presently, beautiful and refreshing assets that they are, our rivers make Dunnellon a difficult place to get around in. A bicycle bridge over the Rainbow River with a little trail development would make it possible for students and parents living on the more populous western side of the river to reach the playing fields and school complexes on the eastern side without having to drive extra miles through congested traffic.

The state park and KP Hole tubing infrastructures could also be complemented by such a bridge, and the park's existing tubing tram road fit nicely into the grand picture.

The current political leadership in Florida pronounces itself as job-friendly and economics-oriented. It may be open to innovative proj-

ects that would help business while also enhancing a community's residential amenities. Some imaginative lobbying may result in the funding to help pull it off.

Hopefully, the vision will not stop with the master plan.

*Doug Hay
Dunnellon*

Another win-win for City Hall, officials

In response to the city of Dunnellon's letter notifying utility customers of the requirement for backflow devices, I called the city and was informed that the letters supposedly went out to all utility customers; not just those in Rainbow Springs.

I was also informed that the city permit fee will be \$204, resulting in a total cost (permit, device, installation, and testing) to each resident of somewhere around \$500 to \$700, depending upon the type of device mandated.

If the city manages to force even 1,000 utility customers to comply, the city's permit revenue will amount to more than \$200,000. It's another "win-win" for City Hall, but at a total cost to local citizens of some \$500,000 to \$700,000.

The Florida Administrative Code Chapter 62-555.360 (3) states, "Upon discovery of a prohibited cross-connection, public water systems shall either eliminate the cross-connection by installation of an appropriate backflow prevention device acceptable to the Department (DEP) or shall discontinue service until the contaminant source is eliminated."

Apparently, the City is choosing the blanket method of cross-connection control in order to maximize their revenue.

*Phil Nolden
Dunnellon*

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Earn, and keep, more money

You probably already know that there was an increase in Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) monthly payments at the beginning of the year. If you receive monthly Social Security or SSI payments, you received a 3.6 percent cost-of-living adjustment beginning with your payment for the month of January 2012.



Adon Williams

For people who receive Social Security retirement benefits, there's more good news. In addition to receiving a little more each month, you may now earn more income without offsetting your benefits because the "earnings test" numbers also have gone up.

If you have reached your full retirement age (age 66 for anyone born between 1943 and 1954), the earnings test does not apply and you may earn as much money as you can without any effect on your benefits.

However, if you are younger than full retirement age, collecting benefits and still working, we do offset some of your benefit amount after you reach a certain earnings limit.

For people under full retirement age in 2012, the annual exempt amount is \$14,640, and if you do reach that limit, we withhold \$1 for every \$2 above that limit from your monthly benefit amount.

For people who retired early, continue working and will obtain full retirement age in 2012, the annual exempt amount is \$38,880 and we will withhold \$1 for

every \$3 you earn over the limit from your monthly benefits.

You can learn more about the earnings test and how benefits may be reduced by visiting our website, www.socialsecurity.gov, and searching on the topic "earnings test."

Find out what your full retirement age is at our Retirement Age page, www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/ageincrease.htm

You also may want to read our publication, How Work Affects Your Benefits. It's available at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10069.html.

Social Security Questions and Answers

Question: How long do I need to work to become eligible for retirement benefits?

Answer: Everyone born in 1929 or later needs 40 Social Security credits to be eligible for retirement benefits. You can earn up to four credits per year, so you will need at least 10 years to become eligible for retirement benefits. During your working years, earnings covered by Social Security are posted to your Social Security record. You earn credits based on those earnings. If you become disabled or die before age 62, the number of credits needed depends on your age at the time you die or become disabled. Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Question: I have children at home and I plan to retire next fall. Will my children be eligible for monthly Social Security payments after I retire?

Answer: A child (biological, legally adopted, or dependent stepchild or grandchild) may potentially be eligible. Monthly Social Security payments may be made to your children if

- they are:
- Unmarried and under age 18,
 - Age 19 if still in high school, or
 - Age 18 or over, who became severely disabled before age 22 and continue to be disabled.

For more information, read Benefits For Children at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10085.html

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

Answer: Your disability benefits will continue as long as your medical condition has not improved and you cannot work. Social Security will periodically review your case to determine whether you continue to be eligible. If you are still receiving disability benefits when you reach your full retirement age, your disability benefits will automatically be converted to retirement benefits. Learn more about disability benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

Question: I found out that my son submitted incorrect information about my resources when he completed my Application for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs. How can I get my application changed now to show the correct amount?

Answer: You can call 800-772-1213 and let us know. Or you can visit your local Social Security office (find it by using our office locator at www.socialsecurity.gov/locator). Information on your application will be matched with data from other Federal agencies. If there is a discrepancy that requires verification, we will contact you.

Adon Williams is the Social Security District Manager in Ocala.

What to do when the traffic signals stop operating?

LT. SUE WEBB

For the Riverland News

Occasionally, our highly traveled roadways have a malfunction and the need to be knowledgeable of the state laws should be refreshed. Many drivers ask this question: What do I do at an intersection when the light is inoperable?

One particular event occurred this past week in Dunnellon and it was quite clear drivers need to be reminded of the state laws that exist to handle in-operative traffic signals. Law Enforcement officers will direct traffic at an intersection, if they are available and not handling calls for service. If a law enforcement officer is present in the intersection, then the drivers must obey the direction given by the officer and not the traffic light.

Per Florida statute 316.1235 the driver of a vehicle approaching an intersection in which the traffic lights are inoperative shall stop in the manner indicated in Florida Statute 316.123(2) for approaching a stop intersection. In the event that only some of the traffic

lights within an intersection are inoperative the driver of the vehicle approaching an inoperative light shall stop in the above prescribed manner. A violation of this section is a non-criminal traffic infraction, punishable as a moving violation.

What this means, is that you come to a complete stop at the stop line for the intersection. You then proceed as if it were a four-way stop. This law allows the first one to stop completely, is now entitled to leave the intersection first.

Courtesy is always a welcomed attribute in these type situations, as drivers' frustrations tend to increase when an unexpected event causes traffic to discontinue its normal flow. Drivers may begin to ignore the state statutes out of haste or lack of familiarization to each state's laws. These events then lead to vehicle accidents and further congestion within the intersection affected.

If you have further questions in regards to this statute, contact the Dunnellon Police Department at 465-8510.

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Disney seeking student nominations for A+ Teachers

Students can nominate favorite teacher for chance for both to win vacation

Special to the Riverland News

ORLANDO — The Downtown Disney Resort Area Hotels has partnered with Walt Disney World to once again honor outstanding K-12 teachers with its 2012 A+ For Teachers at Downtown Disney essay contest.

The fourth annual contest, which runs through April 13, asks

teacher's accomplishments as outlined in the essay.

Seven winners will be chosen, and those students and their favorite teacher nominees each will win a vacation prize package that consists of:

- Five-day/four-night accommodations (for up to four family members) at one of the Downtown Disney Resort Area Hotels.

- Four free Walt Disney World one-day, one-park passes.

- Four free tickets to the DisneyQuest Indoor Interactive

theme park.

- Complimentary breakfast at the hotel each day (for up to four family members).

- One \$100 gas card.

"We're excited to kick off our fourth annual contest to celebrate those teachers who truly make a difference in the lives of their students in spite of the many challenges their schools are facing," said Kevin Renzi, chairperson of the organization's marketing committee. "We've been amazed by the stories we've

received in prior years, so we look forward to selecting even more gifted teachers for the recognition they deserve."

This year's A+ For Teachers at Downtown Disney contest winners will be notified directly by May 1 and also announced on the hotels' website and Facebook page at www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Downtown-Di-s-n-e-y-R-e-s-o-r-t-A-r-e-a-H-o-t-e-l-s/341724754559?ref=search&sid1584280967.1384715324.1.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Harmony Preschool accepting registrations

Harmony Preschool is now accepting student registration for its 2- to 3-Year Class. The preschool is also accepting students enrolled in the School Readiness (Vouchers) program.

The school is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. The preschool is at 21501 W. State Road 40, Dunnellon. The school is housed in the First United Methodist Church of Dunnellon. For more information, call 489-9552.

Master Gardeners to sponsor contest

The UF/IFAS Marion County Master Gardeners invite local youth to grow their creativity by participating in the Spring Festival 2012 poster and essay contest.

The poster contest is open to youth in kindergarten-eighth grade (divided into three groups by grade level), and the essay contest is open to youth in grades 9-12. Poster and essay submissions must illustrate the theme "Attracting Wildlife to the Home Landscape." Interested students should check with their schools for participation and homeschooled students should submit entries through their home school groups.

First-place poster contest winners in each category at the county level will receive \$50 and the first place essay contest winner at the county level will receive \$75. Interested youth can access detailed instructions and an entry form at www.marioncountyfl.org/springfestival.htm or by calling 352-671-8400.

Stormwater education grants available

Public and private educators wishing to teach their students about stormwater quality topics may benefit from a Marion County Office of the County Engineer grant program.

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

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

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

Career oriented



BRITTANY BENNETT/For the Riverland News
Briana Rittl, Amanda Sperber and Amanda Nedzwecky help Malek Ellawand make a footprint on a piece of paper that they will help him turn into artwork for his parents. The students in Early Childhood Education are responsible for creating lesson plans and activities for the class.

DHS students focus on potential careers during February

LAURA RILEY

For the Riverland News

February was Career & Technology Month at Dunnellon High School, and the school provides students with 14 different classes to take to help prepare them for a future job.

Three opportunities the school offers for a career in Business Technology include: Administrative Office, Web Design and Digital Design.

"I want to deal with computers when I'm older," said Jose Zapata, one of many students taking Administrative Office, who has aspirations of majoring in the field of study.

Omar Novoa chose to enroll in Web Design, because "the class inspires creativity." Novoa has a knack for working with computers, saying that they're easy for him to work with.

Another class that prepares students for their future is Early Childhood Education, an opportunity for students to help run the daycare at the school.

Brittany Bennett has been taking the class throughout high school.

"I want to be a teacher," explained Bennett, who also



Photo by Tiger Times staff

Jayleen Cruz rolls out pasta dough she made herself. Cruz is part of Dunnellon High's culinary arts program. On this day, the students were being tested on how well they could make fettucine alfredo from scratch.

hopes to earn her Early Childhood Professional Certificate or Child Development Associate certification this year in the

class. "It's a really helpful class that tells you how to take care of children."

Digital Media, in the form of the high school's morning announcement show, "Tiger Vision," helps prepare students for a job behind and in front of the camera.

Junior J'von Swoll has taken the class for three years.

"I always wanted to learn how to work a camera and edit my own videos," said Swoll, who's also found his way to an anchor spot on the morning show. "It's a really fun experience and you get to act with a lot of fun people."

Becky Wilkerson hopes to pursue a job in the health department, so she is taking Health Science class to earn her Certified Nurse Assistant or Certified Medical Administrative Assistant certification.

"I like health and there will always be careers in the health field," Wilkerson said. "I hope to gain knowledge to help with whatever career I decide to go into."

Culinary Arts at the school is a very popular class that's both

See CAREER page 9

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Parent Night slated

As fifth-grade students prepare for FCAT testing in April, it is important that parents understand the importance of students being proficient in reading and math on the fifth-grade FCAT.

To address these issues, Romeo Elementary will host a fifth-grade Parent Night from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 6, in the Romeo Cafeteria.

Representatives from Dunnellon Middle School will be on hand to talk with parents about expectations as they make the jump to middle school. Some students have difficulty moving from elementary to the middle school where more responsibility is placed on the student.

Changing classes, having multiple teachers and choosing electives are all new issues to our students. We hope to see a lot of fifth-grade parents at our meeting as we work to prepare our students beyond elementary school.

FCAT Writes, the writing assessment for all fourth-grade students, was administered Feb. 28.

Fourth-grade student essays will be scored on a scale of 0-6 on this assessment, where they write to a given prompt in a 45-minute period. Students have worked hard preparing for this test, and are anxious to show off their writing skills.

Third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students are taking the Marion County Benchmark Assessment this week and next week to determine student growth since the last test in November.

Students are tested in reading and math. This assessment gives teachers valuable information in student needs so that instruction can be modified to make sure that learning occurs. Teachers will notify parents when results are available.



Kathy Hultman Romeo
Principal

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

DMS Spring Picture Day Friday

Friday, March 2, is in ordering photographs Spring Picture day of their children and something new called "Buddy Groups" package. The Buddy Group photos are a fun way to celebrate friendships and memories made at Dunnellon Middle School and they are reasonably priced at \$10 per person in group. Parents,



Jane Ashman
DMS Principal

those folks interested the

please note, students must have the Pre-Pay Envelope completed and checks made payable to SWI Photographers to take advantage of the DMS Spring Picture Day Friday, March 2. Thank you!

DMS Students will enjoy an early release/club day Wednesday, March 7. Students will be released at 1:40

See ASHMAN page 10



Michael Bones, center, an eighth-grader at Dunnellon Middle, celebrates with his mother, Renita, and DMS Principal Jane Ashman after being named a winner in Florida KidCare's Essay Contest. Michael's essay was one of the state's three Regional Winners. The students were honored at an awards ceremony at Florida Hospital in Orlando, where he received a scholarship prize of \$300.

CAREER

continued from page 9

informative and tasty. Students not only make food for themselves, but some work in the school cafe, Tiger's Den, Thursdays and Fridays, serving meals to students.

"I like cooking and it's a fun class," said Lucia Nunez, who has been part of Culinary Arts for four years. She suggests others take this course because, "It's a good experience, you have the opportunity to cater at events and work in Tiger's Den."

Another CTE program offered at the school is Fashion Design. While taking this class, students can get certified in NOCTI Apparel & Textile. Destini Appling, a student in the class, said she has always liked fashion even when she was younger.

"When I made my first shirt I just knew," Appling said.

Building Construction Technology is a course taken by both boys and girls. NCCER Carpentry certification can be gained at the completion of the program if the student qualifies.

"I figured it would be good to know more construction skills," said Christopher Fortune, who is taking the class for the first time this year. "I feel that it would help me in my military career."

Power Generation Academy is one of the more popular CTE courses at Dunnellon. Students can get certification in NCCER Electrical.

For Chris Smith, PGA is his favorite class.

"It's very interesting and it's a hands-on class," Smith said.

For students wanting to get certified as a Para Professional, Teacher Assisting is an option.

Maria Petroche is a teacher's assistant for a spanish-speaking class.

"I like helping kids that don't speak English because I had that experience," Petroche explained. "At the end of the day, you know you have accomplished something and you have helped someone."



ROBERT RUPPRECHT/For the Riverland News
Kyle McMann and Matthew Franz test their hydrogen generator to see if it works on Feb. 9 in their Power Generation class.

Agri Technology is a course for students hoping to have a career in agriculture. By taking this course, students could become Certified Agriculture Technicians at the completion of the class. During the week of Feb. 19 to 26, members of Dunnellon High School's FFA club competed at the Southeastern Youth Fair. High schoolers countywide go to the event to sell the animal that they've been taking care of for more than five months.

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Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★
★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!
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Solution to puzzle on page 15

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Boys & Girls Club members ready to run

Track season starts March 26

BETTE NAGELE
For the Riverland News

The Boys and Girls Club welcomes new staff member, Garielle Edwards.

"Ms. G" works with the sports, fitness and recreation programs.

Our track program for 2012 begins Monday, March 26. Come and join us for fun and fitness. Sign-up is at the club between 3 and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Participants will receive T-shirts to wear at track meets and transportation from the club to the meets will be provided.

This month, Ms. Dorsa Murphy and members created some wonderful art panels to decorate the office and gift shop area of Rainbow Springs State Park, which is undergoing renovations. You may see our art when you visit the park.

We look forward to another great program at Rainbow Springs State Park in March. On Wednesday, March 7, members will partici-



Boys and Girls Club members share their artwork with visitors to Rainbow Springs State Park. Front row, from left, are, Amelia Herndon, Noah Hardman, Victoria Boone, Paige Cecere, Breckell Bowman; back row, Candice Soutar and Ms. Dorsa Murphy.

pate in a mini-Cracker Days program with Ranger Nicky Aiken and the wonderful staff at the park.

Members and staff would also like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Lugo and the staff at Penn Station

Deli & Grill for the movie party we enjoyed Wednesday, Feb. 8. Everyone enjoyed slushies, ice cream and popcorn while watching "Treasure Buddies" on the big screen.

Looking ahead, the

branch board is planning a Pancake Breakfast from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. May 5 at the American Legion Hall on U.S. 41. Tickets are \$5 and available at the club and several local businesses.

Look for us at Boomtown Days on April 21 and 22. Members and volunteers will man one of the gates into the event and our booth will display information about our new facility and available programs.

The Dunnellon Unit of the Boys and 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, drop by the club from 3 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, or contact director James Corne at 352-682-4247 or Bette Nagele at bnagele11@bellsouth.net.

Marion County Library System to host Author Expo April 14

The Marion County Public Library System invites writers from Marion and adjacent counties to participate in the 2012 Author Expo, on Saturday, April 14, at its Headquarters-Ocala location. Sponsored by the Friends of the Ocala Public Library, the event will provide a forum for local poets, novelists, journalists and playwrights to network and sell their books.

"Our first Author Expo is a great opportunity for the talented writers in Marion and surrounding counties to get together, talk about their books and share helpful hints with the public," said Roseanne Russo, in-

formation services manager for the Headquarters-Ocala location.

The event is open to all authors in Marion, Lake, Levy, Citrus, Alachua and Sumter counties. Space is limited; prospective authors must apply by March 16 to participate. Registration includes a \$10 fee in lieu of a percentage of book sales on the day of the event.

For application guidelines and forms, visit library.marioncountyfl.org or www.friendsoftheocalalibrary.org, or stop by the Headquarters-Ocala at 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd. in Ocala. For more information, call 671-8551.

ASHMAN

continued from page 8

p.m., two hours earlier than usual.

The Dunnellon Middle School Yerds (DMS Yearbook Committee Members) are actively working on an exciting 2011-12 DMS Yearbook. The "Yerds" will conduct a meeting from 3:40 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 5. The pre-sale of the yearbook is still under way and will run through Friday, April 13, at the cost of \$25.

After the pre-sale period, a limited number of yearbooks will be available for purchase at the end of the school year at a cost of \$35. Yearbooks may be pre-ordered before school in the Café or the Media Center. Please make checks payable to Dunnellon Middle School.

We would like to remind our parents and guardians of sixth-grade students going into the seventh grade in August 2012 are required to have the following shots as mandated by the state. Students will not be permitted to attend school without these shots being

updated:

- TDAP — Mandatory.
- Vircella Immunization — first shot mandatory; second shot recommended.
- Gardasil — Recommended.
- Menactra — Recommended.

Dunnellon Middle School will host the Marion County Health Department from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 4, in Building No. 10, auditorium, to administer the above shots to sixth-grade students requiring these for entry into the seventh grade. We invite our parents to take advantage of this free clinic to protect your child's health and have your student ready to start seventh grade this August.

Our after-school activities for the week of March 1 through March 8:

- Monday, March 5**
 - Percussion Band Practice, 3:40 to 5 p.m.
 - Yearbook Meeting, 3:40 to 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 6**
 - FFA Monthly Meeting, 3:40 to 4:40 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 7**
 - Early Release/Club Day, students are released at 1:40 p.m.

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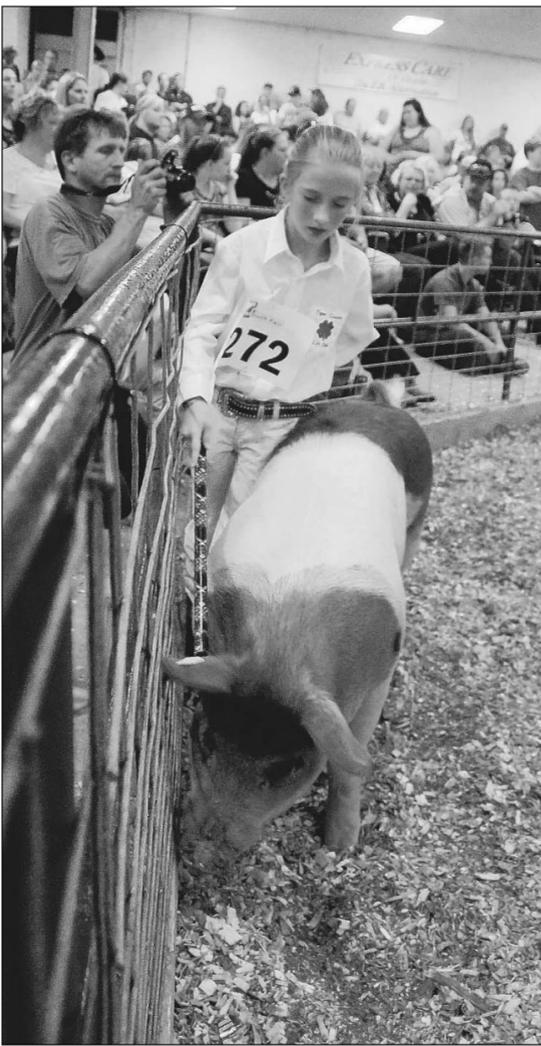
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FAIRWEEK FESTIVITIES



Photos by JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Ashlee Winn, center, guides her hog along while trying to garner the attention of the judge during the Swing Show Friday at the Southeastern Youth Fair at the Southeastern Livestock Pavillion in Ocala. Winn's hog, which competed at the Class 1 level, was awarded a Blue Ribbon. For complete results from the SEYF and more photos, see the March 8 edition of the Riverland News.



ABOVE: Savannah Thompson tries to move her pig away from the fence during the show. Thompson, who competed in the Class 2 Division with her hog, finished second.

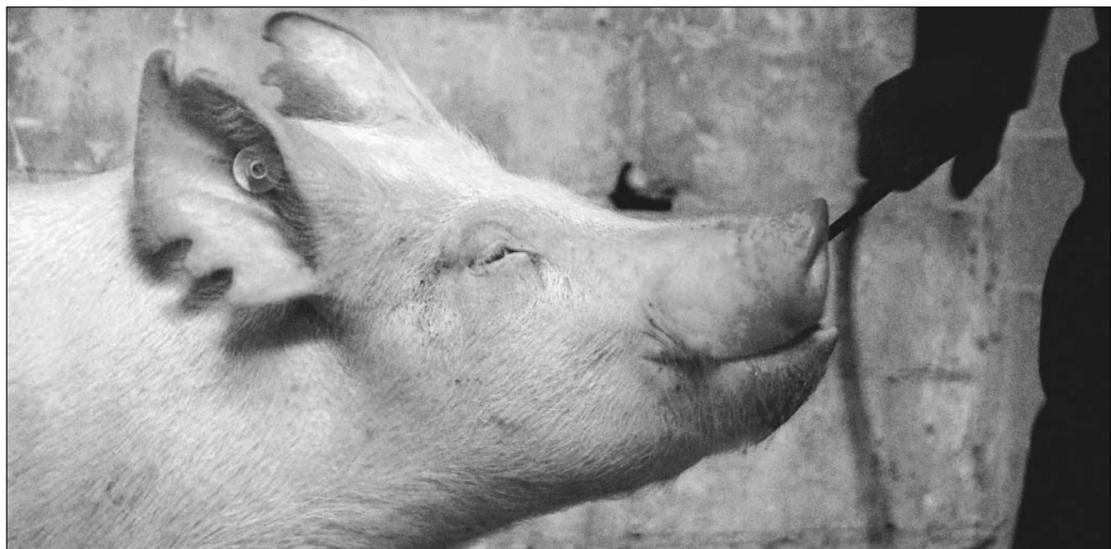
BOTTOM: Chelsea Dominey walks her hog as she looks to see where the judge is standing during the Class 4 competition. Dominey's hog finished fifth.



Lisa Winn brushes her son's, A.J., hog prior to the Swine Show. A.J. competed in the Class 2 Division.



TOP LEFT: Isabella Ryan straightens her hair prior to the Swine Shoe. Ryan, a senior at Dunnellon High School, is a SEYF Youth Ambassador. She also competed in the show, participating in the Class 10 Division. TOP RIGHT: Garrett Gibbs receives some last-minute advice from Amanda Hayward, the Dunnellon Middle School FFA advisor, prior to the Swine Shoe. BOTTOM: Adam Shepherd gives his hog, Buckshot, a drink prior to the Swine Shoe. This was Shepherd's first year showing an animal in the annual fair.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Homeless program needs items

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.

Free AARP tax assistance available

AARP offers free income tax assistance now through April 14 at three locations near Dunnellon. It is not necessary to be a member of AARP or a retiree to use this service. Tax assistance is available from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays at the American Legion on U.S. 41; 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursdays at the Rainbow Lakes Estates Community Center; and 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturdays at the Dunnellon Public Library, where an appointment can be scheduled at the reference desk by phone, but appointments are not required.

The following items will be needed: Photo ID, So-

cial Security cards, copy of your 2010 tax return, check, not a deposit slip, for direct deposit of your refund or electronic funds transfer of taxes due; statements of any estimated taxes paid in 2011, 1099s from banks, finan-

cers; statements of sales of stocks or mutual funds; Social Security statements for 2011, W-2s, K-1s, etc.; statement of property taxes, medical expense, charitable contributions and mortgage interest are also needed; and both signatures are required on

joint returns.

For more information call Wayne Sloan at 489-5066.

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.

Dunnellon Thrift Shop names Volunteer of the Month

Phyllis Knight was awarded a certificate of appreciation and named Volunteer of the Month by the Dunnellon Community Thrift Shop at its Feb. 21 meeting. After moving to Dunnellon from Atlanta 14 years ago,



Phyllis Knight

Knight became an active volunteer for the thrift shop and held the office of vice president for a number of years. She worked in Macy's Department Store in Atlanta for 38 years, was head of women's designer clothing, which has given her a unique opportunity to assist the Community Thrift Shop with marketing and pricing. Knight is also known for encouraging many friends and neighbors' to donate merchandise to the shop. She's been a member of the "Tuesday Girls" for several years indicating the day of the week she volunteers. We are proud to honor her as our February Volunteer of the Month.

Photo by Joann McCullough

As weather settles, gardens will begin to flourish

Although we all feel the weather has been not as normal NOAA is reporting the weather is fairly normal for this time of year.

That said I have been caught out with plants waking up to be hit by the sharp frost, and even the recent freeze we had.

Avoid planting any new additions to the garden for another couple of weeks. Keep them in a pot so they can be quickly moved to warmer cover at night should it be needed.

Violas, dianthus and pansies can take a bit of chill. If you like bulb growing, that can be a project to begin this

month.

Dahlias and agapanthus can be planted, but mulch the top to ensure the cold, if it arrives, does not harm them. Crinum is another that can be put in now, and water to establish the plant, but take care not to do too late in the day in case the temperature drops.

If, like us, you are planning on growing potatoes now is the time to get those planted. Don't forget, if you cannot bend, try the bucket system. Cut the bottom out of the bucket. Place some soil in the bottom, put in seed potatoes, backfill with soil. When ready to harvest, lift the bucket and the potatoes fall out. Seed potatoes in the ground need to be at least 3 inches deep, and remember to water well to ensure good-sized potatoes.

Eggplants can go in now, but it really is the end of planting time for these.

I planted some beans last weekend and the freeze has knocked them off despite protection, so

these will have a second planting this year.

Sweet corn is in and I am trying some rows of sugar cane, which seems to be growing well. This year, I have grown some extra and late planted crops simply to use as green feed for my poultry.

Greens give not only a source of vitamins, but helps to produce a natural yellow yolk rather than the artificial color that is added to many feedstuffs.

In the flowerbed, prune roses and do some stem cuttings to build up the stock. If you did not fertilize your citrus and fruit trees, this is yet another job to be done.

If you like a weed free lawn, if the temperatures rise above 65 for more than five days in a row a, pre-emergent weed killer can be applied. The pre-emergent will kill weeds before they grow, but needs to be kept on top off to ensure a good green lawn of grass.

Let's hope the weather settles soon, and the gardens begin to grow.

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

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Just because it's free doesn't mean it's free

Whenever somebody mentions the word "free" in my presence my right eye turns a vivid jaundice. It is not that I have anything against the word free; just the person who is trying to use it to gain some kind of an advantage over me. I know anybody employing this monoversion, is hiding some very long strings.

My father taught me a long time ago that there are no free lunches. Occasionally somebody will advertise a free lunch and I go and find out the lunch is free but they are going to charge you to get out of that restaurant. In the end, it would have been cheaper to buy my own lunch.

My philosophy is simply this; if I cannot afford it, I do not want it. In my vast experience down through the years, I have discovered that I cannot afford free. And I think I know why. My understanding of the word "free" and the person employing that word is not the same.

When I use the word "free," I am insinuating that there is absolutely no cost associated with this product whatsoever.

When others use the word "free," they often

OUT TO PASTOR

are insinuating that I am just a free market for them to take advantage of in the neighborhood of my money. Unfortunately, I do not live in that neighborhood anymore.

I especially do not accept any "free offers" via the telephone. If someone has something to give me for nothing, let him come to my door, hand it to me, shake my hand and get out of Dodge. To me, that's what free is all about.

Just the other day I received one of those telephone calls. I must confess that I was in a rather curmudgeon attitude and was just looking around for someone on which to spit my scorn.

Then the telephone rang.

When I answered the phone, it turned out to be someone offering me, absolutely free, with no cost to me absolutely, a free crime prevention program for my blessed domicile.

"No thank you, sir," I said as politely as I could. "I'm not really interested."

I assure you I have no PhD or DD attached to

my name whatsoever and yet as simple as I am, I understood what the phrase "I'm not really interested" was all about. Not so my affable telephone caller.

"But I assure you, sir, that this program is absolutely free to you. It's our way to say thank you to some of our customers." He rattled on as though we were having only a one-way conversation. If this is going to be a one-way conversation, who will take up the offering? I think I know.

After five long minutes of him telling me how important it was for me to have security in my home and how his product was absolutely free to me, I finally got a word in edgewise.

"But I have my own security system, thank you." There is a slight pause and then he said, "What is your home security system, if I may ask?"

All right. I will confess right now that I had a wee bit of naughtiness on my mind, but in my own defense the telephone caller opened the door. I always believe where there is an open door somebody ought to step in.

"My home security sys-

tem is called, Napoleon-two-Claws, and furthermore I'm quite satisfied with it."

There was another pause on the other end of the phone and I heard someone clear their throat and then ask, "I've never heard of that program. What is 'Napoleon-two-Claws'?"

You know what it is like when you are trying not to laugh and it is about all you can do not to laugh? For a brief moment, I felt a little bit guilty but then I remembered who was on the other end of the phone. Somebody that was trying to con me with some kind of free thingamajig.

"The 'Napoleon-two-Claws' home security program that I have in my house is my cat. I call him Napoleon because he walks around with his right paw stuck in his coat between two buttons."

There was an extended pause on the other end of the phone and finally he said, "What would you do, sir, if someone broke into your house?"

"I'd send flowers to the funeral."

"The funeral? Who's funeral?"

"Why, the funeral of the guy who tried to break into my house while 'Napoleon-two-Claws' See PASTOR page 15



Rev. James Snyder

CHURCH BRIEFS

Catholic church to host seminar

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church will host a special seminar at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 4, entitled, "Living a Sacramental Life in a Media Driven World." The seminar is a family workshop on balance, boundaries, family dynamics, and making faith relevant in the lives of our children. Marie Gallo-Lethcoe, who has 26 years experience in youth and campus ministry, will be the workshop facilitator. The public is welcome. The church is at 7525 U.S. 41. For more information, call 489-3166 or 465-4477.

Church to host financial seminar

First United Methodist Church at 21501 W. Highway 40 in Dunnellon will host a financial seminar beginning at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 4. For more information or to register, call Rick DuCharme at 489-4026. Each class participant needs a kit that includes a lifetime family membership to FPU, an FPU workbook, an FPU envelope system, 13 audio lessons, bonus CD, budgeting forms, debit card holders, and Ramsey's best-selling book - Financial Peace. Kits can be purchased through the host location, daveramsey.com or by calling 888-227-3223.

Church to host pancake breakfast

Romeo Baptist Church will host a Pancake Breakfast and churchwide yard sale starting at 8 a.m. Saturday, March 10, at Romeo Baptist Church at 20545 S.W. Fifth Place, Dunnellon. The Pancake breakfast ends at 10. All proceeds in the pavilion and for the pancake breakfast will go to help support the children's C3 Day camp. For more information, call 489-1788.

OBITUARY

Macel Chewning, 89

Macel Chewning, 89, of Dunnellon, died Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012, in Dunnellon.

Services were 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 29, 2012 at The Roberts Funeral Home, Dunnellon. Interment followed in The Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell.

Arrangements entrusted to The Roberts Funeral Home, Dunnellon.

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Lady Tigers clip Hernando, 4-3, for first district win

Dunnellon has busy slate this week

AMANDA BARNEY
For the Riverland News

It has been a crazy week for the Dunnellon High School softball team, with another one ahead of the Lady Tigers.

With one rainout last week against Nature Coast, and sandwiching in last Thursday's game against Hernando in the midst of weeklong activities at the Southeastern Youth Fair, players have been scrambling.

Despite the rain and the fair, there was time for one game.

Dunnellon hosted Hernando Thursday, Feb. 23, slipping past the Lady Leopards, 4-3.

Bianca Pierro started on the mound for the Lady Tigers, throwing a complete game, striking out seven. She did not allow a walk and no earned runs.

"It was a good game, we brought intensity and we kept our heads up when we were in

a 'sticky' situation," Pierro said. "And I think that's what helped us win. We also worked as a team throughout the game."

Hernando lead off the first inning, scoring three runs off a double, single and a bunt. The Lady Tigers finally said that's enough and tightened up, leaving those to runs to be the only runs the Lady Leopards would produce the remainder of the game.

Ashlee Winn led Dunnellon, going 3-for-4 with two RBIs and one stolen base. Jody Weber was 1-for-3 and Alyssa Claffey

each went 1-3, while Claffey had two stolen bases. Cierra Thompson went 1-for-2 with a walk. Eleanor "Ele" Goodloe also went 1-for-2 with a stolen base. Nicole Drew had an RBI for the Lady Tigers.

"We did really well after the first inning," Weber, a sophomore, said. "We just need to start out more intense and focused. Offensively, I think we did really well, and our defense is getting better. Our games this week are going to be tough ones, but nothing we can't handle."

Assistant coach Chris Winn

exclaimed: "It was a big district win for us against Hernando High School. As the season continues we want to keep improving like we are."

The Lady Tigers have yet again another busy week in which they played Wednesday at Forest High School. Results were not available at press time. Dunnellon plays today at home against North Marion. JV saddles up at 5:30 p.m. and Varsity at 7:30. On Friday, the Lady Tigers travel to Nature Coast High School. JV casts at 5 p.m. and Varsity at 7.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Golfweek to host Golfest at The Villages

Back for its sixth year in a row and presented by CenturyLink/Prism, Golfweek's Golfest at The Villages is a popular demo day and outdoor golf festival that allows golfers to try and buy golf's hottest new equipment while enjoying a bevy of exciting golf entertainment and activities.

The event, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Polo Fields at 700 Buena Vista Blvd., is open to the public. Advance tickets may be purchased for \$7 at any golf facility at The Villages or at Golfest.com. At the gate, admission for adults is \$10; children 16 and under are free. Parking for this event is also free. For a full schedule of events and complete event details, visit Golfest.com.

Golf Tournament to benefit United Way

CenturyLink will host a four-person Best Ball Scramble format golf tournament Saturday, April 14. All proceeds from the event will be donated to United Way of Marion County.

The tournament will start at 8 a.m. at the Ocala Municipal Golf Club at 3130 E. Silver Springs Blvd. The cost is \$260 per team. Entry deadline is April 6. Entry fee includes golf, cart, lunch and grab bags. Prizes will be awarded for longest drive and closest to the pin. Sponsorships are available for \$125 per hole without a team or \$100 with a team. Presenting sponsorships are also available. Sign up forms are available at www.uwmc.org.

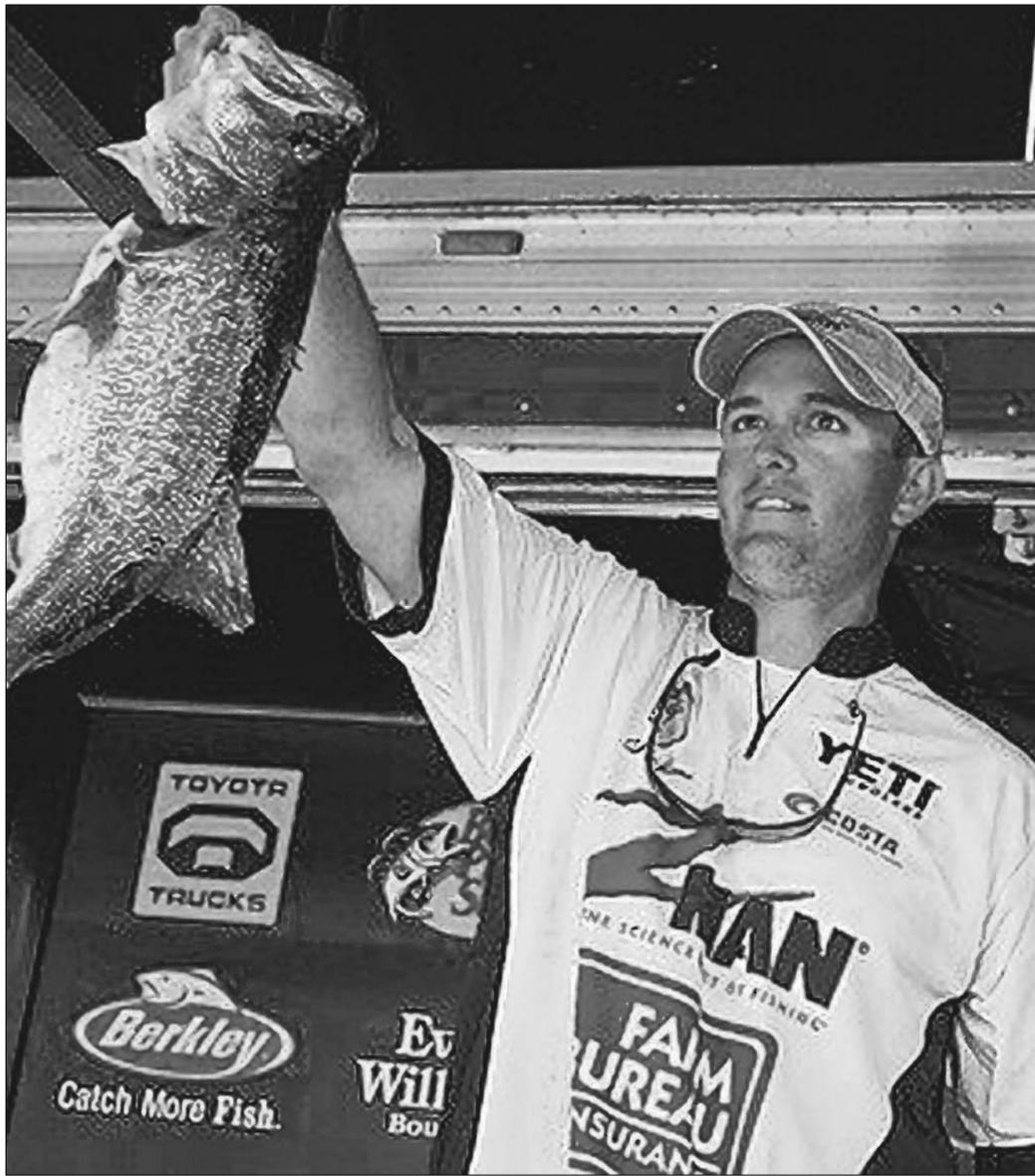
For more information about sponsorship or registration, call Teresa Feather at 368-8825.

DHS Spring football game scheduled

The Dunnellon High School football team will host its annual Spring football game at 7 p.m. Friday, May 18, at Ned Love Field against Lake City Columbia. In addition to the annual Spring game, the football team will host Tiger Football Alumni Night at 5 p.m. At half-time of the Spring game, the football program will honor all former players from the 1978 and 1979 state championship teams, host a special sign dedication and honor alumnus Ernie Mills.

All tickets to the game will be \$5 per FHSAA rules. For more information, call the school at 465-6745.

Big bass



Special to the Riverland News
Scott Williams shows off an 8 1/2-pound bass he caught flipping a Zman Punch CrawZ during the BASS Southern Open on the Harris Chain in Tavares. Williams, a Dunnellon High School graduate, finished in 10th place overall during the three-day tournament, which had a total field of 197 anglers.

Golf tournament to benefit local charities

The sixth annual Ocala Open Golf Tournament will be March 14 to 16 at Candler Hills Golf Club at On Top of the World Communities in Ocala. The three-day tournament will be played Wednesday through Friday with a guaranteed winner's prize of \$12,000.

The Pro-Am is scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, and will feature local amateurs paired up with pros in a fun round of golf all for charity. Spectator admission to the professional tournament is free.

The tournament will benefit Hospice of Marion County Inc. and Interfaith Emergency Services. Hospice of Marion County Inc. is a not-

for-profit organization. Interfaith Emergency Services is a not-for-profit organization, which provides basic necessities such as food, shelter, clothing and emergency financial assistance to those in need right here in our community. The 2011 Ocala Open was a great success as the two

charities split \$44,000. Live, real-time updates will be posted during the tournament on www.OcalaOpen.com and www.facebook.com/candlerhillsgolfclub. For sponsorship opportunities and more information on the 2012 Ocala Open Golf Tournament, visit our website: www.OcalaOpen.com.

for-profit organization. Interfaith Emergency Services is a not-for-profit organization, which provides basic necessities such as food, shelter, clothing and emergency financial assistance to those in need right here in our community. The 2011 Ocala Open was a great success as the two

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EDUCATION BRIEFS

Parkview Lanes Weekly News League scores for the week ending Feb. 19:

Monday Night Special: Handicap: Sean Fugere 286; Dennis Flanagan 275, 714; Chuck Wilson 705; Stephanie Flory 314, 779; Lori Ciquera 289, 753. Scratch: Sean Fugere 279, 672; Dennis Flanagan 249; Larry Fritz 652; Stephanie Flory 278, 671; Lori Ciquera 266, 684.

Preserve Pinbusters: Handicap: Ray Olsen 262; Jim Abbey 234; Larry Kirk 662; Ivan Miller 651; Bobbie Christensen 252, 662; Delight Temple 248, 681. Scratch: Ray Olsen 220; Ken Sprague 209; Larry Kirk 590; Ivan Miller 516; Bobbie Christensen 183; Linda Sprague 161, 468; Lorraine Pelkie 465.

Suncoast Seniors: Handicap: Jack Connell 257, 681; Allan Gobbi 244; Rick Lewis 646; Marylou Halovich 243, 670; Julie Nagengast 223; Wanda Kliik 641. Scratch: Jack Connell 205, 525; Murphy Combs 201, 537; Marylou Halovich 185, 496; Barb Steffen 163; Wanda Kliik 458.

Ladies' Classic: Handicap: Pat Ouellette 271; Rose Damico 248, 724; Carol McHale 704. Scratch: Pat Ouellette 202; Myla Wexler 176, 497; Rose Damico 478.

Late Starters: Handicap: Bob Desmeules 294, 724; Ted Rafanan 265; Tom Christensen 662; Fran Barlow 263, 677; Carolyn McKeithan 246, 634. Scratch: Ted Rafanan 259, 637; Bob Desmeules 235; Rich Soletto 575; Fran Barlow 236, 596; Carolyn McKeithan 166; Millie George 454.

Wednesday Night Men: Handicap: Jim Randle 291; Jay Willet 289, 748; Kevin Fults 771. Scratch: Brian Carney 287; Jim Randle 267; Tim Lawrence 738; Scott Brown 692.

Parkview Lanes Women's Trio: Handicap: Charlie Nerison 277, 683; Terri Moorbeck 251; Maggie Savarese 709. Scratch: Maggie Savarese 204, 574; Terri Moorbeck 198, 485.

Good Time Bowlers: Handicap: Bill Montross 244, 670; Alan Murray 235; John Bahrs 637; Mary Krueger 240, 626; Pat Pulgrano 228; Alice Bahrs 633. Scratch: Bill Montross 197, 529; Alan Murray 193, 495; Mary Krueger 171; Janet Murray 169, 466; Barb McNally 453.

Holder Hotshots: Handicap: Murphy Combs 290; Jim Van Gilder 279; David Rogers 760; Leon Wierzbinski 750; Carolyn Handley 272, 749; Diane Mauck 266, 738. Scratch: Murphy Combs 246; Jim Van Gilder 237, 598; Eddie Corbitt 674; Kathy Calcagni 191, 481; Carolyn Handley 190, 503.

Parkview Owls: Handicap: John Saltmarsh 307; Jim Dollar 302; Jim Randle 809; Wes Foley 789; Bridget Foley 297, 761; Darlene Arndt 274, 805. Scratch: John Saltmarsh 278; Wes Foley 254, 675; Jim Randle 671; Dorine Fugere 214, 554; Maggie Savarese 191; Darlene Arndt 517.

Bowlers of the Week: Stephanie Flory, 134 pins over her average, and Bob Desmeules, 145 pins over his average.

Gardner, Love record victories, girls tennis falls to Raiders

AMANDA BARNEY
For the Riverland News

The Dunnellon High School girls' tennis team added a pair of individual victories to its resume, after dropping a match Feb. 23 to Santa Fe.

Jade Gardner, the No. 2 seed who was one of six girls who played, was the lone singles'

match winner, besting her opponent, 9-7. Most of the other girls had close games, but none came out victorious. The closest score after that was Alex Love, the top seed, who lost a close match, 8-5.

After all the singles contest, Gardner and Love teamed up for the No.1 doubles matches against Santa Fe, coming out on

top with a 9-7 win.

"Both matches were very close," Gardner said. "We played some really good players, but we didn't give up and we played our best to the end."

This basic strategy prevailed and the two were able to pull through, despite the close games.

"We were pretty evenly

matched," Love said. "Both of our teams had a strong player at the net and a strong player at the base line. In the end, I think we won because we had better strategy."

"The other team would get frustrated in the close games and started hitting the ball really hard ... they stopped working on placement."

DUNNELLON HIGH ATHLETES OF THE WEEK • PRESENTED BY BELLISIMA SALON & SPA BY ZORY

Bianca Pierro, Softball

The Dunnellon High School hurler lead the Lady Tigers to their second victory of the season including their first district win against Hernando High School. Pierro threw a complete game three-hitter and struck out seven against the Lady Leopards.



Bianca Pierro

Victor Chias, Boys Track

The junior cross country standout is making a quick impact early in the track season, having one the two-mile race (3,200-meter) and finishing second in the one-mile (1,600-meter) at the Forest High School Invitational last week.



Victor Chias

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CHURCH BRIEFS

Church fish fry slated during Lent

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, on the corner of U.S. 41 and State Road 40 East in Dunnellon will host its fish fry from 4 to 6 p.m. every Friday during lent. Cost is \$7 for adults and students; children ages 6 to 12 are \$3.50. The fish fry is open to the public and is held in the church pavilion.

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 \$3.50. 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 Brennan and her helpers. Advent is 1.2 miles west of State Road 200 on County Road 484, across from the Fire House. For more information, call the church at 465-7272.

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

'Forget-Me-Not' program open to public
The First United Methodist Church is opening its "Forget-Me-Not" Program to the community. This is a program provided by the church to offer four hours of respite care for caregivers of early dementia and Alzheimer's patients. The program is also including seniors who just need to get out of the house for a few hours and socialize with other seniors. This program is free and meets from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the church Friendship Hall. Trained volunteers provide activities and refreshments. For more information, call Grace Burks at 489-2580 or Joey Weisbaum at 489-6963.

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 website is www.whatafellowship.com.

PASTOR

continued from page 13

was on duty. The first moment an intruder would enter into my home, good old Napoleon would claw that sorry person to death."

Then feeling good about my momentum at this point I continued, "I live there and I have a hard time getting in my house without being clawed to death by Napoleon. And I feed the cat. My cat is the meanest, grumpiest, cantankerous animal on God's green earth. If anybody, and I mean anybody, can get past Napoleon they can have anything in my house - absolutely free."

At that moment, I heard a distinctive "click" and I realized our conversation was over. I guess whatever he had that was free did not measure up to good old 'Napoleon-two-Claws'.

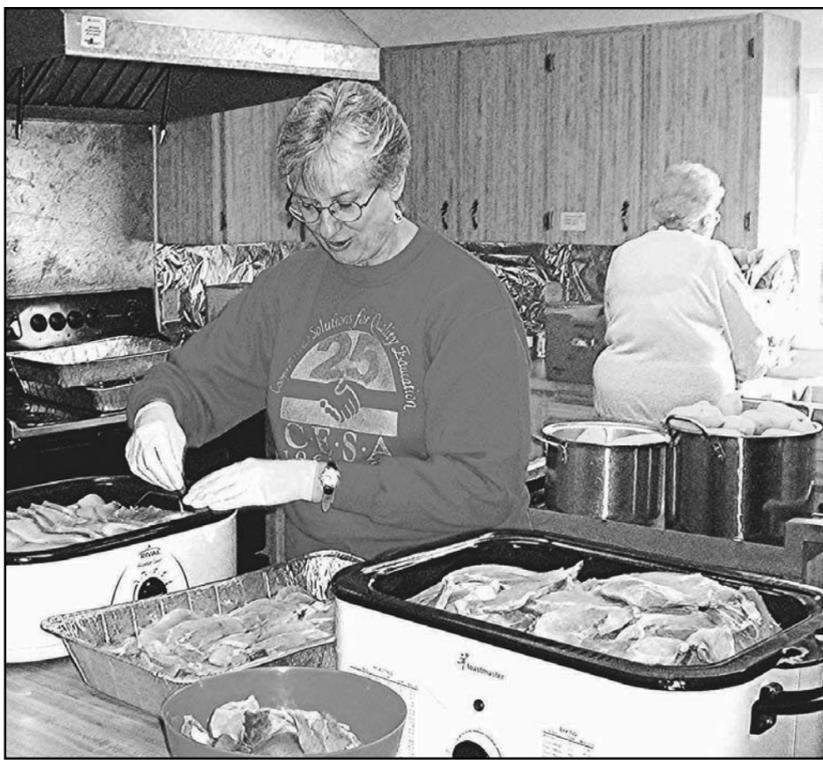
The only one I trust to give me something is God. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

What Jesus gives is absolutely free.

Solution to puzzle on page 9

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

Church preps for Potato Pancake Supper



Special to the Riverland News
Peace Lutheran Church members Linda Ryun, foreground, prepares ham while Thelma Grams peels potatoes for the church's 21st Annual Potato Pancake Supper, scheduled for 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21. The church is 7201 U.S. 41 South. Tickets, available at the door, are \$5 for adults; \$2.50 for children 5 through 12; and children 5 and younger, free. This event features traditional potato pancakes or buttermilk pancakes, ham, fruit cup, dessert and beverage. Potato Pancakes are the traditional fare for Shrove Tuesday, or "Fat" Tuesday. For more information, call the church office, 352-489-5881 or visit PeaceLutheranOnline.org.

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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 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Inverness Homes

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

Out of Town Real Estate

GENTLEMAN'S FARM FOR SALE
stable w/bath and equipment barn on 2+ Acres in Chatham, VA. \$148,900. Agnes Dowdy & Associates Real Estate (434)851-8522 photos at www.AgnesDowdyRE.com

Out of Town Real Estate

20 Acres Live on Land NOW!! Only \$99/mo \$0 Down, Owner Finance. NO CREDIT CHECKS! Near El Paso, Texas, Beautiful Mountain Views! Free Color Brochure. 800-755-8953
www.sunsetranches.com

Out of Town Real Estate

Waterfront Grand Opening Sale!
One Day Only - Sat March 10th New Log Cabin on 2+ Acres w/200+ FT DOCKABLE WF Only \$74,500. Save tens of thousands on new log cabin w/dockable lake frontage on one of Alabama's premier recreational lakes. Excellent financing. Call now (866)952-5302, x151

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WE BUY ANY VEHICLE

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Classic Vehicles

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Andrew Joehl Handyman. Gen/Maint/Repairs
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Notices to Creditors/Administration

257-0301 RIV
Mintel, Stephanie J. 2012-CP-02 (F) Notice of Administration
PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 2012-CP-02 (F) Division: Probate

Notices to Creditors/Administration

258-0301 RIV
Jeffrey W. Mintel
PUBLIC NOTICE
IN RE: ESTATE OF STEPHANIE J. MINTEL
Deceased.

Notices to Creditors/Administration

258-0301 RIV
Jeffrey W. Mintel
PUBLIC NOTICE
IN RE: ESTATE OF STEPHANIE J. MINTEL, deceased, is pending in the Circuit Court for Marion County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 110 NW 1st Avenue, Ocala, Florida 34475, file number 2012-CP-02 (F). The estate is testate and the date of the decedent's will and any codicils are the Last Will and Testament dated January 16, 2007. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below. The fiduciary lawyer-client privilege in Section 90.5021 applies with respect to the personal representative and any attorney employed by the personal representative.
Any interested person in whom a copy of the notice of administration is served who challenges the validity of the will or codicils, qualification of the personal representative, venue, or the jurisdiction of the court is required to file an objection with the court in the manner provided in the Florida Probate Rules WITHIN THE TIME REQUIRED BY LAW, which is on or before the date that is 3 months after the date of service of a copy of the Notice of Administration on that person, or those objections are forever barred.
A petition for determination of exempt property is required to be filed by or on behalf of any person entitled to exempt property under Section 733.202, 732.2155 WITHIN THE TIME REQUIRED BY LAW, which is on or before the date that is 6 months after the date of service of a copy of the Notice of Administration on that person or the date that is 40 days after the date of termination of any proceeding involving the construction, admission to probate, or validity of the will or involving any other matter affecting any part of the exempt property, or the right of such person to exempt property is deemed waived.
An election to take an elective share must be filed by or on behalf of the surviving spouse entitled to an elective share under Section 732.201 - 732.2155 WITHIN THE TIME REQUIRED BY LAW, which is on or before the date of the date that is 6 months after the date of service of a copy of the Notice of Administration on the surviving spouse, or an attorney in fact or a guardian of the property of the surviving spouse, or the date that is 2 years after the date of the decedent's date. The time for filing an election to take an elective share may be extended as provided in the Florida Probate Rules.
Personal Representative: /s/ Jeffrey W. Mintel 3211 SW 56th Avenue, Ocala, Florida 34474

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Notices to Creditors/Administration

266-0308 RIV
PUBLIC NOTICE
ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this Notice is February 23, 2012.
Personal Representative: /s/ BARBARA R. BREEDLOVE
Barbara R. Breedlove
Personal Representative of the Estate of ROSEMARY K. BREEDLOVE
100 Coconut Street, Pomona Park, Florida 32181

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The date of first publication of this Notice is March 1, 2012.
Persons Giving Notice: Catherine M. Lybarger Scott M. Long

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Foreclosure Sale/Action Notices

267-0308 RIV
PUBLIC NOTICE
Vs. IPO Realty, Inc. 42 2011 CA 00125-M Notice of Foreclosure Sale
PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT IN AND FOR MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No.: 42 2011 CA 00125-M

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Misc. Notices

262-0301 RIV
PUBLIC NOTICE
Attention Comcast Cable Customers
Effective on or before March 23, 2012 the following change will takeplace to our residential subscribers in Dunnellon and surrounding areas:
The following channel will be added to our Digital Preferred Tier of Service:
Disney JR. CH. 138

Misc. Notices

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Lien Notices

263-0301 RIV

Hospice of Marion County recognizes employee of the year

Special to the Riverland News



Heidi Tarnowski

OCALA – The annual Hospice of Marion County Employee Excellence Awards on Jan. 28 recognized 12 outstanding employees, from volunteer services to clinical staff.

All the nominees were heralded for their above and beyond service to hospice patients and fellow co-workers. At evening's end, the 2011 winner was announced: Heidi Tarnowski, RN, a seasoned nurse whose reputation as a "trooper" is well known among her peers.

Tarnowski was introduced to nursing when she was on the receiving end of care at only 17. Seriously injured in a car accident, that experience inspired her to become the best nurse possible with the most challenging cases. After earning an RN at Inver Hills College in Minneapolis, she practiced in a va-

riety of venues, including 10 years with disabled adults in a group home and later as a charge nurse with the VA.

In 2008, the Tarnowski family relocated to Ocala and Hospice of Marion County was fortunate to hire her as a field nurse.

"There is no typical day in this job," she said. "I care for people from all walks of life and help with their individual needs. It is never dull."

In one extraordinary situation, Tarnowski encountered a patient whose disease had altered his state of mind and behavior, causing him to become violent and verbally abusive.

For five hours one day, Tarnowski patiently worked with the patient to properly medicate him for symptom management and eventually transfer him to a hospice house, where he could receive 24-hour care.

Tarnowski offered emotional support to his distraught wife, reassuring her it was the disease, not her husband that was causing the behavior. She did not want this wife's last memories of her husband to be of a violent man she hardly recognized.

"I am happy to be a part of this organization and supporting the mission for quality in the lives of our patients who are living while they are dying," Tarnowski said. "I love helping people with their needs during this time of transition."

Putting patients and families first, Tarnowski is a shining example of the hospice mission.

100 percent at Dunnellon Middle School



Dunnellon Middle School Principal Jane Ashman, left, and DMS Dean of Students Rose Thomas were recognized by the United Way of Marion County for having 100 percent employee participation. Thomas has headed the United Way Campaign at DMS for the past 12 years.

COMMUNITY BRIEF

Girl Scouts seek stories for project

Dunnellon Girl Scouts Troop 320 is seeking information for its 100th-year project "Every Girl Scout has a story."

In 100 years, Girl Scouts have produced many girls of courage, confidence and character. Dunnellon Girl Scout Troop 320 is collecting short stories from anyone who was once a Girl Scout.

Your story can be about you, your daughter or your mother. Any memories you care to share with us will help celebrate the Girl Scout's 100th birthday.

The stories will be entered into a Troop 320 keepsake of Girl Scout history.

All stories can be emailed to Dawn Horton, Troop leader, at dawn212@gmail.com or mailed to 480 S.W. Big Tree Road Dunnellon, FL 34431.

JOIN US NEXT WEEK AS WE CELEBRATE

NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION WEEK MARCH 3-9, 2012

For further information, please contact Cheryl Gaouette, Circulation Manager E-mail: cgaouette@riverlandnews.com

Riverland News

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Play Florida Lottery Here!



\$29.99

Absolut Vodka

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\$38.99

Crown Royal

1.75 Ltr.



\$18.99

Seagrams 7

1.75 Ltr.



\$29.99

Dewar's Scotch

1.75 Ltr.