

Riverland News

Thursday, February 14, 2013

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75 cents

Work begins on new Boys & Girls Club



Bobby James

Ground being cleared to make way for new youth facility

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

The collective sigh of relief heard through the community recently was more audible than the construction equipment

starting up along U.S. 41 across from Walmart. And it was for a good reason too.

Construction on the long-awaited Boys & Girls Club facility, while at its infancy, is now under way

after more than two years of delays, hurdles and setbacks.

The 8,000-square-foot facility is expected to take up to six months to complete now that work has begun, said Bobby James,

who's led the charge for a new facility to replace the aging, antiquated facility along Bostick Street. In addition to the 8,000-square-foot building, the site will also have basketball courts and playground

equipment. It will also allow for future expansion, if necessary.

"I am relieved and excited. In a sense that is something that we've been working at for a long time," he said. "I've had aches about this, through

See CLUB page 2

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Benefit on tap for resident

Stephanie Anderson, the former owner of The Levee, is in



Stephanie Anderson

need of a liver transplant. Friends and family members of Anderson, who has been in the hospital for the past month, will host a benefit concert from noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17, at the Blue Gator to help offset with medical expenses.

Jimmy Sparks will provide the musical entertainment. In addition to the concert by Sparks, there will be a silent auction. There has also been a trust fund established at Regions Bank. Those wishing to do so may make contributions payable to Shirley Howard and Stephanie Anderson-Medical Account.

Women's Club to meet Feb. 14

The Women's Club of Dunnellon will host its monthly meeting at noon Thursday, Feb. 14, at the Women's Clubhouse at 11756 Cedar St. It will be a Valentine Pot Luck lunch. Following lunch there will be a presentation by Kevin and Debra DeWitt from the Family Hope Pregnancy Center in Dunnellon. Donations for February will be to the Rape Crisis Violence Center in Dunnellon.

For more information, call Treva Matthews at 489-4512.

Valentine book sale slated

The Friends of Dunnellon Public Library will have a Valentine's Week half-price book sale through Friday, Feb. 15. All proceeds benefit the Dunnellon Public Library.

For more information, call the library at 438-4520.

Back in the saddle

Junior preps for SEYF

CATHERINE JAGER
For the Riverland News

Editor's Note: The annual Southeastern Youth Fair will be from Feb. 17 to 24 at the Marion County Livestock Pavilion. The Riverland News will feature several high school students who are participating in the annual event in the coming weeks.

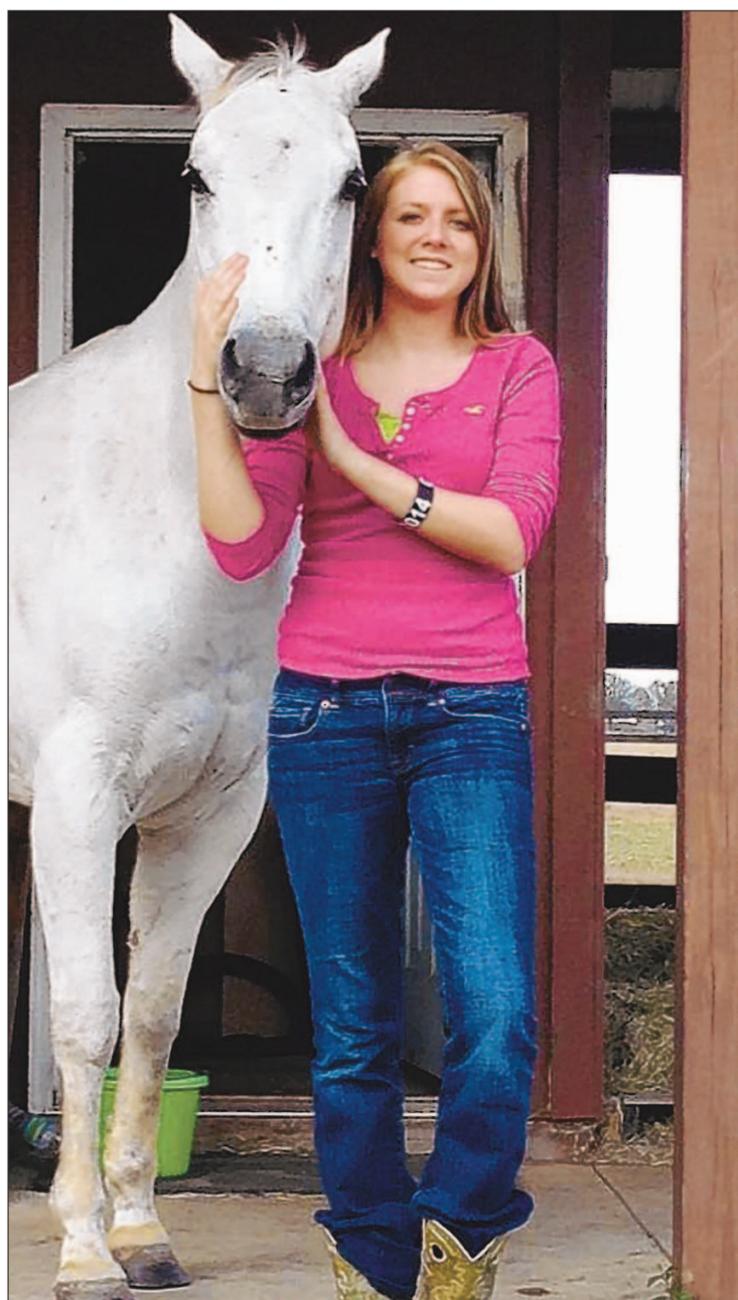
Kaylie Hiers is one of the few high school students who actually enjoys waking up early, pulling on her boots, and heading to the barn to take care of her animals. Hiers is a junior at Dunnellon High School and an officer of the Dunnellon High FFA chapter. Born and raised on her family's cattle farm, Hiers developed a love of cows and horses from an early age.

Hiers has been an avid exhibitor at the Southeastern Youth Fair since she was 8 years old. This year, she is showing her horse, Mercedes, her three heifers, a steer and a lamb.

"I've been showing horses since I was 7, so the horse show is always my favorite part of the fair," Hiers explained.

She participates in the speed events at the Youth Fair, but her

See SADDLE page 2



Kaylie Hiers will show her horse, Mercedes as well as three heifers, a steer and a lamb at this year's Southeastern Youth Fair.

CATHERINE JAGER/For the Riverland News

Tractor Supply offers new scholarship

As an extension of its sponsorship with the National FFA Foundation, Tractor Supply Company has recently announced a new scholarship program to assist FFA members in their pursuit of a college degree.

The Growing Scholars program will be supported nationally by each of the more than 1,150 Tractor Supply stores Feb. 15 to 24, which includes National FFA Week. Tractor Supply customers can donate \$1 at store registers during the

checkout process to support local FFA chapters and their members. Ninety percent of funds raised through Tractor Supply's Growing Scholars program will be utilized to fund

See TRACTOR page 2

Council OKs next step in nuisance problem

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

The Dunnellon City Council on Monday night gave Larry Straus, the city's code enforcement officer, authority to move forward with a nuisance case involving a dilapidated structure at 11734 Bostick St.

Straus asked the Council to allow him to proceed to the third step in the process, which is a hearing in front of the city's special magistrate. Straus also informed the Council the case began in October 2012 when he first sent the listed owners of the property, Fred and Ethel McNeil, a notice the structure on the property needed to be brought into compliance with codes.

However, Straus learned the McNeils both passed away several years ago and have no direct heirs who could claim the property. The other problem, Straus told the Council, is there is no listed owner of the property though property taxes have been paid for the past several years. There are family members, but they have told Straus they cannot afford to pay to have the structure brought into compliance and wish to have the property torn down.

According to city statute's, the special magistrate will conduct a hearing and possible approval of demolition or other corrective action at the expense of the property owner. If the property owner in question cannot afford to pay the demolition or corrective action, the city would then play a lien on the property.

Because no direct

See COUNCIL page 9



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ASHES TO ASHES: Church burns mortgage

Grandview Church celebrates being debt free

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

God presented himself to Moses via a burning bush.

However, for the congregation at Grandview Church, they showed their faithfulness to God by paying off the mortgage to their house of worship in a little more than two years.

And to celebrate, they burned their mortgage

papers in a celebration Sunday during a hearty, spirit-filled worship service. At the end of the celebratory service, the congregation gathered to bury the ashes of the burnt mortgage on the property.

Before making its home on the property along County Road 484, Grandview's beginnings started in the ballroom at the Hilton Hotel in Gainesville.

"Having church in a ballroom is no ball," joked Pastor James Watts.

Pastor Watts gave the current congregation and visitors a run down in history. Grandview's first service was in September 2010 at the Hilton, and while the drive for most of the members was an hour or more, they made the

See BURNS page 10



Pastor James Watts smiles as he watches Grandview Church's mortgage burn in service Sunday to mark being debt free.

JEFF BRYAN/
Riverland News

CLUB

continued from page 1

the setbacks and the delays. Now we've got earth moving and plans taking shape. I'd like to think that we are really in the stages of this coming to fruition."

Indeed it is. In August 2010, board members with the Boys & Girls Club of Marion County had announced they had secured a \$840,000 Federal Community Development Block Grant. Officials at the time were hopeful the new building would be open by the summer of 2011. Then the problems, delays and setbacks began to unfold.

Initially, the project was delayed by finding the right contractor for the job. That was done months ago and the contract was recently signed, James said.

Then a problem with soil testing in the summer of 2012 showed high amounts of phosphate shavings in the soil on the property where officials had planned to construct the new club, slated to be built on 5.6 acres of land, which once housed the old middle school.

At the time, James issued a call for help, asking local business owners or anyone to donate sand — approximately 4,000 cubic yards, or 1.2 million pounds — because of the cost. James targeted the initial amount to have sand trucked in at almost 30 percent, or \$250,000, of the \$840,000 grant. The community rallied, providing the materials free of charge to move the project forward.

"It was a belief that what we were doing was important, and it was important to the kids in the area and it's important to Dunnellon," James said. "We recognize that the kids are important, that they are our future. This is something we had to complete. It took a long time."

"We had to get the community to buy into the site. That no matter what happened in terms of the economy that we had to continue with this mission. This mission was to get everybody focused on what we needed to get done."

Among the improvement projects, a new roadway and sewer lift station installed off U.S. 41 will be added to the area. The city, which is offering an incentive package including water and high-speed fiber, approved a \$35,000 gift from Community Redevelopment Area funds to help the Boys & Girls Club offset the cost of the needed infrastructure.

"We had to get a lot of donations and contributions," James explained. "People have really bent over backward to make this work. My hat is off to the people who really have stepped up"

"I know that we have a lot of communities in Marion County that are wondering why Dunnellon is putting in a new facility. But we were able to do it, through people contributing. Now we will have a facility that people will be really be able to come out and see. It might not be the biggest building in the world, but it's going to be a great addition to the community."

James said the Boys & Girls Club Board of Directors are ecstatic about the new facility, because they were "really, really pushing to get this done."

"It's a crown jewel for Marion County in itself," James said. "All of these people were basically in favor of making an impact on the kids. It should be hats off to the board members. They pulled together to make this thing work. They are excited as we are in Dunnellon. They can go to national boards and point to the Dunnellon facility and show them how the community pulled together to make this work."

SO YOU KNOW

The Boys & Girls Club Dunnellon branch will host two benefits, the first one slated March 20 and the second one is scheduled for April 9.

On March 20, the Boys & Girls Club will host Uncle Homer's Memorial Bass Tournament. The event will begin at daylight and conclude at 3 p.m. at the Dunnellon Boat Ramp by City Hall. Entry fee for the tournament is \$100 per boat, two people per boat. Payout will be 75 percent of entry proceeds. For more information, call the Boys & Girls Club of Marion County at 352-690-7519.

On April 9, the Boys & Girls Club of Dunnellon, in conjunction with Swampy's Bar & Grill, will host Makin' Music at Swampy's. The event will feature the Backwater Bluegrass Band and Scott and Michelle Dalziel. All proceeds will benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Dunnellon.

The property in question is owned by the Marion County School District, but a deal was stuck to lease the property to the Boys & Girls Club of Marion County, Dunnellon branch, for \$1 per year for the next 50 years. The new facility will replace the club's current building, which consists of a modular unit across from Ernie Mills Park on Bostick Street. Now, hopefully by summer James said, youths will be able to occupy the building at the start of the summer.

"From my understanding, they're saying six months at the most," he added. "But I think it could be earlier, if possible."

James stressed this facility is more than just a branch for the Boys & Girls Club, but a facility to be used and embraced by all throughout the community.

"It's designed for the use by the community," he explained. "We can no longer have buildings that have just one single purpose. It's there for the use of the community, because it's actually the community that supports it."

DES 4-Hers gear up for SEYF

Dunnellon 4H Club is busy getting their projects finished up for the Southeastern Youth Fair. The excitement of the students is building up as they work on their various projects. Members have entries going into the following Shows: Home Arts, Garden, Kitchen, and the Photography Show. The club's entries for the Hog Show have increased from one to four, plus the Club Hog. Eight members are showing Rabbits and four are showing in the Chicken Show. Conservation Trays, Consumer Choice Judging and the Fashion Review round out the rest of the projects these members have been working on.

Dunnellon 4H Club hosted the Second Photo Expo recently. This contest helps members get ready for the SEYF.



Special to the Riverland News
Dunnellon Elementary 4H Members, from left, are: Sydney White, Rosie Bailey, Kelley Stump, Logan White, Hailey Rush and Madilyn Sereda.

In the Miscellaneous Category: Hailey Rush placed first, Kelley Stump, second and third in the Junior Division. In the Junior Landscape Category, Logan White placed first, while second-place awards went to Sydney White and Kelley Stump. Third places went to Madilyn

Sereda and Rosie Bailey; in the Intermediate Division, Matthew Livingston placed first and Best of Show went to Logan White.

The Southeastern Youth Fair runs Feb. 16 to 24. The Hog Show is at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22. The Hog Auction is at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 23.

SADDLE

continued from page 1

favorite event is barrels. Showing horses is something that she plans on continuing after she graduates high school and throughout college.

Recently, Hiers suffered a severe injury to her leg while riding her horse on her farm. When her horse was startled by what is believed to have been a snake, she was thrown into a fence, where her leg was left a mangled mess. This injury resulted in a week-long stay at Shands, not being able to finish out the volleyball season,

and being kept her off her horse for quite a while.

Even though the Youth Fair is only one week out of the year, Hiers shows both cattle and horses year round. She often travels out of state with her animals to participate in shows. In addition to preparing for this year's Youth Fair, Hiers is already looking forward to next year's fair.

"I'm planning on showing in the horse show next year also. I'm going to show heifers, a steer, and maybe a lamb again," she said. Her goals for the future are to continue showing and she plans on furthering

her education and becoming a veterinarian.

Hiers will be in the show ring almost all week. This coming Saturday for the heifer show, Sunday and Monday for the steer show and sale, Wednesday for the lamb show and sale, and she will finish off with the final Sunday of fair week at the horse show.

The 2013 Southeastern Youth Fair week is Feb. 16 to 24. Elmo and Kaila will be in the show ring at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 18, for the Steer show and again at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19, for the Steer auction. The youth fair is free and open to the public all week long.

TRACTOR

continued from page 1

scholarships for FFA members. The remaining 10 percent of donations will benefit state FFA organizations.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be current FFA members and either high school seniors or a freshman, sophomore or junior college student seeking a two- or four-year degree or other specialized training program. Major areas of study will also be considered when determin-

ing scholarship recipients.

In addition to the Growing Scholars program, Tractor Supply and the National FFA Foundation have many other joint initiatives, including the FFA horse evaluation career development event, National FFA Week and the annual National Association of Agricultural Educators Conference. At an individual store level, Tractor Supply continually hosts fundraising events and works closely with local FFA chapters and high school agriculture advi-

sors to provide resources and leverage synergies.

For more information about the scholarship or to apply, visit www.TractorSupply.com.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Creative Calligraphers to meet Feb. 14

The Creative Calligraphers of Citrus Springs will meet at 12:30 p.m. Feb. 14 at the Citrus Springs Memorial Library at 1826 Country Club Blvd., Citrus Springs.

The first half hour will be a practice session on a new hand, the Gothic Hand, in lower case. This will be followed by a brief meeting including a show and tell of projects the members have worked on during the last month. The program will focus on "flowers" with thoughts of an early spring.

You will need to bring with you some plain paper, some cardstock (plain or colored), tracing paper, colored pencils or markers, and usual calligraphy tools (pens, a plain pencil, ruler, etc.)

For information, call 489-2313.

AARP Driver Safety class scheduled

An AARP Driver Safety Class for those 50 and older which, with certain exceptions, qualifies graduates for a discount on their automobile insurance, will be given over two days, three hours each day. Cost is \$14 per person for all materials, except pen or pencil. However, if you are an AARP member, the cost is \$12. Bring your AARP card with you.

The course will be March 14 and 15 at the Marion County Sheriff's Office Substation on U.S. 41. Class size is limited and reservations are required. For more information or for reservations, call 465-6359.

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Man, 19, faces drug charge

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

A 19-year-old Fort Myers man was charged with possession of marijuana, more than 20 grams, with intent to sell, a Feb. 7 Dunnellon Police Department report stated.

According to the report, Colton M. Jones was driving a blue Chevy two-door passenger car when Officer Aaron German observed Jones driving 47 mph in a 35-mph zone on North Williams Street.

The report stated German initiated a traffic stop in the 11800 block of North Williams Street and upon making contact with Jones, German could detect the strong odor of marijuana emanating from inside the car. Jones, the report stated, told authorities he was on his way home from a friends house.

According to the report, German observed a hand-rolled cigarette with green leafy substance protruding from inside the cigarette console. German asked Jones what was inside the cigarette when Jones stated, "it's just a little weed." The report indicated the cigarette weighed 3.5 grams.

The report stated Jones was asked to exit the vehicle and upon conducting a search of him, German located two large bags of green leafy substance in Jones' bottom right shorts pocket. The first bag weighed 20.5 grams and the second bag

weighed 12.3 grams, the report noted. In addition to the marijuana found in Jones' short pockets, German discovered \$860 in cash in his front left shorts pocket.

According to the report, during a search of the vehicle, German found a large amount of small blue transparent plastic bags in the glove box as well as a large bag of green leafy substance in Jones' gym bag in the back seat of the car. The package found in the gym bag weighed 27.1 grams, the report noted.

The report stated German conducted individual presumptive field tests on each bag and the cigarette and the tests all came back positive for the presence of marijuana. The total weight of the bags, the report noted, was 63.4 grams.

According to the report, post Miranda rights, Jones claimed possession of the marijuana, stating a friend gave him the marijuana to sell while he was in town "because he knows a lot of people around Marion County." Jones also told authorities, "people need it man," when asked why he had a large quantity of marijuana.

Jones was transported to the Marion County Jail. His bond was set at \$5,000.

According to jail records, Jones bonded out Feb. 7.



Colton M. Jones

Truck overturns, loses its load



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

This tractor-trailer truck, which was hauling orange clay, overturned Wednesday, Feb. 6, after attempting to make a left-hand turn off of Citrus County Road 488, or West Dunnellon Road, onto U.S. 41. According to a spokesperson for the Citrus County Sheriff's Office, the driver of the truck heard an explosion causing the vehicle to overturn. The driver was not injured, the spokesperson said, and was wearing his seatbelt. No charges were expected to be filed.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Community Thrift Shop in need of volunteers

The Dunnellon Community Thrift Shop has openings for volunteers during the winter months. The shop welcomes full time and winter residents. The Thrift Shop is at 20815 W. Pennsylvania Ave., across from the Blues Brothers statues and is manned entirely by volunteers.

Volunteers meet month to month to decide where to donate funds. Shop hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Volunteers work three-hour shifts weekly or as a substitute on an occasional basis.

For more information, call Joann McCullough, president, at 465-7018.

Greater Ocala High Twelve Club to meet

The Greater Ocala High Twelve Club No. 665 will host its monthly meeting at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 15, at the Elks Club at 702 N.E. 25th Ave., Ocala.

Karla Grimsley, the director of Inter-faith Ministry, will be the guest

speaker. A buffet luncheon will be available for \$12 per person.

All Master Masons and guests are invited to attend. Reservations are required. For more information or to RSVP, call Bob Brady at 352-854-9612.

Rose Society meeting slated for Feb. 17

The Marion County Rose Society will host a rose pruning demonstration at 2:30 p.m. at 2224 Clearwater Run, The Villages. Meetings are open to all who want to have fun learning about and sharing their love of roses.

For more information, visit www.marioncountyrosegarden.org or call Howard Johnson at 352-751-0355.

Dunnellon Garden Club to meet Feb. 21

The Dunnellon Garden Club will meet at noon Thursday, Feb. 21, at the Dunnellon Women's Club at 11756 Cedar St. Mary Lou Klein from the Rainbow Springs State Park will be the guest speaker. After a light buffet, there will be a general meeting. All guests are wel-

come. For more information, call Pam Ricker at 489-3545.

Fundraiser slated for local woman

A fish dinner fundraiser for Dorothy Fleming will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 2 at Beulah Missionary Baptist Church at 11732 Illinois St. Fleming, who is in need of a kidney transplant, also has a savings account established at Bank of America. Those wishing to make a donation, may do so in her name.

Horses for Hospice Trail Ride slated

Hospice of Marion County will host its 13th annual "Horses for Hospice" Trail Ride on Saturday, Feb. 16, on the Central Florida Greenway at the Florida Horse Park in Ocala. This year's ride is in memory of Wayne Vaught, beloved Cross Florida Greenway enthusiast and former Trail Ride chairman.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the first ride leaves at 9:15.

The minimum donation to ride is \$30. Wag-

ons are welcome; \$30 for driver and \$10 per passenger. Horse lovers who are unable to ride may purchase a \$10 ticket to enjoy lunch and entertainment.

For more information or to register, call 352-854-5218.

Solution to puzzle on Page 9

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S O C I A L S E C U R I T Y

New to electronic payments? Don't fret

Beginning March 1, with few exceptions, all federal benefits, including Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, are to be paid electronically. That's according to a rule from the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

For years, Social Security has stressed the convenience, security, and safety of getting benefit payments electronically, offering peace of mind that your payment will arrive on time, even in the event of natural disasters or being away from home



Adon Williams

when the check is in the mail. Electronic payments (direct deposit or Direct Express) are not only the best way to receive federal benefit payments — for most people, starting in March, they are the only way.

The truth is, for most people getting monthly benefits, this isn't really a change at all. That's because more than 9 out of ten individuals who receive benefits from Social Security already receive payments electronically. If you get your payments the old-fashioned way and

electronic payments are new to you, here are some things you may want to know about your future payments.

- Electronic payments are safer: there's no risk of checks being lost or stolen;
- Electronic payments are easy and reliable: there's no need to wait for the mail or go to the bank to cash a check;
- Electronic payments are good for the environment: they save paper and eliminate transportation costs; and finally;
- Electronic payments save taxpayers money to the tune of \$120 million per year: there are no costs for postage, paper, and printing; and

Electronic payments could save you money on check-cashing and bank fees.

Visit www.GoDirect.org to learn more about getting your Social Security and SSI payments the safe, easy, inexpensive, and green way — electronically. And rest assured that on payment delivery day, you won't have to wait for your money; your money is already in the bank and ready for you to use.

Question: What are the benefits of using direct deposit or electronic payments?

Answer: It's safe; it's secure; and it's convenient; your checks will not get lost in the mail; you choose the

account where your payment is deposited; and you will get your benefits on time, even if you're out of town or unable to get to the bank.

With few exceptions, nowadays, if you sign up for benefits, you must get your payments electronically. And if you are getting paper checks, you must switch to electronic payments by March 1. If you don't have a bank account, you can use the Direct Express prepaid debit card to get Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments deposited directly into your account. Go to www.godirect.org.

LETTERS

Editorial missed some points, eco-tourism industry has merit

Among the first things one does to save a life is stop the bleeding, not unlike what one must do to staunch the flow from a city hemorrhaging money. First, one applies appropriate pressure to the wound in a manner that doesn't kill the patient.

Secondly, the patient, or city in this case, must be thoroughly evaluated for further treatment to insure long-term survival. When speaking of the Dunnellon, which I obviously am, turning the "ship of state" in a more fiscally responsible direction is akin to turning a supertanker on a dime: it can't be done. Once a course has been plotted and implemented, it takes time to turn it safely and well.

The "Our Voice" editorial of Feb. 7 missed several important points regarding Mayor Whitt's attempts to improve Dunnellon's financial position. I've attended virtually every City Council workshop and meeting since February 2012 and am witness to these facts.

Dunnellon has an almost insurmountable debt of some \$22 million representing in effect, a population of 1,700-plus residents. This debt is a super-tanker-like juggernaut hemorrhaging money and requiring immediate action to save the "patient."

The first thing responsible politicians must do is stop the bleeding before attracting further business development. New businesses won't come to a city facing the equivalent of bankruptcy.

Mayor Whitt and Councilman Eric Collop voted "no" on several recent appropriations, including the recent purchase of the "parking lot" for Greenlight and the recent Bonds refinancing. They were, however, overridden by the three remaining votes on the Council. Two out of five votes aren't sufficient to change course.

The debt course plotted and implemented by the previous administration isn't easily "turned." Before Dunnellon can enhance business growth and development, the bleeding must be stopped by rallying the support of all possible resources.

Rainbow Springs residents, for example, while justifiably angry at recent events involving our wallets, are a potential source of help improve Dunnellon.

See **LETTERS** page 5



GUEST COLUMN

A dream in space

Editor's Note: Edybelly Flores is an eighth-grader at Dunnellon Middle School. She finished as a semi-finalist in Rand McNally's "Dear Mr. President" nationwide essay contest. More than 8,000 school-aged children, ages 13-20, competed for a trip to Washington, D.C., and scholarship prizes. For more about Flores' essay, see Page 12.



Edybelly Flores

Dear Mr. President, There are a lot of issues concerning our country today. So many problems to fix and solve. So many issues to think about and so many people thinking many issues are important. I think the most important issue to solve is to fund the NASA space program and not to forget about it.

I think funding NASA is most important to me on a personal level, because I've always loved the thought of exploring other planets, other than ours. Also because the world we live in today revolves around technology like using a computer in school and home to do homework, riding and it just so happens NASA makes and improves technology and transportation for me to use in my everyday life. I use the bus to school, and watch television to get important information like the news and weather.

NASA has given us so many things we don't even know about. NASA gives us simple things that we use in our everyday life and don't really think about "where did this come from" or "how did this get invented." Examples of everyday inventions are smoke detectors to medical tests, and improving transportation.

This issue is important to people all across the country, because it

gives them jobs. According to NASA.gov, more than 18,000 people work for NASA. It also helps people in my country by living easier by giving us new technology to make our life easier. NASA will prepare us for the future, because it will let younger generations learn and have a hands-on experience to carry out the dream of space exploration to the future. NASA has satellites in space observing asteroids and comets coming to Earth to warn us when they are coming and be able to

prepare for it. NASA also notices climate changes and weather patterns. So you see there are a lot of reasons that NASA affects everyone in the country. If we all improve on this problem, we can also improve on many other difficulties too. We can look even deeper in a sickness that is very common and very horrible to think about to many people, called cancer. NASA can continue to search for a cure and save thousands, but only if NASA keeps getting funded. NASA helps improve a major problem going on today, job growth. As well as these reasons if we work together on this project we can have better relationship with other countries on a way to explore.

Other people might not think this issue is not at all important to them or has no relation to them. People might think this way because they might not be aware what NASA does for us than just going up to space. Also people might think we need to fix problems down here on Earth first rather than going somewhere else. They might think it costs way too much money to be spent on such

See **GUEST** page 5

JERSEY GIRL

Happily ever after

Seen any good movies lately? Since it's almost Oscar time, I thought it'd be a good topic for the week. Although I haven't seen any of the nominees, I still have plenty of favorites.



Audrey Beem

Whether you're into comedy or drama, I think we can all agree there's nothing better than a good movie. In fact, on a rainy day, there's no better way to spend your time. Curl up on the couch with a comfy blanket and get ready to forget your problems for a couple of hours.

Movies can transport you to another place and time. They allow you to use your imagination and dream. They can keep you on the edge of your seat or make you feel better the rest of the day.

But what makes a movie good? Well, it has to have believable characters, a deep storyline and it must get your emotions flowing, and I love a happy ending. I want to be crying when the credits roll, but I want them to be tears of joy.

"You've Got Mail" has all the elements above. By the time Meg Ryan utters the words, "I wanted it to be you so badly," they've already got me hook, line and sinker. All the characters are endearing, it's got humor, you want the two protagonists to end up together and it has one of the best soundtracks ever.

I'm one of those people that can watch the same movie over and over again a hundred times. It drives my husband crazy. There are several that I have memorized. Yet, if I'm flipping the channels and they're on, I have to watch.

My favorites depend on what kind of mood I'm in that day, but I do have a few that I can watch anytime. I don't think there's a better movie than "Shawshank Redemption." Every time I watch it, I'm completely drawn in. Another perfect one is "Fried Green Tomatoes." If you haven't seen either one of these run down to the Red Box now.

When a movie can make me laugh and cry it's a hit in my book. "Something's Gotta Give," "50 First Dates," "Hope Floats," "The Mirror has Two Faces" and "Return to Me" are some of the ones I love. Of course, the list could go on all day. I get the premise of the good guys versus the bad guys, but that's as complicated as I want to get.

My husband loves the action. "Four Brothers," "Tombstone," "Young Guns" and "Good Fellas" are about the only four movies he'll sit through more than once.

There are also a few I didn't like at all even though the critics did. "City of Angels" is one of them. I also thought "Ghost Rider" was silly, "Eyes Wide Shut" was more than annoying and "The Women" was a major disappointment even though it had one of the best casts ever. Two movies that I'll never watch again are "Falling Down" and "The War of the Roses." If you must watch a Michael Douglas movie choose "The American President".

See **JERSEY** page 7



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

continued from page 4

lon's financial picture by supporting city businesses.

"Getting along" is a sensible strategic move designed to improve the overall health of the City for everyone's benefit.

The current Council is a work in progress. City residents and businesses must actively participate in the political process by attending meetings and making their thoughts known.

I've witnessed the new mayor's attempts to recruit such participation, with support from others on the Council. To date, there seems little additional attendance by citizens other than those of us specifically interested in the political process, most from Rainbow Springs!

I agree with "Our Voice" point about creating a "thriving ecotourism environment." However, that must also be managed carefully and with regard to preserving the environment and quality of life which has drawn many to this area.

Growth is good. Responsible growth is better. Planning for it requires creating a healthy municipal and economic environment to attract additional business.

That won't happen, however, if city voters don't actively participate in the process, or the bleeding so severe there's eventually no town left to attract them.

Dunnellon's City Council needs to hear directly from voters and proprietors. The rest of us can speak out, but we can't do much to determine how they vote. They're listening now.

Kathryn Taubert, Dunnellon

Mayor: Be concise, straight to the point

Dear Mayor Whitt:
Re: Your Jan. 31 Riverland News article

Being a resident of Rainbow Springs, I read your article in the Jan. 31 Riverland News with great interest. It was refreshing to hear some cogent views come from the Mayor's Office and, even more important, to be given insight into some of the thought processes used by you, if not the entire City Council.

As a business owner yourself, I am sure that you will agree that it is not the lack of problems but, rather, how

well inevitable problems are addressed that makes the difference between success and failure. Your article is a clear indication that you are attempting to resolve contentious issues, and for that, I applaud you and sincerely hope that your efforts to satisfactorily resolve Dunnellon's problems are successful.

Although I have never managed the affairs of any municipality, large or small, I do have a certain amount of business acumen gleaned from decades of management experience. With this in mind, and based primarily on the issues raised in your article (although in no particular order) I respectfully offer my advice and opinions in the following paragraphs.

Be direct. Despite its length, your article essentially deals with only three issues: Greenlight, water/sewer rates and a recognition that problems exist between the city of Dunnellon and the residents of Rainbow Springs. I concur with your assessment that without honest discussion pertaining to our mutual problems, solutions will not be forthcoming.

However, other than your willingness to listen to the points of view of others, I read nothing to indicate what actions are being considered by Dunnellon or what actions, over-and-above the \$1.5 million already provided by us, you expect your neighbors to take. Your predecessor's continued insistence that the red-light cameras were installed for safety rather than revenue generation, not only demonstrated his incompetence and/or dishonesty but, even more importantly, destroyed his credibility. Don't destroy your credibility by talking in circles.

Be accurate. While water conservation, for whatever reason, was a positive outcome of the city taking over the utility, it is unfortunate that you have repeated the allegation that the installation of irrigation wells in Rainbow Springs has caused sink holes. Do you have any empirical evidence to support this position?

Much, if not most, of the area encompassing the Villages of Rainbow Springs is not served by municipal water, but by wells: Why are these areas not suffering a spate of sink holes? The same question applies for Lake Tropicana, Rainbow Lakes

and other areas around Dunnellon.

If drawing water from my puny little irrigation well is, in fact, contributing to sink holes, why is it that there are no sink holes being caused by the well-heads used by the city or the golf course, even though the size of their pipes and pumps (as well as the volumes of water drawn) are each hundreds, if not thousands of times larger than that found in my yard?

Be realistic. You have stated that Dunnellon has nearly \$10 million invested in Greenlight, and while I fervently hope that this enterprise is a huge success, I have yet to hear of or see any studies that were done to demonstrate the viability of such an investment prior to committing to this vast outlay of cash.

It is good to know that those Greenlight customers with whom you have spoken are happy with the service and cost but how much of the actual cost per customer is currently being subsidized by the city (free installation, 2 months for \$2, etc.)? When these costs are ultimately paid by the consumer, as they

must be if Greenlight is to be successful, will those consumers still be so happy? Your consultants, Burton & Associates (whose track record to date seems a bit spotty) have indicated to you that their most "current" projections shows Greenlight starting to generate revenue by the end of 2014. Surely, Mr. Mayor, you are not hanging your hat on this projection. How does this 'current' projection compare with the 'original' and other interim projections? There must be a projected path between now and the end of 2014, the accuracy of which can be observed on a monthly basis and the ultimate success or failure of which can be determined long before the end of 2014. Should the revenue projection for the next two years be as inaccurate as the projection for the last two years, it would, I think, be prudent for the city to develop and have in place contingency plans

to deal with the problem, plans that I would hope do not include additional, significant and unreasonable increases to the cost of water and sewer charges paid by the residents of Rainbow Springs to further subsidize a failed enterprise.

Be practical. Various newspaper articles indicate that the city of Dunnellon now finds itself in a huge financial hole, with more than \$21 million of debt (\$10 million of which is mentioned in your own article) distributed amongst a total population of approximately 1,800. You have accurately stated that instead of reducing its spending, the city increased borrowing and spending. In addition, one of the final acts of the last city council was to take \$1.5 million dollars of revenue generated by the Rainbow Springs Utility and put it into Greenlight. It is

See **LETTERS** page 7

GUEST

continued from page 4

a short-lived thing. People might be bored of what NASA has accomplished so far.

I would respond to all those attacks by saying that people should do more research then just stating your opinion. With NASA, we can explore what everybody for centuries has asked themselves "What's out there." If we pay attention and fund NASA we can do so many more amazing things than we could have ever imagined doing. We can find a way to colonize human life in space when all of our resources run out on Earth.

NASA space program is a very important topic to consider.

Eddybelly Flores is an eight-grade student at Dunnellon Middle School.



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OBITUARIES

Collette Joy Petkanics, 79

Collette Joy Petkanics, 79, passed away Feb. 10, 2013, in Ocala, Fla. She is the beloved wife of 60 years of Robert P. Petkanics and the daughter of the late William Alfred Preston and Iris Brown Preston.

Collette was born in New York, N.Y., Oct. 23, 1933. Collette and Robert moved to the Dunnellon area of Florida 21 years ago from Chicago, Ill. She was a homemaker, a devoted gardener and an art lover. When her three children were younger, she was the chief chauffeur and volunteer for their many and varied sports, music, dance and scouting activities. She volunteered for many years at the Appleton Museum in Ocala and also worked as a secretary and receptionist in the shipping industry prior to moving to Florida.

Family members left to cherish her memories are her son, Bryan G. Petkanics, and his wife, Sandy, of New York; daughters, Donna M. Petkanics and her husband, Jay R. Gerstenschlager of California and Brenda J. Petkanics of Florida; seven grandchildren, Douglas B. Petkanics and his wife, Jaime of California, Scott R. Petkanics of California, Elizabeth A. Petkanics of New York, Karina A. Gerstenschlager of

Ohio, Kyle P. Petkanics of California, James W. Petkanics of Florida and Kyla G. Petkanics of Florida.

A memorial service will be 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, 2013, at the Church of the Advent, Dunnellon, with the Rev. Lewis officiating. Interment will be in the church garden on the same date.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that you make donations to the Collette Petkanics Memorial Fund through the Alzheimer's Association (www.alz.org) in Collette's memory: http://act.alz.org/site/TR?pxfid83896&fr_id1060&pgfund&et8iX9VLH00uap_fh_TgX56A&s_tafid3930.

Expressions of sympathy can be made online to robertsofdunnellon.com.



Gary Schulz, 75

Our beloved friend, father, brother and husband, Gary Schulz, slipped from this world to the next Feb. 10 of 2013. Gary was born in October of 1937 to Helen and Kenneth Schulz in Billings, Montana. Gary, the oldest of four children, was a quiet and good-natured man who led a very full and accomplished life.

Gary's childhood was spent primarily in Three Forks, Montana, however he left his home at a young age to pursue his dreams that were, most notably, to serve his country. Gary proudly served in the U.S. Military including the U.S. Air Force, the National

Guard and the U.S. Navy. His military service led to a career with Bendix Field Engineering Corporation where he contracted with NASA. Gary began his career at a time when computers were first making their debut, and Gary grew with the computer age, becoming a computer guru of sorts. Gary spent most of his 30 years working with NASA as a field engineer, traveling and living in countries all around the world.

Gary's happiest moments in his retirement included spending time with his family, traveling and developing and maintaining his company webpage. Working for Bendix Field Engineering Corporation endeared Gary to the company, and after retirement he set about creating a web page that chronicled the complete history of the company as well as his service in the U.S. Air Force.

Gary leaves behind his beloved wife of 50 years, Martha Jane; as well as his son, Scott Schulz; daughter, Jodi Schulz; daughter-in-law, Karen Schulz; and two grandchildren, Carson Schulz and Cassidy Schulz. Gary also leaves behind his siblings, including Brownie Snyder; Richard Schulz and Donna Schulz as well as many nieces and nephews.

Gary will be buried with full Military Honors in Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell. In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to the Wounded Warriors Project in Gary's name. Condolences may be submitted online to www.robertsofdunnellon.com.

Church's Chinese Auction a success



Special to the Riverland News
Ladies of the Altar & Rosary Society distributed more than 200 items at its Chinese Auction Feb. 2 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church.

CHURCH BRIEFS

Church to host concert at FBC

Cross at the River Cowboy Church, in conjunction with First Baptist Church of Dunnellon, will host Susie McEntire in concert from 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 18 at First Baptist Church of Dunnellon.

Tickets may now be purchased for \$15 per person or \$25 per couple at the following locations:

- Cross At The River Cowboy Church at 10 a.m. Sundays. Services are greater Historical Train Depot.

- From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Cadence Bank.

- Online at www.villageier.info.

Presbyterian church to host annual flea market

Dunnellon Presbyterian Church will host its annual flea market from

8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 23. The church is at the corner of Ohio and Chestnut streets.

Church to host benefit concert

First Baptist Church of Rainbow Lakes Estates will host a benefit concert featuring Joyful Noise, a Bluegrass-style band, at 5 p.m. March 2, at its church at 19756 SW Beach Blvd. In addition to Joyful Noise, singer/songwriter David Dickerson will perform.

Church to host concert featuring big band

The Southern Express, an 18-piece Big Band, will perform at First Congregational United Church of Christ

at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 9. Tickets, which are \$10 each, are available at the church office, 7171 S.W. State Road 200, or call the office at 352-237-3035 or Dave at 352-867-7967.

Church to host fish fry Fridays during Lent

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church will host its fish fry from 4 to 6 p.m. Fridays during Lent, starting Feb. 15 and ending March 22. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children. The fish fry is open to the public and is held in the church pavilion. St. John the Baptist Catholic Church is on the corner of U.S. 41 & State Road 40 in Dunnellon.

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JERSEY

continued from page 4

It's always nice when a movie surprises you because it's so good. "Conviction" with Hillary Swank had me captivated.

I can't critique the horror genre, because I haven't watched any. I'll write about the classics and the holiday movies in a few weeks, and I'm not mentioning the "Godfather" trilogy either as that one stands on its own merits.

Please don't laugh when I tell you I love the movies "Corrina, Corrina" and "A Lot Like Love." Sure they're cheesy, but what a fun story along the way. And should I even admit that I enjoy everything written by Tyler Perry?

Don't you just love those movies that span the generations like "Legends of The Fall" and "Benjamin Buttons," which both show Brad Pitt at his finest? Other good sagas are "Thorn Birds" and "The Color Purple." But make sure you have plenty of time and plenty of snacks on hand to enjoy them.

Some movies are so sad it's hard to watch. "Seven Pounds" with Will Smith is one of them. "Beaches" is another. "Man in the Moon," "Message in the Bottle," "Sophie's Choice," "Brian's Song," "A Beautiful World" and "Steel Magnolias" — wow, so many good tear jerkers.

But I'd rather laugh. Not at the popular comedies like "Hangover," but the ones that really aren't comedies at all but just good movies with funny lines that stick with you. "It's Complicated" with Meryl Streep makes me laugh out loud every time. Likewise "Forrest Gump" and "Ghost" each have so many classic lines that we repeat over and over again as we find ourselves reminiscing.

Movies are like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're going to get until you get into them.

LETTERS

continued from page 5

never too late to do the right thing.

I would recommend that you and the City Council take hard looks at the poor decisions of the past and determine methods to mitigate their financial impacts on the city. In addition, seriously investigate areas in which economies can be realized.

Reiterating my complete lack of experience in municipality management, I would humbly suggest investigation into the following areas: Does a city of 1,800 residents really need a City Manager if the City Council did due diligence? Could the current costs of the City Manager and Consultants, whose actions have played a part in the current financial problems of the city, be better spent by hiring an experienced manager for Greenlight? Would using the excess revenue generated by the utility company be better used to install remote-read water meters and making other infrastructure improvements to reduce operating costs of the utility rather than "investing" in other projects?

Could the legal costs of the City Attorney be

mitigated by discontinuing actions which require defense in court? Could costs be reduced if current and future annexation activities were discontinued or modified?

Be pragmatic. Greenlight, according to information provided by you, represents nearly \$10 million of the city's overall debt load. Based on the past performance of Greenlight, it is well on the way to becoming a financial absciss.

I am in complete agreement with your statement that the city cannot just walk away from a \$10 million investment. But you must also realize that unlike the sink holes alluded to earlier, which can generally be resolved by dumping large quantities of concrete into them, there may come a time to realize that no matter how large the quantity, dumping cash into Greenlight may not be able to save it.

Clearly, the current losses of Greenlight were unforeseen by those now advising the city. I would think that, if not already underway, the City Council should be acting to end the expense of advisors who apparently know-not-of-what-they-speak and start seriously looking for an experienced communications

systems manager with a proven track record.

A decision must be made in the foreseeable future as to whether Greenlight can become a viable, stand-alone enterprise or whether the only way to 'save' money is to simply cut losses by selling or discontinuing the project. Considering the investment already made by your neighbors, this decision-making process should be openly discussed in council meetings.

Be objective. I find to be a bit patronizing your statement that "...we need to come together as neighboring communities to make (Greenlight profitable) or risk losing our \$10 million investment."

Mr. Mayor, please realize that many, and I personally believe a strong majority, of Rainbow Springs residents would like to see Dunnellon become fi-

nancially whole and strong, but it is not "our" \$10 million investment that is at risk, it is yours.

Until the City Council takes the difficult actions required to achieve financial strength and deals openly and fairly with its neighbors, Greenlight, and perhaps the financial viability of Dunnellon, will fail and there is no amount of money that you can collect from the residents of Rainbow Springs, Rio Vista and your own tax payers that will prevent it. The ball, as they say, is in your court.

Finally, it was certainly a pleasant change to hear from at least one member of the City Council that the attendance of Rainbow Springs residents at Dunnellon City Council meetings is encouraged. I suspect that you will need a bigger room. I also believe

that a regular article by you in the Riverland News (replacing the meaningless news letter now in place) would be beneficial in creating understanding and reducing ill will.

Robert Boattini,
Rainbow Springs

City must make tough choices

I appreciate the insightful and intelligent column in the Jan. 31 edition of the Riverland News by Mayor Nathan Whitt.

I sincerely have profound respect for Mayor Whitt and Councilman Erik Collop for stepping into a terrible situation, not of their own making or design. It is akin to being appointed captain of the Titanic

See **LETTERS** page 10



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Tigers' tune-up for regular season

DHS splits games in preseason classic

CHRISTINA BAUER
For the Riverland News

Stepping up to the plate this season, the Dunnellon High School baseball team is already looking strong, coming off of a 10-3 win Friday in its preseason tournament against Lecanto High School. However, the Tigers fell short Sat-

urday against Sprignstead, 4-2. "It was good so far, and I'm excited. We're looking strong," said first-year Dunnellon coach Michael Watson. "We're looking at a winning year."

Watson and his coaching staff — Seth Gaspin and Andrew, Gascoyne — are looking at a handful of seniors — Connor Wentz, Jordon

Boley, Mike Roberson, Shane Williams, Joey Lobsiger and Bo Dewitz — to step up and become leaders.

Additionally, Watson is excited about the upcoming talent to fill the shoes of players lost to graduation. Watson "is expecting great things from" Garrett Kudlack, Matthew Livermore, Levi West, Josh Tricomi, Justin Hamm, Ryan Mills, Kobe Jones, Kane Parks and Lyle Savage.



JULIE MANCINI/For the Riverland News

Dunnellon High School pitcher Michael Roberson fires a pitch in as catcher Bo Dewitz waits for the ball during the Tigers' preseason contest against Springstead.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Golf course starts new league

Rainbow's End Golf Club has started a Thursday afternoon 9-hole Scramble League. The league, open to the public, tees off at 3 p.m. Golfers are paired into A, B, C, and D groups to make up foursomes. Cost is \$17 for nonmembers and \$10 for members, which includes fees, cart, closest to hole prize and winners payout.

YMCA Expands Silver Sneakers Program

The Citrus County YMCA opened its fourth Group Exercise location in Citrus Springs in November, and will be able to offer Silver Sneakers classes there beginning Jan. 7. This new venue for exercise programs is Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church at 9425 N. Citrus Springs Blvd., in Citrus Springs.

The Y will offer Body Stretch, a low-impact class, and Cardio Pump, a higher impact class, are both Tuesdays and Thursdays. The new Silver Sneakers classes will be offered at 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and include Range of Movement. Yoga Stretch will be available at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For more information about all classes, call 352-637-0132, or visit www.ymcasuncoast.org.

St. Paddy's Day 5K slated March 16

United Way of Marion County's high school youth program will host a St. Patrick's Day 5K run/walk at 8 a.m. Saturday, March 16, at Ocala City Hall to benefit the United Way. Entry fee is \$20 before Monday, March 11, and \$25 afterward. Race forms can be downloaded at www.uwmc.org or participants can register at Active.com. For more information, call Tina Banner at 352-732-9696.



SIERRA OLIVER/For the Riverland News

Dunnellon High School softball player Kelly Howard fields a ground ball against Vanguard in the Lady Tigers' 3-2 season-opening victory against the Lady Knights.

Lady Tigers hopeful for solid year

DHS off to 1-1 start in 2013

AMANDA BARNEY
For the Riverland News

Going through various changes the past two years, the Dunnellon High School softball team began its season last week, with a new coaching staff and a new team for the season, which only consists of a 14-member varsity squad due to the lack of players.

Dunnellon coach Terry Weber and assistant coach Ashley Clark will be striving for a district title this season.

Weber has been involved in softball for years from her daughters, Casey and Jody. After being asked by athletic director Bruce Wentz, Weber accepted the position.

"I was a bit reluctant since I have a child on the team," said Weber, noting her daughter, junior standout Jody is a member of the squad. "This is a highly competitive sport and I want to make sure the girls have every chance to be the best they can. I accepted the position because I have known the majority of these girls (and coached some) since they were 7 years old at Dunnellon Little League. I felt like if I didn't step up I was letting them down."

Clark is a 2007 grad-

uate of Crystal River High School, having played two years at the College of Central Florida before completing her collegiate career at Weber Inter-national University, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Sports Medicine while playing softball.

"Coach Clark is young, very enthusiastic and has played university level," Weber said. "I knew then we could handle taking on this task."

Hitting off their season last Feb. 2 with the Preseason Classic, the Lady Tigers earned a great confidence boost for their opening games the following week.

After tying Forest, 3-all, in the opening game, the Tigers pulled off a 6-4 win for against Williston in the second game of the tournament.

"They worked well together and had no errors," Weber said. "Even with 14 girls on the roster, each and every one of them got playing time."

The Lady Tigers officially started their regular season Feb. 5 at Tiger Stadium against Vanguard, pulling out a non-district victory, 3-2.

Sophomore Dania Clark had an RBI, stolen base and scored one of the three runs.

See LADY page 9

Trio of Tigers sign letters of intent



J'Von Swoll, left, smiles after signing his national letter of intent to play football for St. Olaf College in Minnesota. Seated to the right of the Dunnellon High running back is his mother, Desiree Rome.



Andre Jackson, center, poses after signing his national letter of intent to play football at Webber International. Seated with Jackson are his sister, Tanika Jackson, left, and his mother, Angella Abel.



Photos by JULIE MANCINI/For the Riverland News

Connor Wentz signs his national letter of intent with North Dakota State University as his father, Bruce, the Dunnellon High athletic director, left, and his mother, Angie, look on.

DHS ATHLETES OF THE WEEK • PRESENTED BY GREENLIGHT DUNNELLON COMMUNICATIONS

Leslie Maddox, softball

The first baseman hit a home run in the Lady Tigers' season-opener against Vanguard to get Dunnellon us on the board. Dunnellon coach Terry Weber said her defense has been stellar at first base.



Leslie Maddox

CONGRATULATIONS ATHLETES

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Michael Roberson, baseball



Michael Roberson

In two games last week, Roberson he had a .429 batting average with three RBIs. He also pitched 2 2/3 innings and did not allow an earned run.



SIERRA OLIVER/For the Riverland News
Dunnellon High School's Bianca Pierro steps to the plate against Vanguard.

LADY

continued from page 1

Senior Leslie Maddox had an RBI and a home run.

Junior Jody Weber, with a healing broken collar bone, had a hit and an RBI with bases loaded and scored the last run of the game, allowing Dunnellon to pull out the victory.

Dunnellon had two errors, but made up for it with four double plays and 13 put outs.

Nicole Drew started the game on the mound, pitching the first four innings, striking out two while allowing six hits and two walks. Bianco Pierro finished the game, giving up two hits and striking out one and walking one.

"I was very pleased with the game against Vanguard," Weber said. "Since Jody is normally our starting catcher and is still recovering from a broken collar bone we are relying on Lizzy behind the plate. She is doing a fantastic job. Leslie Maddox hitting a home run (over the fence) got us started."

On Feb. 7, the Lady Tigers faced Belleview. The Lady Rattlers got their bite in Dunnellon and slithered off with an 8-1 win. Belleview had a total of nine hits. Clark scored the Lady Tigers lone run.

Maddox and senior Tiara Thomas both had doubles. Ruiz and Weber each had a single.

Drew started the game again, giving up five hits and two walks while striking out five. Pierro relieved her in the third inning giving up three

hits against and two walks, while notching four strikeouts.

"I think the girls are going to do very well this season," Weber said. "Coach Clark and I have already seen great improvement in each and every player. We have great pitching and defense. Our hitting has to be more reliable. The girls need to have confidence going up to the plate. Our goal for the season is to be competitive, have fun, and to represent Dunnellon the way I know they can. We truly want to perform well at the district level and the rest is up to the girls."

Dunnellon played Tuesday at Nature Coast Tech. Results were unavailable at press time. The Lady Tigers play at 7 p.m. Thursday at North Marion and at 6:30 p.m. Friday at Tavares.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Norm's Clean Cuts accepting toys, food

Norm's Clean Cuts Barber Shop at 11941 Bostick St, Dunnellon is a drop-off point for the U.S. Marine Corps annual Toys for Tots drive as well as a drop-off location for food donations for Food 4 Kids Inc., which provides back packs full of food on the weekends for needy children in the area.

For more information, call 465-3666.

Group to distribute toiletries, clothing

Christians In Action (CIA), a new charitable organization formed to assist the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church as well as other local food pantries, will provide toiletries and clothing to need families in need who qualify under federal guidelines. Free toiletries and

clothing will be distributed from 9 a.m. to noon the first Saturday monthly at New Second Bethel Missionary Baptist Church at 1940 W. Henry Blair Lane.

The church is behind Dunnellon Mulch and Stone.

American Legion activities slated

American Legion Wall-Rives Post 58 and the Women's Auxiliary will meet at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday monthly. Dinner will be served at 5:30.

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

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

The outdoor flea market and pancake breakfast is the third Saturday monthly. Cost for the breakfast is \$5 per person.

COUNCIL

continued from page 1

family members were present Monday night, Straus did inform the Council that any family member may address the case when it goes before the special magistrate.

Several of the Council members, including Mayor Nathan Whitt, said they have driven by the property in question and concurred the house is beyond repair and could pose a potential hazard.

"It's in pretty bad shape," Mayor Whitt said.

Once the special mag-

istrate hears the case and makes a ruling, the City Council will have the final vote about how to proceed in the next step.

In other action, the Council:

Authorized Mayor Whitt to sign an mutual aid agreement between the Dunnellon Police Department and the

Marion County Sheriff's Office. Chief Joanne Black told the Council at its Feb. 6 workshop that the agreement is standard protocol, which her agency signs with the sheriff's office as well as several other local law enforcement agencies throughout the area.

Presented engineers with GPI Southeast Inc. with a proclamation recognizing National Engineers Week, which is Feb. 17 to 23.

The Dunnellon City Council will meet at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20, for a workshop. Its next regular Council meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 25.

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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Puzzle answers on Page 3

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Photos by JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Pastor Debbie Watts, foreground, leads the praise and worship team in song during Grandview Church's celebration Sunday for being debt free.

BURNS

continued from page 1

trek on a weekly basis. But then, Pastor Watts said, God began opening doors.

Several members had contacted he and his wife, Pastor Debbie Watts, about the property on County Road 484 that had once been used by a church, but had shuttered its doors. Originally, Pastor James Watts balked at the notion of purchasing the building and property because the church was so new and taking on such a large amount of debt didn't seem like the right idea at the time.

One day, while en route to a meeting with a church member, both of the Watts' passed the property on County Road 484. Pastor James Watts' wife urged him to look at the property as they drove past it.

"I refused to move my head," he said. "I was so determined to not look at it. We were not going to move into this church."

But God proved He had other ideas in mind.

Finally, the Watts' set up a visit with the realtor. Church members came out in droves to look at the property as well. Pastor James Watts recalled the realtor asking if they were having a church service during the viewing of the property. "I guess we are," he remembered telling the realtor.

However, the bank that owned the property wasn't keen on leasing the property, valued then at more than \$800,000. Yet, church members and bank officials agreed to a first-year lease of \$36,000. The Watts, who had written several books and offered their own Christian-base teaching literature, had been stockpiling their earnings from their books and other materials, Pastor James Watt said. All told, he and his wife had saved \$38,000, which paid for the first year of the lease.

In December 2010, Grandview held its first service in its new sanctuary and within a year had struck a deal with the bank to purchase the property for slightly more than \$500,000, with a



Pastor James Watts smiles while showing off a gift he received from church members.

down payment of \$150,000. It was agreed upon that paying off the mortgage would be a top priority after, of course, making sure 10 percent or more of tithes went to the mission field.

For the first year, the church made mortgage payments of \$10,000 a month. Yet a Sunday worship service and a message from David Gillis changed the church's train of thought to becoming debt free much sooner. Gillis told the congregation it needed to become debt free sooner, that they needed to "finish the ark." He told them God would show them untold blessings if they were debt free within the first 40 days of 2013.

By Feb. 7, the church paid off its mortgage.

"We owe zero dollars," Pastor James Watts told the congregation, which drew a thunderous ovation certain to shake Heaven.

Pastor James Watts said now that the church is debt free, it can now focus on improving its youth facilities. One member of the church - Rosie Long - recently donated two modular buildings she bought from a church no longer using them. Pastor James Watts said work will begin immediately to put the buildings to use on their property and give the children a place of their own.

"When she told me that news, I told Debbie to go get the deliberator," he quipped.

Now the work begins for the next generation.

"God has manifested in this ministry," Pastor James Watts said.

LETTERS

continued from page 7

after the iceberg was hit. I am confident both gentlemen are up to the daunting task before the Council.

Unfortunately, no one on the City Council is a miracle worker and you must deal with the cards dealt. As Kenny Rogers said, "you have to know when to hold them, know when to fold them."

We empathize with the city's difficult position; however, it is a position of their own making through their own deliberate actions. Things did not just happen. It is analogous to the child murdering his parents and asking for understanding because he is an orphan. I will not elaborate on the unforced errors the city has made, but to briefly list the highlights that must be addressed.

— Greenlight and the mounting debt.

— The Rainbow Springs utility purchase, the price, surcharge rates and how the entire issue was handled.

— The poor public relations, communications and secretive general tenor of governance that the city has set the past several years.

— Growth of city payroll and debt, mostly Greenlight related but no constraint of spending in a severe economic crisis most Dunnellon residents are feeling.

I will stop there as I do not want to belabor the negative points.

Rainbow Springs residents were involuntarily forced, without consideration, notice or input into the clutches of the Dunnellon Utility System, which was neglected for years.

Without the Greenlight boycott, Rainbow Springs would still be totally ignored and taken for granted, thought only of as cash cows.

Greenlight's reportedly good performance and great rates to its small customer base is being subsidized by city utility customers and will be for the long, foreseeable future. Greenlight perform-

ance is not the issue. It is the cost and feasibility. I have no confidence in Burton and Associates' analysis as it seems it always tells the city what it wants to hear.

What are some starting points that the City Council can take? This is where the City Council and city residents must step forward and make hard choices.

— Eliminate immediately and in the future the punitive 25 percent surcharge for Rainbow Springs residents. The FY 2013 billing revenue for all, including city meters, water/sewage billing is a lowball \$2.872 million total. Even at that figure, 25 percent would be \$717,000. If it cannot be done, just truthfully explain why not. Use water/sewer money for water/sewer operations only, a novel idea.

— Consolidation/merger with the county of any departments that would not lessen service to Dunnellon residents and would save money.

— A very professional, unbiased and substantial review of the job performance and managerial decisions of the current city manager. This review should be on past results and the state of Dunnellon affairs. Who got Dunnellon in its present situation?

Of course, the old City Council gave the city manager a very good review, better severance package entitlement and a COLA/vehicle raise so a subjective outside source may be needed.

— A minor, but symbolic suggestion. No city newsletter in the Rainbow Springs utility bill. Why not just send a pack of salt to rub into the wound of helplessness Rainbow Springs residents feel as city projects we finance though the water/sewer enterprise fund are detailed. The city has a new, recent purchased website. Use it for info for the interested residents.

— Try to connect the Rails to Trails to the new Dunnellon Bike path.

Rainbow Springs has no vote, no say and no representation in the management of the city. Rainbow

Springs only sin was to be within 5 mile of the F.S. 180 zone.

Where would the city be if Rainbow Springs was 8 miles away? The surrounding areas did not create the problems and cannot solve them.

It might not seem like it, but this letter is meant to be positive.

Reality is harsh and crisis management is tough.

Mayor Whitt's articulate, sincere and intelligent article is a great beginning of honest communication. Only the city government can change the direction, management, tone and competence that is needed.

Mayor Whitt, with the help of an involved, knowledgeable attentive Council and resident support can succeed, but hard choices must be made.

Steve Swett,
Rainbow Springs

Thanks from the Friends of Library president

The Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library participated in the countywide book sale Feb. 2. Our community came out in a big way to support our efforts. We saw more than 7,000 books returned to the community through our \$2 Bag of Books.

I commend and appreciate the many hardworking, dedicated volunteers who play a role in the success of the book store and our many other committees that make the library a focal point of the community.

All proceeds are for the benefit of your Dunnellon Library. We are a 100 percent volunteer organization with all funds going to provide equipment and materials for your library. We also sponsor Children's Programs, free author programs and much more. Our most important commitment is a book endowment, funds given to the Dunnellon Public Library toward new library books.

Donations of gently read books to the book store can be left at the store during library hours.

Thank you from all the Friends for making this another successful event.

Barbara Caban,
president
Friends of the
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A tribute to four hereos



Photos by JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Members of the Ocala Harmony Barbershop Chorus perform during the annual Four Chaplains Ceremony Sunday at American Legion Post No. 58. This year marked the 70th anniversary of the event in which, according to history excerpts, on Feb. 3, 1943, the U.S. Army Transport Dorchester – a converted luxury liner – was crossing the North Atlantic, transporting more than 900 troops to an American base in Greenland. Aboard the ship were four chaplains of different faiths: the

Rev. George Fox (Methodist), Jewish Rabbi Alexander Goode, the Rev. Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed) and Father John Washington (Roman Catholic). Around 12:55 a.m., a German U-boat fired a torpedo that struck Dorchester's starboard side, below the water line and near the engine room. The explosion instantly killed 100 men and knocked out power and radio communication with Dorchester's three escort ships. Within 20 minutes, the transport sank and more than 670

men died. As Dorchester sank, the chaplains were seen linked arm in arm, praying. Fox, Goode, Poling and Washington were posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart, and in 1948, Congress declared Feb. 3 to be Four Chaplains Day. The four chaplains were also honored with a U.S. postage stamp that year.

In addition to the Four Chaplain Memorial Ceremony, the American Legion post celebrated the 94th birthday of the American Legion.



ABOVE: Arthur Larzer of American Legion Post No. 58 stands while singing "God Bless America."

RIGHT: Eric Persons listens to the story of the Four Chaplains.

BELOW: Cpl. Cordell Carnecchia of the Dunnellon Young Marines gives a presentation honoring those killed in action during the annual Four Chaplains ceremony.



ABOVE: Jackie Stevio, left, of Phantastic Sounds and Jillian Caps sing, "God Bless America," during the opening portion of the Four Chaplains ceremony.

BELOW: Michael Daly, a Rabbinical student, shares the story of Chaplain Alexander D. Goode during Sunday's remembrance ceremony.



DMS student earns semi-finalist spot in nationwide contest

Eighth-grader competes in Rand McNally-sponsored event

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

Beth Wood is getting pretty good at finding random contests for her video production students to enter.

Her students aren't too shabby at doing well either. A year after Taylor Futch was one of eight students nationwide to place top 3

in CSPAN's annual national contest, "Student Cam," which encourages students to think seriously about issues that affect our communities and our nation. As part of the competition, students from grades 6 to 12 were asked to create a 5- to 8-minute documentary based on these instructions: "The Constitution and You: Se-

lect any provision of the U.S. Constitution and create a video illustrating why it's important to you." That contest drew more than 1,200 entries.

This year, Wood's supported her students efforts

to submit an essays for Rand McNally's "Dear Mr. President" contest, which encouraged students nationwide to ask the question, "What important issue would you like the

See **ESSAY** page 14

Edyzbelly Flores, an eighth-grade student at DMS, finished in the top 100 for Rand McNally's "Dear Mr. President" essay contest.

JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News



EDUCATION NEWS

Red Brick School reunion slated

The Old Red Brick School House all-class reunion will be March 16 at First United Methodist Church in Dunnellon. Reservations only.

For more information, call 465-1093.

Marion Civic Chorale to offer scholarship

The Marion Civic Chorale is offering the Grat L. Rosazza Scholarship to an area student with musical talent.

The \$500 scholarship is open to high school and community college students who are continuing their education in vocal music, music education or musical theatre.

The winner will perform with the chorale during one of the spring concerts and will be awarded the scholarship at that time. Application deadline is April 2.

For more information, visit the chorale's website at <http://marion-civicchorale.tripod.com/> or contact Judy Crooks at 352-812-0666, or email Jillvw50@gmail.com.

DHS' Kiddie World has openings

Are you interested in a way to build your child's foundation for learning before kindergarten at a reasonable price? Dunnellon High School's Kiddie World is looking for new little smiles to join the Kiddie World family.

These services run from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday for children ages 3 to 5 years old. The cost is \$10 a week.

The Kiddie World programs offers an array of activities.

For more information, contact Tracy Zellers at 465-6745.

Harmony Preschool registrations accepted

Harmony Preschool continues to welcome students for their Infant Class (6 months to 23 months) and 2- to 4-year-old class. Harmony can now accept VPK Transfers. Harmony also accepts students enrolled in the School Readiness (Vouchers) Program.

Harmony Preschool is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. To register your child(ren), stop by the preschool at 21501 W. State Road 40, the preschool is housed in the Education Building of the First United Methodist Church, or call 489-9552.

Church collecting box tops for education

The Altar and Rosary Society of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church will continue to collect Box Tops for Education and Campbell Soup UPC labels for one of the local schools here in Dunnellon. Box Tops and labels can be dropped off at the office of the church or put in the container in the church narthax. For more information, call 489-5954.

Denim do-right



JULIE MANCINI/For the Riverland News
Rachle Horne poses Feb. 6 at the back on the Hummer vehicle that Aeropostale associates drove to pick up the jeans donation. Only about two-thirds of the collection fit into the vehicle.

Senior rallies classmates for homeless jean drive

CHRISTINA BAUER
For the Riverland News

Clothing the homeless one pair of jeans at a time, Rachel Horne stepped up to the challenge to collect jeans for homeless teens and children across the nation.

Horne knew she wanted to do this feat when she saw the opportunity on her Fastweb scholarship board and thought it would be beneficial to people in need, the school and her education. She asked friends for help, had a banner sent to the school, received permission from Principal Ken McAteer and Activities Director Jennifer Leeds. Then she contacted Badcock Furniture in Dunnellon where Robert Williams donated boxes for the drive and put one up in his store. She also decorated and placed a box in the administration building and English teacher Morgan Luckey offered to put one out in her classroom as well.

Horne also received permission from Jeff Bryan and printed a Letter to the Editor in the Riverland News, and had an announcement aired on TigerVision.

"Rachel was awesome. She was extremely organized, had thought the project through, and responded to suggestions well," McAteer said. "We had plenty of room to collect the jeans and our students embraced the project from the start."

On TigerVision, Horne informed the school of a very scary fact; one of every three homeless people is younger than 18. Upon giving this true, but scary fact, Horne gave them a challenge of sorts. If they could provide the most jeans of all participating school across the nation, Aeropostale and dosomething.org



LAURA RILEY/For the Riverland News
Rachel Horne and Tia Love fold and count jeans Feb. 6 while talking to a member of the Channel 6 news crew.

would reward the entire school with Aeropostale hoodies, a \$10,000 grant, and a pizza party. Horne could also receive a \$2,000 scholarship for college; and the most rewarding gift of all, hundreds of teens and children across the nation would receive a pair of jeans to keep them warm as the winter turns to a bitter cold.

A few businesses across the community went above and beyond expectations, especially Robert Williams with the box in his store, Badcock Furniture, and Inverness' Baby Bargains, owned by Tammy Bauer, who heard of the cause from her daughter, Christina. Together, they brought in 155 pairs of jeans.

Bauer donates twice a year, every year, removing the clothes that sat in her store the longest. When her daughter came home and informed her of the jean drive. Mrs. Bauer decided this was the perfect opportunity for her donation.

"I see every day the need for help in the community, and I

can't help in any other way," said Tammie Bauer. "It's just the right thing to do."

Horne checked the front office and Luckey's room daily to see if there was any growth and each day was surprised by the flourishing piles of jeans, but on the morning of Feb. 1, Horne was greeted by Christina Bauer, Julie Mancini and Jennifer Leeds to tell her of the piles stacked down the walls. Once she viewed the stacks, tears began to appear in the rims of her eyes and she and Christina shared a meaningful embrace.

"It was so amazing to think of how many people contributed to this drive, I had friends bringing in 20 and 30 pairs at a time, but 155 was just unfathomable," Horne said.

McAteer also surprised Horne by giving her an opportunity to meet with Kevin Christian, the district media specialist.

"The most satisfying part of the drive was to see a senior student set a great example for our

See **DENIM** page 14

HONOR ROLL

**Dunnellon Elementary School
Second Quarter Honor Roll
All A's**

Fifth Grade: Rebecca Lambert, Amber VonSeggern, Kendall Neumann, Kirin Maharaj, Refat Roja, Enoch Torres and Abigail Ayres.

Fourth Grade: William Cisco, Grace Day, Hannah Devine, Ashley Ruiz, Kara Zenonos, Ayden Leeds, Melani Agosto and Diya Patel.

Third Grade: Natalee Beasley, Shelby Bell, Kyle Clark, Antonio Del Valle, John Foglia, Matthew Lamer, Brodrick Luckey, Seth Lacey, Morgan Metzgar and Madilyn Sereda.

A/B

Fifth Grade: Yasmin Antonio-Dominquez, Tia Ard, Rosie Bailey, Madison Blakenship, Hunter Bolesta, Destiny Cason, Coalten Cannon, Carlos Del Valle, Katherine Dungan, Emily Fowler, Ja'Quavion Fraziers, Benjamin Gamble, Jada Gilbert, Caitlin Hinkley, Gwen Ivie, Madison Kerrick, Jacob Luke, River Maddox, Kendayza Moore, Cameron Schmalz, Chenoa Shaw, Megan Siegfried, Jake Starks, Kelley Stump and James Weber.

Fourth Grade: Juan Aguilar-Valle, Kaley Barr, Brent Bauer, Hailey Bell, Destiny Bealer, Janiya Brockington, Nina Brown, Devon Casey, Cameron Darnell, Courtney Desena, Jerek Evans, Kylee Follett, Tayla Fournier, Kaden Fowler, Noelle Gioe, Alexandra Johns, Megan Kerrick, Kaley Lauderdale, Kolby Lawson, James Lenkowski, Zachary Leslie, Lacie Macpherson, Isabelle Medina, Rosa Medina, Logan Milne, Dale Morgan, Neida Ortiz-Mota, Noel Perez, Victoria Petrosky, Maci Raulerson, Jaimon Rock, Kyle Rollison, Hailey Roy, Bradley Rush, Shylou Shields, Natalie Sigogo, Jayme Smith, Austin Strosahl, Mya Taylor, Aayla Thonen, Shayla Thonen, Austin Tucker, Jace Underwood and Andrew Zenonos.

Third Grade: Ariana Armstrong, Dylan Capazzi, Chelsea Edmonds, Tyler Ellis, Bianca Giraldo, Alyse Hafer, Valente Herrera-Moctezuma, Jo'Miyah Hester, Tiara Howard, Anthony Irizarry, Remi McGary, Evie Madison, Gabriel Mendez, Tyler Metta, Austin Patterson, Mary Paulus, Shelby Peebles, Karleigh Retter, Jennifer Rouleau, Tanner Sibald-Love, Barrett Spates, Briona Thoms, Trent Townsend, James Whaley, Sydney White and Aaron Winn.

All B's

Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grades: Veronica Branco, Corey Carruthers, Dylan Catherwood, Necci Horn, Matthew Neiswender, Areli Ortiz, Henry Padilla, Ja'Kyah Roberts and Jordan Wilcoxon.

All E's

Second Grade: Bailey Adams, Canyon Anderson, Alyssa Beckford, Amelia Gibbs, Elisa Gonzalez, Robert Guttuso, Liony Herbello, Brad Jaglal, Jessica Larner, Kevin Letscher, Kayla Mutarelli, Daisy O'Teney, Zenora Renda, Anastasia Ryder, Ezperansa Tena, Madison Thurman, Zachary Warren and Allilia Whitt.

First Grade: Breanna Aaronson, Carl T. Adams, Carter Anderson, Conner Anderson, Dylan Barr, Brooke Berello, Kate Bess, Kailee Burke, Joelle Callahan-Bailey, Elias Cox, Jordan Cox, Kaitlin Cronin, Peter Doyle, Trevaris Edwards, Riley Fleming, Taylor Geatches, Yarethzy Guevara, Dakota Hamilton, Taylor Hickey, Wesley Hinkley, Ashlynn Hodge, Edgar Ignacio, Angela Jones, Janiya Jones, Serenaty Jones, Irish Lacey, Abby Martin, Landon Martinez, Jael McClain, Om Patel, Brianna Patterson, Gregory Robinson, Zoe Roy, Caden Schmalz, Jordan Scott, Mya Smith, Ashley Strosahl, Steven Suazo, Jordan Tidd, Jackson Turner and Mia West.

All ES's

Second Grade: Ellie Athaide, Matthew Barde, Tamia Beard, Hope Bergeron, Emma Bessette, Paris Carlisle, Michael Cavanaugh, Sophia Carattini, Vetrell Chadwick, Isaiha Cole, Kimberly Hernandez, Isyss Herrera, Julian Leanos-Silva, Larissa Maisevich, Kailah Martinez, Ashley Nagele, Madison Neumann, Makiyah Parker, Brock Pynes and Aurora Tarnowski.

Students gear up for Mathcounts competition



Delbert Smallridge
DMS
Principal

There will no school Monday, Feb. 18, at Dunnellon Middle School and all Marion County Schools in observance of President's Day. School will resume normal operating hours Tuesday, Feb. 19.

The Dunnellon Middle School Mathcounts team members Hunter Day,

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

William Guant, Shawn Jackson and Michael Santiago will practice from 3:40 to 4:15 p.m. today in Building No. 2, Room No. 7 with their sponsor, Miss Stark, for the last practice before the MathCounts competition from 8:30 to 3:15 p.m.

Saturday at Maplewood Elementary School, 4751 S.E. 24th St., Ocala.

This is the first year Dunnellon Middle School will participate in this competition and we are thrilled these young mathematicians have volunteered to repre-

sent us. The Mathcounts competition is a national middle school competition that promotes mathematic achievement through a series of fun and engaging "bee" style contests.

We want to say thank you to these young folks, their parents, and Miss

See **STUDENTS** page 12

STUDENTS

continued from page 12

Stark for the time spent in after school practice and their participation in this challenging but fun event. Have a great time. We know we are very well represented!

Dunnellon Middle School students are invited to enjoy a Valentine's Day dance from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15, in the DMS Caf . The Dunnellon Middle School Student Council will host the dance this year. The cost is \$5 plus a canned food good. All DMS students who have not received an out-of-school suspension or a bus suspension are invited to join in the Valentine's Day fun.

Reminder to our seventh-grade DMS students going on the educational trip Monday, April 1, to Tallahassee don't forget to return the signed parental consent form and payment of \$67 made payable to Dunnellon Middle School, to Mrs. Cooper no later than Friday, Feb. 15.

The Dunnellon Middle yearbook class is in the process of creating a memorable 92-page color yearbook. The pre-order price will be \$27 through Friday, Feb. 15. Students will still be able to pre-order their yearbook through April 1 for \$30. A limited number of yearbooks will be available for \$35 at the May delivery. Save money and make sure your student gets a yearbook, by pre-ordering

today. Checks payable to Dunnellon Middle School will be accepted. Parents may also create a dedication ad for their students. Prices range from \$15 for a 25-word or less message to \$40 for a 1/4-page ad with pictures. For more information, email Beth.Wood@marion.k12.fl.us. Deadline for ads is March 1.

We would first like to thank all the students who submitted projects to the DMS Science Fair. Everyone worked hard and did a very good job. We want to recognize your dedication to your education and to the field of science. We would also like to announce the following students who placed in the 2012-13 Dunnellon Middle School Science Fair. These student and their projects are:

Grand Winner: Bryson Reese Hatcher, "The Effects of Coffee Grounds and Tea Grounds on the Growth of Green Beans."

First Place: Emily Newsom, "How Does the Salinity of Water Effect the Buoyancy of an Object."

Second Place: Steven Cruz, "The Effects of Light on the Growth of Yeast Cells."

Third Place: Darby Langworthy, "Which Bread Will Mold the Fastest."

Honorable Mentions: Monica O'Neal, "The Effects of Mold Growth on Different Cheeses" and Tyler Hart, "Which Substance Will Grow the Biggest Crystals?"

Schedule of events

Thursday, Feb. 14

- Sixth-Grade permission slips for the Silver River Museum Field Trip coming home.

- 3:40 to 4:15 p.m. — MathCounts Practice in Building No. 2, Room No. 7.

- 3:40 to 5 p.m. — FFA Animal Demonstrations in the Ag Room.

- 4:30 p.m. — Dunnellon Middle School girls basketball vs. Howard Middle School.

- 5:30 p.m. — Dunnellon Middle School boys basketball vs. Howard Middle School.

Friday, Feb. 15

- Payment for seventh-grade trip to Tallahassee due, \$67.

- Last Day for yearbook pre-sale price of \$27.

- 4 to 6 p.m. — DMS Valentine's Day Dance, sponsored by DMS Student Council, \$5 plus a canned food item.

Saturday, Feb. 16

- 8:30 to 3:15 — MathCounts Competition at Maplewood Elementary School.

- Tuesday, Feb. 19
- 3:40 to 5:30 p.m. — Symphonic Band Practice in the Band Room.

- 4:30 p.m. — DMS SAC Meeting in the Media Center.

- 4:30 p.m. — Dunnellon Middle School girls basketball vs. Liberty Middle School.

- 5:30 p.m. — Dunnellon Middle School boys basketball vs. Liberty Middle School.

ESSAY

continued from page 12

President to address?"

And for Edyzybel Flores, an eighth-grade student, she decided to tackle the government-funded NASA program.

Flores finished as a semifinalist, placing in the top 100 out of more than 8,000 entries. The top 10 finalists earned a trip to Washington, D.C., a chance for a \$5,000 scholarship and \$5,000 in Rand McNally Products for their school.

Woods said she was proud of all of her students. "There were some really great essays," she ex-

plained. "I'm honestly surprised we didn't have more students place."

Flores chose space exploration because of her interest in "what else is out there." Of course, her interview with former Dunnellon Middle School science teacher Joe Acaba, now an astronaut with NASA didn't hurt either.

"Our space program affects a lot of people, including me," she explained. "I got a lot of my information from NASA's website and went to work from there."

Flores said the thought of abandoning the space program, which has been a leader in space exploration since the 1960s, is a subject

she felt needed to be addressed with not only her generation, but every generation.

"I like the idea of going up in space," she explained. "I'm curious about that topic, because it touches a lot of people. It's brought us a lot of inventions, a lot of ideas."

Flores believes continuing with the federally funded program could have benefits for future generations.

"I believe it's possible we could have a colony in space one day," she said. "Of course, we'd have to make sure it's safe for everyone, but I believe it could be done."

DENIM

continued from page 12

underclassmen on the importance of giving back to the community. It is always great when students are recognized for giving back to their community; especially when they don't expect to be," McAteer said. Christian came to the school, took her picture and interviewed her. Christian informed her she would be in Ocala Style Magazine, the Riverland News, the Ocala Star Banner and any other newspapers across the area that wanted the story.

Home was also informed Jan. 31 there would be reporters from Orlando News WKMG Channel 6 and they would visit her Feb. 6.

"I had no idea how much media attention this project would receive. I told Mr. McAteer he wouldn't have to do any work at all if he would allow me to do this project and he went above

and beyond my expectations with all the support he gave, and the countless calls he made to raise awareness for this drive," Horne said. "I never anticipated him to be as on board as he was or work half as hard as he did, he continued to prove just how amazing of a principal/person he is."

On Feb. 6, Horne and some of her classmates helped associates from Aeropostale load the collected jeans into a Hummer. Only about two-thirds

of them fit into the large vehicle. The whole process resulted in Dunnellon High collecting a total of 457 pairs of jeans.

"I thought if we pulled together we could collect a lot, but as a small school I was beginning to question the success of the outcome, but once I began to see how much fuller the boxes were getting daily, I knew the Lord had blessed what I prayed over, and this drive was going to help a lot of people in need," Horne said.

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TWO AUCTIONS

Thurs 2/14/13 Pre: 12 Auction: 3p.m. Tons of Estate Items GE Profile side by side, hshld coil, to electrical supplies.

Sat 2/16/13 Pre: 9am Auction: 11am Vtg Doll & Toy Auction (Live/Online) Feat. life long Strawberry Shortcake Coll, Lrg. Barbie Coll, mdme Alexander, 1800-1900's German & French, Bisque, Compo & 33" China Head, early erector, steel trucks+ "check website" www.dudleysauction.com 637-9588 10%BP Au2267 AB1667

TVs/Stereos

DISH Network. Starting at \$19.99/month (for 12 mos.) & High Speed Internet starting at \$14.95/month (where available.) SAVE! Ask About SAME DAY Installation! CALL Now! 1-888-685-4144

Furniture

Beautiful Ethan Allen Cherry dining room set, with buffet, \$1,650 Bedroom set, glass top washed wicker, King headboard, 6 drawer chest, 7 drawer dresser with mirror, 2 night stands, excel. cond. \$700. Other Misc. Household (352) 489-1287 (352) 465-5051

LEATHER LIVING ROOM SET, In Original Plastic, Never Used, ORG \$3000, Sacrifice \$975. CHERRY, BEDROOM SET Solid Wood, new in factory boxes- \$895 Can Deliver. Bill (813)298-0221.

Feed/Fertilizer/Supplies

Bermuda Hay 50lbs \$6 Never been rained on 795-1906 ★ 586-1906 SHAMROCK FARM, CR

Apartments Unfurnished

Inverness Homosassa Government Subsidized Apts available.

Must meet eligibility requirements. Equal Housing Opportunity. Homosassa (352) 628-6073 Inverness (352) 726-4397 TTY-800-233-6694



Rent: Houses Unfurnished

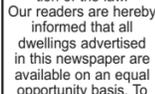
DUNNELLON 2/2/2 RAINBOW SPRINGS Available Now, Immaculate \$800. mo+ sec. (352) 465-2022

INVERNESS Country Living on Large 1/2 acre lot. 3 bd., 2 ba. home. Garden and fenced areas. Well & septic, so no water bill! \$595. 352-476-4964

Real Estate For Sale

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



Notices to Creditors/Administration

377-0221 RIV
Estate of: Fiacco, Robert Case No. 2013 CP 183 F
PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No.: 2013-CP-183-F Division: Judge Robbins
IN RE: ESTATE OF ROBERT AUGUSTUS FIACCO a/k/a ROBERT A. FIACCO, SR., Deceased.

Notices to Creditors/Administration

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of ROBERT AUGUSTUS FIACCO a/k/a ROBERT A. FIACCO, DR., deceased, whose date of death was January 11, 2013, is pending in the Circuit Court for Marion County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 110 N.W. First Ave., Ocala, FL 34475. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is February 14, 2013.
Personal Representative: /s/Robert A. Fiacco
1659 Centerville Parke Lane
Manakin-Sabot, Virginia 23103

Attorney for Personal Representative:
/s/ Lorenzo Ramunno, Esq., Florida Bar No. 765813 RAMUNNO LAW FIRM PA
7500 SW 61st Avenue, Suite 100, Ocala, FL 34476 Telephone: (352) 854-5570
Fax: (352) 854-9267, E-Mail: ramunnolaw@gmail.com
Secondary E-Mail: ramunnolaw34476@gmail.com
February 14 & 21, 2013

Misc. Notices

379-0214 RIV PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO VACATE PLAT OR PORTION OF PLAT OF RAINBOW SPRINGS 5th REPLAT
Notice is hereby given that, George P. Brown and Vickie L. Brown propose to petition the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida to adopt a Resolution to vacate and annul that certain Plat or portion of Plat of Rainbow Springs 5th Replat. The property to be vacated and annulled is described as follows:
The 8' Drainage and Utility Easements lying between Lots 31 & 32, Block 165, Rainbow Springs 5th Replat, according to the plat thereof, as same is recorded in Plat Book T, Pages 46 through 59 of the Public Records of Marion County, Florida.
Parcel #3297-165-032

This procedure shall be in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 177, Florida Statutes. The Board shall consider a petition for vacation and resolution to vacate after required publication of this notice. Persons wishing to do so should provide their written comments on this subject to the Office of the County Engineer, 412 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, Florida, 34471, prior to the 7th day of March 2013.
February 14 & 21, 2013

Lien Notices

375-0214 RIV
2/25 and 2/27 sale dates
PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: Tow Pro's Of Ocala gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicle(s) at 8:00 am at 1914 N. Magnolia Ave Ocala, FL 34475, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. Tow Pro's of Ocala reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.
2/25/2013 1992 HONDA 1HGCB7643NA086871
2/27/2013 1995 CHEV 1GCGK24F9S241251
February 14, 2013

Lien Notices

376-0221 RIV
PUBLIC NOTICE
03/02 sale, Out-Back Self Storage
NOTICE OF SALE STOP&STORE LLC. DBA OUTBACK SELF STORAGE Public Sale
Notice is hereby given that on March 2, 2013 at 1:00 P.M. the undersigned Stop & Store LLC, DBA Out-Back Self Storage will sell

at public sale by competitive bidding, the personal property, believed to be household goods, stored with the undersigned Stop&Store LLC. DBA Outback Self Storage., 19545 West Hwy 40, Dunnellon FL. 34432. Tenants and units: Unit #C308 Nancy Priest HHG We reserve the right to refuse any and all bids. February 14 & 21, 2013

378-0214 RIV
03/01 sale
PUBLIC NOTICE UNCLAIMED VEHICLE AUCTION
The following vehicle(s) will be sold for charges due on 03/01/13 at 8:00AM
2009 NISSAN VIN # 1N6BA07C59N305349
Address where vehicle(s) are stored and will be sold: Scrambletown Wrecker Service, 15679 NE Hwy. 314, Silver Springs, FL 34488 352-625-2444.
Scrambletown Wrecker Service reserves the right to accept or reject any and

all bids.
FEBRUARY 14, 2013
380-0214 RIV
PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF SALE
SALE DATE 03/14
The following vehicle will be sold at public sale to satisfy lien per FL Statute 713.585, at 9 am on March 14, 2013 at Kmiecik Automotive Repair, 20252 The Granada, Dunnellon, FL 34432, phone 352-895-3869. No titles, cash only.
2002 Chevy 1500 Silverado pickup, VIN # 2GCEC19W621378258
Cash sum to redeem vehicle \$848.00. Notice to owner and lien holder as to right to hearing prior to sale date by filing with clerk of court and to recover vehicle by posting bond in accordance with FL Statute 559.917. Proceeds of sale exceeding lien amount will be deposited with the clerk of court.
February 14, 2013

Auctions - Estates

BANKRUPTCY AUCTION:
Waterfront Condo Development, Crystal River, FL
February 26, 11AM
Tranzon.com/DG647
10% BP, Case # 6:10-bk-07720-KSJ
Tranzon Driggers FL Lic. RE/BKR# AU707 & AB3145

Citrus Springs Homes Look

Quiet Country Setting 3/2 on 2 acres mol
Approx. 1750 sq ft LA front porch, Lg rear screened porch, Patio, 24x30 Steel Building, Steel Carport - great for boat storage, etc. Fenced and cross-fenced, Built in 2003 Nice Oaks, Wooded, Citrus Springs area only 20 Min. to Ocala \$129,900 Call 352-302-6784 for appt.

Condos For Sale

Condo Auction-Overlooking Destin FL harbor-luxurious 2420+-sq ft, furnished unit in East Pass Towers with guaranteed owner financing. March 1, 1:00pm. See website for detail terms, virtual tour: gtauctions.com, 205.326.0833, Granger, Thagard & Associates, Inc., G.W. Thagard, Business AB2100, Broker BK3009116, Auctioneer AU2846.

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Riverland News
www.riverlandnews.com

Notices to Creditors/Administration

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Recreation Vehicles

"I Love My RV" Sale 6 Days Only Feb 12-17 Motor Homes, Trailers, 5th Wheels, Van Campers. Bring your Trade, Title and Payment Book! SAVE BIG NOW R.V. World Inc. of Nokomis, 2110 U.S. 41, Nokomis, FL I-75 Exit 195 1-800-262-2182 www.rvworldinc.com

Campers/Travel Trailers

WE BUY RV'S, Travel Trailers, 5th Wheels, Motor Homes Call US 352-201-6945

Vehicles Wanted

BUYING JUNK CARS
★ Running or Not ★ CASH PAID-\$300 & UP (352) 771-6191

Classic Vehicles

AUTO SWAP CORRAL SHOW 20TH ANNUAL Sumter Swap Meets SUMTER COUNTY Fairgrounds, Bushnell Feb. 15, 16, 17th 1-800-438-8559

Pool Service

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SERVICING CITRUS & MARION CO

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"ONE TIME" INTRODUCTORY SPECIAL BY ONE MONTH GET ONE MONTH FREE

CALL FOR YOUR FREE POOL EVALUATION TODAY

CONTACT: DAWN DEARLOVE

352-256-9649

Tree Service

KING'S LAND CLEARING & TREE SERVICE Complete tree & stump removal hauling, demo & tractor work. 32 yrs. exp. (352) 220-9819

LET US WORK FOR YOU!

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Notices to Creditors/Administration

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NEW 2013 TOYOTA COROLLA

Was..... 17,900
Savings..... 2,905
\$14,995

Citrus County's Volume Sales Leader

- We Deliver The Best**
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VILLAGE TOYOTA OF CRYSTAL RIVER

352-628-5100
www.villagetoyota.com

*picture for illustration purposes only.



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DAYS!**

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on Select New 2012 Honda models
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OVER 90
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All Pre-Owned Vehicles Include:
**6 MONTH/
6,000 MILE
LIMITED POWERTRAIN
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EXCHANGE
PROGRAM!**
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AUTOMATIC

\$109^{1.} Per Mo.

Model FB2F5CEW. Plus \$790 destination charge and options.



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MODEL GE8H3CEW, EQUIPPED NOT STRIPPED WITH AUTOMATIC, A/C AND CRUISE

Drive For... **\$229*** Per Month



New 2012 Honda Accord LX Sedan

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Drive For... **\$169**** Per Month



New 2012 Honda CR-V LX 2WD

MODEL RM3H3CEW, COME SEE WHY THE CR-V IS THE BEST SELLING COMPACT SUV IN AMERICA! SAVE WHILE THEY LAST!

SAVE! Now Only... **\$21,997**



New 2013 Honda Odyssey Lx

MODEL RL5H2DEW

SAVE! Now Only... **\$27,061**



New 2012 Honda Ridgeline RT

MODEL YK1F2CEW, 4WD WITH THE TRUNK IN THE BED, POWER PKG, CRUISE CONTROL, V-6 POWER AND A RIDE LIKE NO OTHER.

SAVE! Now Only... **\$27,416**



New 2012 Honda Crosstour 2WD 2.4 L4 EX

MODEL TF3H3CJW, AUTOMATIC HATCHBACK WITH STYLE AND COMFORT, ALL THE LUXURY AMENITIES AND ROOM TO DO WHAT YOU NEED.

SAVE! Now Only... **\$26,837††**



04 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS #H7742 **\$3,995**



02 Honda ACCORD #H7743 **\$4,995**



08 PONTIAC G-6 #H7683 **\$4,995**



00 Honda ODYSSEY #H7731 **\$5,995**



06 KIA SEDONA #H7663 **\$7,989**



08 HYUNDAI ENTOURAGE #H7734 **\$8,889**



10 CHEVROLET HHR #H7673 **\$8,995**



08 CHEVROLET HHR #PH7490 **\$9,495**



07 MAZDA RX8 #H7713 **\$9,795**



10 TOYOTA CAMRY LE #H7670 **\$9,995**



08 CHEVY IMPALA #PH7486 .. **\$10,995**



08 BUICK LACROSSE #PH7487 .. **\$10,995**



09 TOYOTA COROLLA #H7730 **\$11,895**



07 Honda PILOT #H7741 **\$11,995**



09 CHEVY MALIBU #H7639 **\$11,995**



11 MITSUBISHI GALANT #H7401 **\$12,995**



12 KIA FORTE #PH7733 .. **\$13,995**



03 HUMMER #PH7588 .. **\$17,995**



10 Honda CIVIC LX #H7664 **\$11,995**



08 Honda ODYSSEY EX-L #H7719 **\$14,880**



10 Honda CIVIC LX #H7668 **\$14,995**



08 Honda ACCORD EXL #H7666 **\$15,995**



10 Honda CIVIC LX #H7691 **\$16,295**



12 Honda CIVIC EX #H7712 **\$16,995**



11 Honda CRV #H7641 **\$18,995**



11 Honda CRV #H7747 **\$19,985**



11 Honda PILOT LX #H7563 **\$22,995**



10 HONDA CRV LX #H7722 **CALL FOR PRICE**

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1. 36 month closed end lease with approved credit, 12,000 miles per year 15 cents per mile thereafter. \$3400 cash or trade equity. Payment is plus tax with no capitalized cost reduction. First payment, tag and lease and state fees due at signing. Options at additional cost. * Not a lease. ** 36 month closed end lease with approved credit, 12,000 miles per year 15 cents per mile thereafter. \$2500 cash or trade equity. Payment is plus tax with no capitalized cost reduction. First payment, tag and lease and state fees due at signing. Options at additional cost. *** 44 City/Hwy combined. Based on 2012 EPA mileage estimates. Use for comparison purposes only. Do not compare to models before 2008. Your actual mileage will vary depending on how you drive and maintain your vehicle. † Covers internal lubricant parts. See dealer for details. †† With \$4000 cash or trade equity. All preowned vehicles include \$2000 cash down or trade equity. Offers valid thru date of publication.