

Riverland News

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Vol 31 No. 33

75 cents

District cuts 'monumental'

School system lays off 261 teachers, paraprofessionals and support staff



George Tomyn

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

"Monumental." That's how Kevin Christian, spokesman for the Marion County Public Schools, summed up the

staggering budget cuts announced Friday that will see 261 employees lose their jobs to make up for an expected \$29 million budget shortfall in 2013-14. "It wasn't made overnight," Christian said

about the cuts Superintendent George Tomyn made public last Friday. "This is something the superintendent and the highest level management have been talking about for weeks, if not months. Cutting \$29

million is monumental, but they also realize the impact those cuts are going to have will be monumental, too."

The dismissal of 261 employees includes 160 first-year teachers in Marion

County; 72 district-funded elementary paraprofessionals; 16 clerk generalists at middle/high schools; and 13 district-funded physical education

See CUTS page 3

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Free children's meals to be served daily

Families In Need of Dunnellon will offer free meals from noon to 1 p.m. June 10 through Aug. 15 as part of the Kids Cafe Summer Food Program at Ernie Mills Park on Bostick Street with the Boys & Girls Club. Children, ages birth to 18, will be served.

For information, call 208-3514.

City Beach passes now on sale

The city of Dunnellon is now selling City Beach Passes for the summer swimming season at Chaplin A. Dinkins III Memorial Park, commonly known as City Beach. A \$10 pass covers up to three people for the season; a \$20 pass covers up to 10 people. For information about the Beach Pass, call City Hall at 465-8500 or Public Services at 465-8590.

Exchange students seek host families

EF Educational Homestay Programs is in need of host families to place students from China for three weeks this summer from July 17 to Aug. 4. These students are coming to the area to improve their English language skills and to experience American family life. Host families are asked to provide a bed for the students, an extra plate at the table, transportation to/from the course center at Dunnellon Christian Academy for classes/activities, and a welcoming environment.

Youths from the host families can even earn community service hours by hosting. And for every three new families who host from your church or organization, EF will make a \$50 donation to the organization.

For information, call: Pamela Lange at 352-274-3042.

Testament of faith

Man to celebrate 50th year as priest

AUGIE SALZER
For the Riverland News

It was about 50 years ago that a courageous, rosy cheeked young man left the comfort of his family and country to come to Florida as a missionary.

On June 13, 1963, Kevin MacGabhann, was ordained a Roman Catholic priest at St. John's College in Waterford, Ireland. A few weeks later, he was on a boat with about 10 other recently ordained Irish men traveling to America.

"An American Bishop came over to Ireland and was looking for vocations," said MacGabhann, who now lives in Dunnellon and helps at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. "That is how I got here."

His first assignment was at the Immaculate Conception Church in Hialeah in the Diocese of Miami. Before 1952, Florida was under the jurisdiction of just one diocese, the Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Augustine. In the early 1950s and 1960s, St. Augustine Archbishop Joseph Hurley purchased land in the south of Florida for the expected population growth and the Diocese of Miami was created in October 1958.

In less than a year, Fidel Castro came

See FAITH page 20



Photos by JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

ABOVE: Father Kevin MacGabhann blesses the bread Monday morning prior to communion at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. Father Kevin MacGabhann was ordained a Roman Catholic priest on June 13, 1963, at St. John's College in Waterford, Ireland. A few weeks later, he was on a boat with about 10 other recently ordained Irish men traveling to America. He'll mark his 50th anniversary next Thursday in the priesthood.

BELOW: Father Kevin MacGabhann addresses the congregation during a morning Mass.



Vice Mayor Dennis Evans and Councilwoman Penny Fleegeer voted no against firing the city's legal representation.

Council weighs fate of law firm

City officials will discuss issue again

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

After almost a 90-minute debate at the May 28 City Council meeting about the future of Fowler, O'Quinn, Feeney & Sneed, PA, as the city's legal representation, the Dunnellon City Council couldn't come to an agreement.

However, that doesn't mean the debate is over.

After two votes to call for the dismissal of the longtime law firm failed, Vice Mayor Dennis Evans asked for Skip Fowler to draft a motion for review by Council at its June 5 workshop that will essentially be used Monday to result in the city soliciting/sending a Request For Qualification/Proposal for legal services and providing notice to his firm.

Both Mayor Nathan Whitt and Councilman Erik Collop voted to dismiss Fowler, O'Quinn, Feeney & Sneed, PA, which has served as the city's legal representation since 2007. However, Evans and Councilwoman Penny Fleegeer voted against dismissing the firm, but not

See LAW page 2

HEAD OF THE CLASS: DHS pair earn top honor

Jennings, Prinz tapped as co-valedictorians

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

When it comes to academics, Marcus Jennings and Danielle Prinz are atop their class.

Perhaps, then, it's the exact reason both have been chosen as co-valedictorians for Dunnellon High School's Class of 2013. School officials will mark the traditional and transitional period of more than 250 young men and women into adulthood when Dunnellon High honors its graduates at 7 p.m. Friday at Ned

Love Field.

Being chosen as co-valedictorians is an honor and a privilege as well as a culmination of four years of not only classroom work, but duties outside the walls of academia.

"It means an opportunity for scholarships," Jennings said. "There are a lot of scholarships out

there, requiring the applicant to be his or her high school valedictorian. That's one of the main reasons I chose to pursue the honor.

"Does it mean much, in the future, to be a class valedictorian? Not so much, but for scholarship opportunities, it makes a

See CLASS page 13

Dunnellon High seniors Danielle Prinz, left, and Marcus Jennings were selected as co-valedictorians of the Class of 2013. Dunnellon High School will celebrate its graduation ceremony at 7 p.m. Friday at Ned Love Field.

JULIE MANCINI/For the Riverland News



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Friends bookstore open

Special to the Riverland News

The Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library Bookstore, which is inside the library, is at 20351 Robinson Road, behind Sweetbay. There are novels, bios, cooking, gardening, inspirational, craft, self-help, finance, romance, children, VHS videos (Some DVDs), Books-

On-Tape, history, politics, westerns, magazines and more. Daily sales are ongoing with books for as little as 10 cents. Store hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. The Friends continue to accept gently read book donations daily at the store. An all-volunteer staff

operates The Friends Bookstore, with all proceeds benefiting the Dunnellon Public Library. The Friends are committed to giving a monthly book endowment (new books), in addition to providing office equipment, landscaping, and various other library enhancements. For information, call the library at 438-4520.



Photos by JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Marsha Segal-George, left, is no longer serving the city of Dunnellon as its assistant city attorney; however, the fate of Skip Fowler's law firm, Fowler, O'Quinn, Feeney & Sneed, PA, remains to be seen. Council members will likely vote again Monday night on whether to continue to employ the firm.

LAW

continued from page 1

before she agreed the city has spent too much on legal fees.

"My point is in all of this, would not be, whether the law firm or Marsha is to blame for anything," Fleeger said prior to casting her vote. "My point is, and the attorney spoke for himself at the workshop, they are very expensive and we cannot afford them anymore."

"It has nothing to do with the quality of legal work that they do. They may well be worth every nickel of that, but we cannot afford it anymore. We don't even know, at this point, what we can afford. It's kind of difficult for us."

The sticking point about the firm's future revolves around legal fees. Currently, the city has spent more than \$316,825.54 on legal fees and has a budget of \$463,000. At the current place, Whitt said, the city is on pace to spend more than \$600,000 in legal fees and cannot justify that amount.

"This certainly isn't a personal issue with Ms. Marsha Segal-George or Mr. Skip Fowler or his firm, which is very, very well established and very well thought of," Mayor Whitt said. "This is a business decision for the city of Dunnellon, as I see it. I was shooting for the Council to see it that way as well when I looked at the fact we had spent nearly \$320,000 since October of last year. As a small city, we need to tighten the belt and pull up the boot straps and get back on our feet here. My biggest concern is we flat can't afford this firm right now."

Evans agreed the amount spent is a large sum.

"First, \$320,000 is a whole lot of money," he said. "But I don't believe that it's fair to hold the attorney responsible for that. The reason for that is the attorney works for the Council and the city manager. It is the city manager's responsibility, and that of the Council, to use the city attorney as they need."

"As I tried to make a point the other day, the Council needs to take and be in more control of that. How and what the previous city manager used the attorney for, I cannot prove. If she used the attorney as a co-city manager, then that was wrong. If she'd only used the city attorney on matters that required legal representation or legal advice ... the Lord only knows."

Evans, though, said he's been pleased with Segal-George's work and that of the firm.

"I guess my bottom line, from what I've observed, from what she did from a legal standpoint in representing the city, she basically did a good job," he said. "If we didn't agree with her, the Council can override her advice and that would be our fault we didn't. But to summarily dismiss her and lay the blame on her, I don't think that's the right thing to do. If she was not used properly, that blame also falls on the previous city manager. If we fail to use her properly, that blame falls on the City Council."

However, Councilman Erik Collop didn't agree with Evans about the quality of service.

"When you have a situation where you know there's probably been

some wrongdoing, you're not sure," Collop said. "There are a lot of missed numbers, mismatched information and there are reports that are untrue. You typically like to take the core of that, who ever were involved making decisions, and you want to remove them."

"Because what happens, there's always some type of bias toward one person and inter-agreeably with Eddie to be able to run, or new management from the city, there could be tension there. You've got to remove the wart off of this situation and everything involved with that. That's No. 1."

Secondly, Collop said, the Council has to see the bigger picture.

"You have a community that we're going to need their services for in the future," he explained. "I just think if you want to have the buy-in. We have Greenlight, and as everybody knows, is a big, humongous boulder on our shoulders right now. You've got to create a clear picture of, 'we're making these changes;' 'we are going to move forward from these bad decisions that were made.'

"Whatever it was, it's gone. We've started on a clean slate. We are working fresh with new ideas with new people and we're trying to do the right thing. That sends a signal long-term for a lot of people. The big picture is we need them to feel like we're making the right decisions. I feel like we need to remove them completely from the situation. At this point, we need a clean slate."

Thrift Shop donates to Little League



Special to the Riverland News

The Dunnellon Community Thrift Shop recently made a \$1,500 donation to the Dunnellon Little League. Presenting the donation to Little League officials, from left, are, Joanne McCullough, Community Thrift Shop president; Sam Rushton, Longhorns; Greg Rushton, Longhorns coach; Brian Sweat, Dunnellon Little League president; and Arline Keemun, Community Thrift Shop Treasurer.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

County hosts weekly farmers market

Marion County is bringing back its weekly Friday farmers market and is looking for additional vendors. The "Health Happens" Farmers Market will be from noon to 6 p.m. Fridays at the McPherson Governmental Complex field at 601 S.E. 25th Ave., Ocala. The market will run through late December. For information, call Wellness Coordinator Britney Bruner at 352-438-2360 or email wellness@marioncountyfl.org.

River Watch Program seeks volunteers

The Rainbow River Watch Program will start another season this spring and its duties are expanding, requiring additional personnel. The Marion County Sheriff's Office is seeking more volunteers to participate in this program, which the sheriff's office sponsors.

The purpose of this program is to protect the Rainbow River and allow it to be used in a safe and prudent manner by all. As volunteers, you will go out on patrol, in a sheriff's boat, and assist tubers, swimmers and other boaters with any problems they may encounter. All volunteers will receive the necessary training to be qualified in all aspects pertaining to water pa-

trols. For information, call the Dunnellon District Sheriff's Office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, at 402-6050.

Pregnancy center raising money

The Family Hope Pregnancy Center of Dunnellon is raising money to purchase an ultrasound machine. The cost for the machine is \$15,800.

Those wishing to make a tax-deductible donation may do so at Capital City Bank, 10241 N. Florida Ave., Citrus Springs. Checks must be made out to Christians United in Christ/ultrasound and monies raised will go directly toward the machine.

For information, call Marcy Boss, president, Christians United in Christ, at 489-0018.

Knights to host Luau Dinner

The Knights of Columbus will host a Luau Dinner Dance at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, June 8, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church parish hall.

Entertainment will be provided by Joe Koos with dancing until 10 p.m. Happy hour will be from 5:30 to 6:30 with a cash bar. Dinner will be served at 6:30. Tickets are \$15 per person and are available from a Knight or the church office. There will be door prizes, 50/50 raffles and a basket raffle.

For tickets or to RSVP, call 489-6221.

Kiwanis changes meeting place

The Kiwanis Club of Dunnellon will begin meeting at Carmela's Restaurant at 8 a.m. Wednesdays for its weekly meetings and breakfast. However, on the third Wednesday monthly, the club will continue meeting at 5:30 p.m. at the Rainbow Springs Golf & Country Club.

For information, contact Ellie Pollock at 465-6803 for a reservation by the previous Tuesday weekly.

New civic group seeks members

The Citizens Alliance Network for Dunnellon Outreach, a forward-looking alliance formed in November 2012 in hopes of engaging citizens in the civic and political processes, is seeking new members.

For information, email Todd at estrus97185@mypacks.net or call Jonathan at 407-491-8158, or Patricia at 352-465-5523.

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APPOINTMENTS RECOMMENDED

State park in need of volunteers

Special to the Riverland News

Rainbow Springs State Park is currently seeking volunteers interested in a high-paced volunteer position that will assist visitors and the park. If you think you would like to start training to become a volunteer toll booth attendant, or other various positions, contact Nicky

Aiken at Nicky.Aiken@dep.state.fl.us or call 465-8539.

This job requires volunteers to work on a schedule that can be flexible, take toll collections, run a register, assist with phone calls and reservations, listen and respond to radio communications, answer basic visitor questions, and have a positive atti-

tude. Toll booth attendant volunteers are asked to volunteer a minimum of four hours and must be in uniform. The Toll Booth is open from 8 a.m. to sunset daily.

The Concession Stand at Rainbow Springs State Park, run by the Friends of Rainbow Springs and volunteers, is in need of volunteers,

especially on weekends. The hours of operation are currently from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Interested volunteers would receive training and work two- or four-hour shifts. Volunteers will need to fill out a volunteer applications.

If interested contact Joe at 522-0396 and make sure to leave your name and number.

CUTS

continued from page 1

technicians. All told, the impact at the four Dunnellon area schools includes the loss of 24 teachers, paraprofessionals, clerk generalist and P.E. technicians.

"I don't know how these moves cannot have an impact in the classroom," Christian quoted Tomyn as having said.

Tomyn met with these employees in three separate meetings to personally deliver this message.

These cuts alone amount to nearly \$4 million.

The remaining \$25 million will come from other decisions including:

- Not filling staffing plan, \$14 million.
- Exceeding Class Size Limits, \$7 million.
- Restructuring elementary Art, music, P.E. and media services, \$2.2 million.
- Reassigning other employees, \$1 million.

"Some schools will be losing multiple teachers," Christian said. "It's going to have an impact in the student body, whether it's elementary or high school students."

The cuts equal more than 4 percent of districtwide staff.

"I think a lot of people are devastated, because everyone knows someone who is affected by this. It's more than 4 percent and that might not sound like a lot, but when you're talking 6,000 people, that's a lot. There are a lot of people who don't have a job as of right now, but could it change? Anything could change. We're hoping to be able to hire some of those that were let go over the summer when current teachers decide to retire or move on."

However, if that position is not a core curriculum teacher, the spot will not be refilled. The biggest cuts are coming to arts, music and physical education.

"I know a first-year band teacher who plays in my church and he's without a job now," Christian said. "Obviously, they feel it more than most."

The district expects \$295 million in revenues for the new budget year, \$13 million more than this year. However, this includes \$7 million earmarked for teacher raises and \$4 million for retirement expenses — both mandated by the Florida Legislature.

The district will still have 2,700 teachers in the classroom when the school year begins in August.

"I'm certain those

2,700 teachers will continue to make a difference in the classroom, they do it now," he said. "But we certainly lost some exceptional teachers; we have no doubt about that."

With projected expenses of \$324 million, the \$29 million deficit resulted in historic moves for the district including layoffs, class sizes, and the elimination of paraprofessionals. The budget process is ongoing, and if more cuts are needed, Christian said, possibilities include districtwide furlough days for employees and pay reductions across the board.

"The plan, hopefully, does not have to cut more money," he explained. "The state said they're going to give us \$13 million more that we anticipate getting, which brings us back down to the level we need to be at. We hope more steps aren't necessary. Superintendent Tomyn has indicated multiple times, he favors furlough days in lieu of salary cuts."

Christian said a lot has been said publicly about cutting the salaries of school board members, the superintendent and other high-ranking administrators.

"We have been doing that for the past five years," Christian said, noting the latest DOE numbers show Marion County has the second lowest administrative costs per student in the state. "To say, our administration is top heavy in salary, that's not true."

Bringing a referendum to the polls isn't plausible this year, Christian said, and he noted voters rejected the idea of two half mill proposals a year ago. The first half mill would have been for music, art and media specialists; the second half mill would have covered the cost for new technology in schools as well as maintenance.

The soonest another tax referendum could be on the ballot would be the fall of 2014; however, that decision would not be up school officials, but to the school board.

"That is completely up to the school board; they have to be behind that idea," Christian said.

Solution to puzzle on Page 6

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Legionnaires visit veterans



Four legionnaires from American Legion Post No. 58 recently visited Harbor House, above, and Haven House, below, assisted-living centers. Following introductions and opening prayer, light refreshments were enjoyed by all. Conversations with the veterans regarding their time and duties while in service and what they did after serving was very interesting as the majority are World War II vets. All were thanked for serving and were very appreciative of our visit.



Special to the Riverland News

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 information, call 465-3666.

Group to distribute toiletries, clothing

Christians In Action (CIA), a new charitable organization formed to assist local food pantries, will provide toiletries and clothing to families who qualify under federal guidelines.

Free toiletries, such

as dish and laundry detergent as well as shampoo, lotion, deodorant and toothpaste, 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.

For information, call Geri Davis at 489-6332 or Susan Lebrun at 465-8660.

Watch-Clock Collectors meet once monthly

The Chapter 156 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC) meet at 8 a.m. the fourth Sunday monthly except December at VFW Post 4781 at 9401 S.E. 110 St., Ocala. The facility is off State Road

200, behind Sims Furniture and next to MRMC Medical Park at Timber Ridge approximately 8/10 of a mile east of County Road 484.

The presentation topics are about repair and maintenance of clocks and watches and related subjects. The public is welcome to attend. There is a \$2 fee, which covers refreshments and expenses.

For information, call Roger B. Krieger at 352-527-0669 or Jim Beeman at 352-369-3924.

S. Dunnellon Civic Association meets

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

The facility is on the left side of street just

before The Annie W. Johnson Center. The public is invited to come help, and give ideas to promote community improvement and safety.

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

Police collecting used cell phones

The Dunnellon Police Department is collecting cellular phones with chargers for domestic violence victims. The collected phones are turned over to shelters for victims of domestic violence and provided to victims to use to call 911 for any emergency. Please drop off all unused cellular phones along with the chargers to the police department, 12014 S. Williams

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The Riverland News is delivered on Thursday to subscribers by our carriers and mail. The newspaper is also available inside area stores and at various boxes throughout the community. Local subscription rate is \$27 a year. Call for Florida and out-of-Florida rates.

The Riverland News is published in Dunnellon, FL by Citrus Publishing, Inc., 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429-5760.

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RIVERLAND NEWS

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GUEST COLUMN

Dunnellon in need of healing

I read the article in the American Profile Magazine that came with the May 30th edition of the Riverland News. Wow! This is just what the City of Dunnellon needs.

For those of you who decided to remain in Dunnellon, can you recall the visioning sessions that we had on just this type of development?

We could have had just this type of area where young and old could enjoy what everyone moves here to be

around. The two rivers that bless our little City of Dunnellon and the Rails to Trails that now is being implemented are what bring families to Dunnellon to live. If you wonder whatever happened to the Commercial River Front Development, let me try to bring back some



John Taylor

history.

I can give you my opinion and I feel that it is also the opinion of those who worked so hard on the visioning ses-

sions that took place years ago.

The area that is zoned for this type of development is behind the Dunnellon Bingo property and runs along the Withlacoochee River from the U.S. 41 bridge all the way to The Granada.

At that time, we were excited about the prospect of having a place where we could hold events and small businesses could thrive. The city of Dunnellon could be showcased as a destination place, not just a place to pass by. Then, it was discovered there were several influen-

tial citizens who lived, or maybe still live, in this area, who didn't want this to happen because this river walk project was too close to their homes.

They realized that the city, in order to develop this type of endeavor, needed to be able to fund its creation.

Now, this is where it becomes interesting. About the same time, the Rainbow River Ranch property had been purchased by a group of investors and developers known as The Berry Group. This group intended to build high-end homes on the prop-

erty, thus bringing into the city's CRA area, millions of dollars that could have been used to help develop the waterfront area.

The Berry Group decided, after numerous public meetings, that the hostile environment at these meetings was not what they were interested in being a part of. They could feel the negativity toward progress by a "group of environmentalists" was so strong that they backed out of any development plans.

The Berry Group then sold

See HEALING page 6

LETTERS

Letter writers agree: Greenlight worth keeping

We have to second Ronald Stafford's sentiments in his letter in the May 30 edition of the Riverland News about Greenlight Communications.

The Internet technology has been great, best we have ever experienced, and the helpful and knowledgeable personnel have also been up to speed.

Instead of boycotting, area residents should be flocking to the service in mass. Aside from making modern cyber-life easier, Greenlight is a tremendous opportunity for attracting business and enhancing tourism.

As Mayor Nathan Whitt pointed out in the news article, it is unfortunate that Greenlight financing was so mangled and some fence mending — and water surcharge cutting — might be in order. The numbers revealed in the consultant's report do not bode well, but hopefully something can be worked out and a larger customer base is key.

One thing I do not understand is why the current number of customers are only half what the city manager quoted last year. Considering the quality of the service, I doubt that half the customers have left, so that means that whoever did the tally then must be challenged in arithmetic.

Doug and Linda Hay,
Dunnellon

Letter writer adds logic to previous points

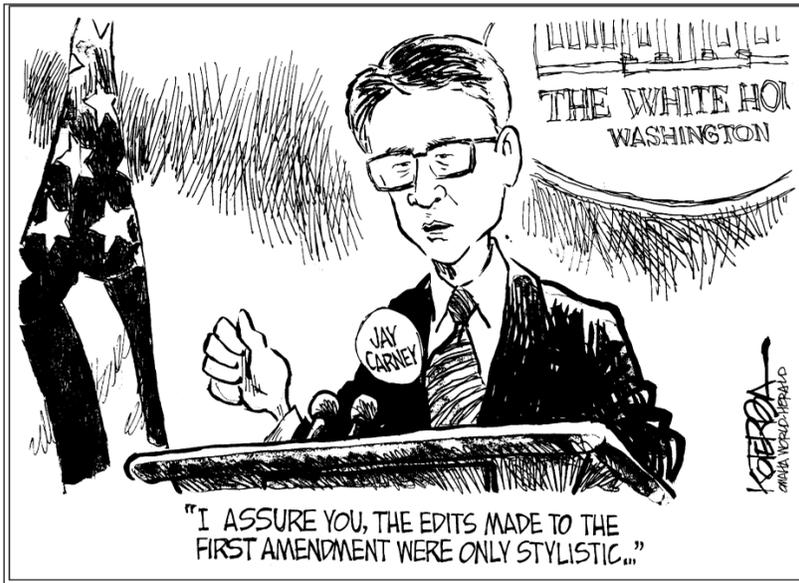
In addition to the points I made in my May 30 letter concerning Greenlight Communications, I would add some additional logic.

My logical view on Greenlight is: since my own installation was made, I have sent Greenlight two additional customers — those on either side of me — and a third customer was apparently scared off by a previous news article.

My neighbors usually follow my lead because of my worldwide experience as a telecommunications/systems manager at Embassies around the world, which have taken me to 58 different countries.

Here's the logic I wish to share concerning Greenlight: the problems they are having are all financial problems. I can personally vouch for the technical aspects — my installation is running perfectly. It's almost

See LETTERS page 7



THE JERSEY GIRL

Columnist loves nieces to pieces

I have been on vacation all week getting ready for a visit from my brother, Dominic, and his two daughters. Anyone who knows me, knows how excited I get when Dom comes home. He's been away far too long and it's time to get him and his family back to the Sunshine State.

I've been washing sheets, mopping floors and making sure everything was just right. Not to mention working out an agenda in my head of all the things I wanted to do this week while they're here.

A day at the river goes without saying. We're also going to get over to see the Manatees in Homosassa and make a trip to the Shell Factory on U.S. 19 in Inglis; the kids love that place.

Other than that, it's going to be swimming, catching up on everything and eating good food. They live in Iowa so a day in the pool is a real treat for them.

His girls have had a rough year. My brother and his wife recently went through a divorce, so it's affected them all. Kids appear to be so resilient that we sometimes forget how devastating a divorce or any change for that matter can be for them. However, this will be the first year they will have to deal with not seeing their mom or dad every day.

Victoria, the older of the two and my goddaughter, is one of those

children who seems to be able to conquer anything. Not only is she a genius at her schoolwork, but she has also mastered soccer and the French horn, which is not an easy instrument to play. Not to mention, she's extremely secure and confident in herself.

Alexandra is the second born and the little devil of the family. She may only stand 4 feet tall, but you're always aware of her presence. She is the fashionista and Miss Personality. She loves to dance and cheer. I asked her how many pairs of shoes she owns and she thinks about 40. Now don't forget she's only 8 years old. She also boasts a Barbie doll collection of more than 100.

They are as different in size as they are in temperament and personality. Victoria has the stronger build and the thick Italian features. Alexandra is tiny and fair and has straight hair that is still baby-fine. It fascinates me how two sisters can come from the same gene pool and look totally opposite, same as my girls. In fact, they remind me of my girls when they were that age. My oldest being very athletic, while my youngest was the trend setter. Not much has changed even today.

I enjoy spending time with Tori and Alex and getting to know them



Audrey Beem

See JERSEY page 6

THANK YOU LETTERS

Patrons thank local business for birthday celebration party

We would like to share with you our experience June 1 at Gruff's Tap & Grill in Dunnellon.

We reserved a room for our party of 40, gathered to celebrate John Taylor's surprise 70th Birthday. Nick, Allen and his entire staff made our evening "exceptional."

You would have thought that we were in New York or Chicago, the room was decorated in such a professional manner. The décor was beautiful, beginning with the tables dressed in linens, as were the chairs. The color scheme of the room was warm and inviting.

Our theme was "black" because, of course, John was celebrating 70.

The wait staff was exceptional, as were the light hors d'oeuvres, prepared by Nick's staff.

If you ever are looking at a venue for your event, Gruff's Tap & Grill is a great choice.

Thank you Nick, Allen and your entire staff, for a wonderful evening.

If you run into John Taylor, please wish him a great 70th year.

Sue and Frank Strobl
Dunnellon

Church thanks citizens for 'Sneaker Project' success

The ECW (Episcopal Church Women) of Holy Faith Episcopal Church, Blue Cove in Dunnellon, thank our parishioners, area friends and two "Special Angel" donors who made this year's "Sneaker Project" a resounding success.

Through your generous support, 66 pairs of new sneakers went home with children from Romeo and Dunnellon elementary schools in time for summer vacation.

The ECW also greatly appreciates the assistance of the two school's guidance counselors in coordinating this project and the Riverland News and Citrus County Chronicle newspapers for their publicity.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God." Romans, 8:28

Suzie Kuka, chairwoman
ECW of Holy Faith, Dunnellon

American Legion thanks public for support of its event

The Memorial Day Ceremony Committee of Wall Rives Post No. 58, The American Legion, would like to give thanks to the community and all those who helped make this year's Memorial Day event the success that it was.

First, thank you Commander John L. Taylor. It is your outstanding leadership and devotion to your community that drives people to put together an event such as this.

Mayor Nathan Whitt, thank you for your moving and emotional speech. We are very grateful and inspired that you took the time to take part in our annual observance.

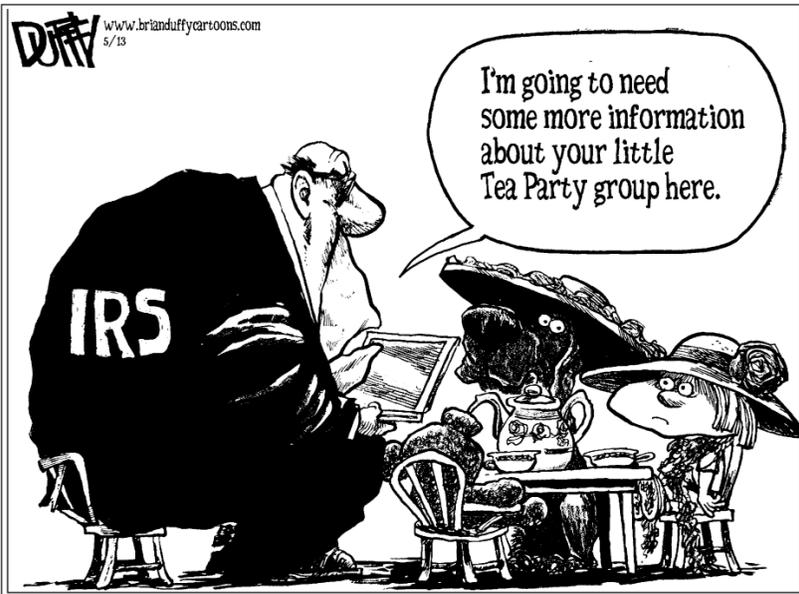
Chaplain Eugene M. Thomas, your soothing voice was inspiring and your words, gracious as always.

Carolyn J. Cairns, your amazing voice brought a lift to all of

See THANK page 5

OPINIONS INVITED

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



THANK YOU LETTER

Church closing, pastor thanks citizens, community

Cross at the River Cowboy Church announced the temporary closing of Cross at the River Cowboy Church due to a family health issue in California.

Pastor E. Patrick Anthony, his wife, Debra, and daughter, Tracey Lynn, will leave in July with the main move in August. The church will meet at their home for services during June.

Therefore, the American Fellowship of Cowboy Churches, has stepped up and offered to keep the church open and two lay pastors from Rafter Cross Cowboy Church in williston will come in to take over pastoral duties so as to not displace the church family.

Pastor Ed and Debra with their daughter, Tracey Lynn, are already working on opening a new cowboy church at the Prescott Rodeo Arena in Prescott, Ariz., under the new name of Refiners Fire Cowboy Church as part of the International Cowboy Church Alliance.

Pastor Anthony and Debra would like to thank the Dunnellon community for all of its wonderful support during the past three years, especially with the spaghetti dinner and the Susie McEntire Concert, which without your continued support, could not have been possible.

We thank you for allowing us the opportunity to help support the Dunnellon Police Department Cops for Kids Christmas program, which we truly loved doing as well as seeing the faces of the children, smiling, laughing and excited as well as Dunnellon Fire Rescue's annual Children's Christmas program the past three years. We also participated with the Annie Johnson Senior Center, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Services as well as Relay for Life and many other community events.

But our greatest achievement, short of seeing folks come to Christ or be baptized in a trough, was raising \$500 in change for Ebenezer USA, in which we, with only 18 people in the beginning were able to bring

a grandmother, mother and son out of Russia and help restore them to Israel.

The Bible teaches in Genesis 12:3: "I will bless those who bless you," and within three weeks we gained 15 new members.

Debra, Tracey Lynn and I have so enjoyed being a part of Dunnellon, a community that is hard to find elsewhere in America today. We love it and we love the people in it, and we will truly miss being a part of it. However, we are trusting in the Lord for what he has showed us, is showing us and will show us on this journey.

Debra and I would like to thank Chief Joanne Black and the Dunnellon Police Department for all their support and allowing us to be a part of their family through my capacity as police chaplain and Debra as an employee. Y'all will be missed and as I always say "be safe out there."

We want to thank John and Aimee Sharkey for allowing us the use of the Greater Dunnellon Historical Society Train Depot these past three years to host cowboy church in. Some asked how does the train depot fit into cowboy church? My answer was simple: "those cattle couldn't get to market without the train," and on occasion we were blessed with having to stop service as the train rolled through, a beautiful touch I might add.

Thank you to the Dunnellon City Council, which has been very supportive of all our endeavors. We thank you.

Thank you to Pastor Russ Randall of First Baptist Church for their support and use of their church during Susie McEntire's concert. We are greatly appreciative.

Lastly, thank you to all of our church members for all of your support and love extended to Debra, Tracey Lynn and me. Without none of this would have been possible. We love you, we will miss you and you will be in our hearts forever and our door will always be open to all of you, in Jesus' name.

Pastor E. Patrick, Debra and Tracey Lynn Anthony, Dunnellon

THANK

continued from page 4

our hearts. You too, are truly a blessing to the U.S.

A special thank you goes to the Air Force JROTC Honor Guard from Dunnellon High School, led by Sgt. Kevin Gunter. Your young cadets gave our old soldiers a good lesson and we actually presented colors carrying rifles for the first time in many years.

Thank you Post No. 58 Color Guard — Ralph Guckenberger, Bob Anderson, Gary Andrews, Tom DesRosiers — you gentlemen were outstanding.

Thank you Walt Mildenberg, U.S. Navy, retired; Gladys Murphy, U.S. Air Force; and the Ladies Auxiliary for the ringing of the bell and placing of flags on the colorful patriotic wreath.

Ed Partlow, thank you for your moving poem. It truly is the soldier that gives us what we have today.

Mackenzie Ellington, thank you so much for your wonderful rendition of taps. We look forward to seeing and hearing more of your horn playing in the future.

John and Amy Sharkey of the Greater Dunnellon Historical Society, thank you for providing the excellent sound engineering.

Charles Shaw, thank you, and we look forward to seeing the video of the proceedings.

Larry Jones, thank you for preparing the hall for us.

We would also like to give special thanks to the sponsors of this event. Without our sponsors, our events would not be as successful as they are. Please support our sponsors by patronizing their places of business.

First, Ralph and April from Carmela's, thank you for your continued support of food for our Post No. 58 Pancake Breakfasts. Because of your kindness, funds for picnics like this are possible.

Chef Lori Frazee, thank you for all your support and for taking the time out of your busy catering schedule for preparing our food this year.

Riverland News, thank you for your continued coverage and publication of Post No. 58 affairs.

And finally, but most appreciatively, thank you, Turner House Florist and all your staff, for providing the most beautiful patriotic wreath the Post has ever had the occasion to display in an event. The wonderful wreath you

created for this special day was indeed the centerpiece of the entire event.

Memorial Day Ceremony Committee Wall Rives Post No. 58, The American Legion Dunnellon Little League thanks Thrift Shop

Recently, the Dunnellon Community Thrift Shop graciously extended its support of the Dunnellon Little League program by presenting the league with a very generous check for \$1500.

First and, foremost, I would like to say thank you on my behalf as well as all of those associated with the Dunnellon Little League.

The donation in itself is greatly appreciated and will most definitely be put to good use. Enough about the money, the real appreciation here is for the group of hard-working, dedicated ladies who give their time in support of this community. What I find to be re-

ally amazing is, that for the most part, these ladies have very few and, probably in most cases, have no individual ties to those they support.

Simply put, they just care about the community as a whole.

I personally don't know what all they support, but I do know in speaking with them that they truly care about the people that make up this community. This has been a way of life in Dunnellon for as long as I have known life here.

The list of those, past and present, willing to step up to the plate in support of childhood dreams — little ball players of all kinds — baseball, football, cheerleaders, etc. — individuals or organizations in need goes way back and is quite lengthy.

Chances are if you have lived in Dunnellon for any amount of time, you or your children have, through Lit-

tle League or any number of organizations, been the beneficiary of the support provided from these small town businesses and the individuals who own or operate them.

To the kids playing ball today, it's just another dream-filled day at the park as it should be, they don't know how it all happens or what it takes to make it happen. They just know for today, it happens.

But thanks to all of those who make it happen for them today, and that some of them playing today will make it happen for those who will play tomorrow.

So when you see one of those banners hanging on the outfield fence at the ballpark with the name of a business on it, or a group like the Community Thrift Shop, support them for they are supporting the future of our community.

Greg Rushton, Dunnellon

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JERSEY

continued from page 4

a little better. They turn to me when they need their hair brushed or need to share a rumor about the boys from One Direction.

Having both their parents excel in the education field has definitely showed in the girls. Schoolwork seems to come easy to them. They both enjoy reading and, of course, playing their handheld electronic games, and they both seem to be fearless.

In fact, they've been chosen as the lead in several plays and musicals at their schools in which they excelled.

Victoria has been asking me to write a story about them so here it is.

I actually call Victoria my twin since she looks like a female version of my brother. I have pictures of me as a small child that look so much like her. But on the other hand, I was built more like Alex, tiny and dainty and I too loved dancing and cheering. So I

share things in common with each one.

Likewise, I see so much of my brother in both of them. Their sense of adventure and their inquisitive nature comes from him; likewise their outgoing personalities and love of life.

It's so nice to sit around with my brother shooting the breeze and remembering good times while the kids are off playing. The funny thing is that his kids are playing with my grandkids.

Yep, I had children in my 20's and he waited until his 40's. So there's a 20-year age difference there. But it doesn't matter everybody gets along anyway.

Of course, they look up to Dominique who's 14 and seems so cool to them. It's a special treat when they get to spend time with her.

I hope one day soon we can have them back in Florida permanently. In the meantime, we'll call, email and Skype every chance we get. There's nothing like family.

HEALING

continued from page 4

the property to the current owner, Jerry Dodd. A small group of people then enlisted the help of these so called "environmentalists" to keep the Rainbow River Ranch from being developed.

These same people cited potential destruction of the river due to the new housing development and wanted the state to purchase the property.

This all sounded nice, but there wasn't money available from the funding sources they were seeking to purchase the land. Also, when the state purchases property, it is then taken off the tax rolls and the city of Dunnellon would realize no CRA tax revenue at all. Because the state couldn't purchase this property, this group now needed to find other reasons to keep the development from going forward.

They suggested very restrictive set-back requirements that would keep the property owners along the river frontage property from building their homes no closer than 150 feet from the high water mark of the river.

Note that when the developers bought the property, the set back requirement was 50 feet. Many of the same people who were complaining the loudest already had their homes on the river and were not required to have their homes 150 feet from the high water marks.

One of the other contentions was the presence of so many docks on the river. This group didn't want the developer to have any docks on the riverfront property at all.

All this time, many who were involved in these "new restrictions"

already had their docks on the river. When they came to me for help to support their cause, I explained to them that if they were willing to remove their docks from the river then I would consider supporting them. This, of course, wasn't what they wanted to hear.

The smear campaign then began against me and my family implying that since I was in favor of this development, I was allegedly being given property by the developer.

What really hurt was that people whom I had known and thought were my friends and colleagues, helped spread this rumor. As an elected official, you are subjected to whatever people want to say and I understand that. However, to spread fabricated lies in order to ultimately stop the construction of a good development that would help the economy of Dunnellon was entirely unacceptable.

At that time, Dunnellon was so blessed to have so many citizens interested in volunteerism who came out on weekends to help beautify the city.

Groups such as the Main Street Organization and the Save the Water Tower are now defunct because their volunteerism was not appreciated by some on the City Council at that time.

Dunnellon officials didn't realize, or appreciate, what the citizen volunteers contributed to the "home town" feeling that existed then.

I, as then-mayor, needed to make a difficult decision when the next election brought in several new council members. During the first meeting after the election, those who were newly elected, voted to take the city down a path of financial destruction, and I

couldn't be a part of something I believed to be wrong for our city.

Wrong, not only for what this decision would do to the property owners, but also very wrong for the entire community and citizenry of Dunnellon.

I knew that this decision was going to cost the city enormous amounts of money because of legal representation that the city would need due to litigation that was imminent as a result of their decision.

The rest is history, and the city is now more than one-half million dollars poorer and still in litigation because of the so called "environmental concerns" that exist with the Rainbow River Ranch development.

Some thought I should have stayed and fought for what was in the best interest of the city, but when you are fighting a battle that would help bring into the community much needed tax revenue and business opportunities only to look out onto the audience and not see any of the business people whom you are trying to help, then it is time to move on.

We now have a city that is in severe financial crisis, and we have to now pull together and put the past behind us, but we must understand what brought us into the situation that we are in.

Certainly, there were bad decisions and mistakes made by elected officials during that time, but what people need to realize is that elected officials are only human and being human, we all make mistakes.

I believe that the citizens of Dunnellon and the citizens, who live outside of Dunnellon proper, have to come together and build a better city. A city built on understanding and trust.

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!

Puzzle answers on Page 3

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We have a new mayor and it is my belief he is sincere in wanting to bring everyone together and heal the hurt that has existed for a long time.

Now is the time to let us look deep into our hearts and souls, and try to rekindle the grass-roots volunteerism spirit we all once had when we painted bridges together, planted trees and flowers together, cleaned up our community together, and recreate that lovable, walkable community we once had.

Let us revisit our goals and dreams. Let us bond together again, bring back our hometown spirit, bury our differences and make Dunnellon the little city with a big heart it once was.

If someday, we are all ever asked how we ever accomplished this, it will be because, together, we were strong enough, dedicated enough and brave enough to overcome any adversity.

John Taylor is a former mayor of Dunnellon and longtime city resident.

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LETTERS

continued from page 4

comical in one sense, that I frequently upload photos to the Walmart website for printing. With my ATT, so-called high-speed connection, such uploading of photos was a slow process. Since my Greenlight installation, I now upload a photo and almost before I finish typing in the photo to upload, my screen states: "would you like to upload another"? Almost like the old joke kids do concerning their old west "fast draw. They ask if you would like to see it. Then, without moving a finger or hand, they say, would you like to see it again?"

Now to the threat, which is scaring potential customers away: the future of Greenlight.

Let's simply apply a little logic here. Greenlight has already spent millions in burying the feeder cables and home installations, which are currently done without charge. Think about it, these big cables are already buried and the network is already in place.

No matter what else happens or what else comes down, this expensive infrastructure is already in place. Several different scenarios exist for what will happen, but in every one of them, "someone will take over that infrastructure and operate the system."

Hopefully, Greenlight will solve their financial problems and continue to operate the system. They could sell the system to some other operator, but regardless of what else happens these millions of dollars worth of installation won't simply be abandoned. Somebody will fund and operate it because it has high value.

So Dunnellon area residents would be well

advised to make the move as I did and enjoy the Internet at a speed that will allow you to actually get things done. My installation was absolutely without cost and I suspect that's a perk that is not likely to always be there.

In all fairness, I believe we should be completely honest so I will share the one small negative point I have noticed with my installation. I notice that with AT&T, when I dial a number, the connection was made almost instantaneously. With Greenlight, probably because the connection has to go through a greater number of switches, the dialed connection takes longer, perhaps 3 or 4 seconds.

This is a small price to pay for the far greater connection and as a 45-year careerist in the technical world I think we can safely assume that technology will make these connections ever more rapid.

Ronald Stafford, Dunnellon

City needs to get a grasp on Greenlight

Greenlight, another "Field of Dreams," built on the faulty premise, "if we build it they will come."

As a 25-year veteran of CATV marketing and operations, I am in awe of the ongoing Greenlight saga. The numbers would be laughable if they were not so sad. Below are some questions and observations I think cogent to the situation.

- Where are the most basic metrics for any CATV operation and why aren't they available to all. A detailed monthly subscriber report detailing all relevant data is elemental to all CATV operations.

Subscriber count, plus or minus growth, breakout by service levels, number of trouble calls, reconnect/discon-

nect activity, outages (time and duration), overtime hours and payroll, programming cost, debt cost, marketing allocation with details. You do not need a consultant to provide these numbers.

- Who is responsible for the above reporting? The mayor, city council OR consultants? Maybe I am just an old cable guy, but we used to call the individual "the system manager." That individual should be able to quote the numbers, and changes to same, on a near daily basis.

- A few billboards and ads is not a marketing program. Begging Rainbow Springs residents to please "get onboard" is not a marketing plan.

- With 401 subscribers — less than 20 percent of homes passed — this does not qualify as a cable system, it is a backyard-science project. Sub-numbers should be around 60 percent in this market.

- Where is the information regarding existing subscriber opinions regarding the services, costs, etc. Oh, yeah you probably need to hire someone to sample 401 subscribers. The system manager should know that small a universe of subscribers by name.

- Restructuring the debt is fine, with or without an exit strategy; however, better get a handle on running the operation and getting the facts and numbers accurately and often or better to pull

the plug, lock the doors and drop the key in the mail slot.

Randy Lewis, Dunnellon

City needs to consider selling Greenlight

I am not a politician, but from all the things I read about here in Dunnellon I cannot stand back and not voice my opinion about how the city has been run over the past few years.

My first thoughts are how a small city like Dunnellon ever got roped into thinking it could compete with large corporations that own and run fiber-optic networks in this area. Being a retired OSP Engineer and construction supervisor from two large telecommunication companies (N.Y. Telephone Company & Southwestern Bell), where I planned and placed and spliced fiber for telecommunication purposes.

I know the cost of doing so is mind boggling that a city the size of Dunnellon would try to compete with these other operating companies.

When I retired from Southwestern Bell, about six engineers and myself, thought fiber was the way to the future in communications and decided to start a company and delve into placing and splicing fiber. I was asked to give a study about how much money would be needed to start the company, which would involve purchasing vehicles and splicing equipment plus

materials.

My study showed we would need at least \$2 million just to start, not counting employees and salaries and none of us had this kind of money to back such an operation, not only that, it would also take a \$1 million insurance policy to start.

Whoever thought on the City Council that Dunnellon could start a business that could compete with these larger corporations that are already established had to be out of their mind. Then, to go out and purchase a water system and think they could make money from it too was just another big blunder for the city.

Dunnellon should make contact with a few of the larger corporations that are established in fiber networking in this area and see if they would be interested in possibly purchasing the Greenlight System from the city in order to re-

coup some of their investment.

Dunnellon should also see if the residents of Rainbow Springs would like to purchase their water system back, then they would control their own rates and this would then ease the burden of the 25 percent surcharges now imposed, but this is just one way to get out of the debt that was put on the city by the past administration.

I have other thoughts that could bring in revenues to this city and it would build up the tax rolls and that is to see if a company such as Big Lots would be interested in locating a store in the old Food Lion store.

This building has been empty for almost 10 years with no takers in sight. The parking lot is perfect for a company like this, plus the store is as large as any Big Lots I have been in before.

This company has
See **LETTERS** page 19

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SUPPORT GROUPS

COPD Support Group meets twice monthly

Hospice of Marion County invites you to the only COPD Support Group in the county. The group is for anyone with breathing concerns and those who care about someone with a breathing problem. It is a positive environment providing education and support.

The Ocala Airheads meet from 2 to 3:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday monthly at the West Marion Medical Plaza in the second floor community room.

For more information, call Leigh Hutson at 352-484-5458.

AA group meets weekly at church

Light in Dark Places, an Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) group, will meet at noon Mondays at First Baptist Church of Dunnellon at 20831 Powell Road. The public is welcome.

For information, call Francis Endryck at 352-476-2819 or email fendryck@tampabay.rr.com.

Nar-Anon hosts weekly meetings

The Nar-Anon Family Group hosts the "Together We Grow" meeting at 6:45 p.m. Wednesdays at the Dunnellon Presbyterian Church at 20641 Chestnut St., Room 204. Nar-Anon is for family and friends of addicts, sharing experiences, strength, hope, and providing a path to serenity and peace of mind. For information, visit www.NARANONFL.org.

Girl Scouts earn special distinction



Special to the Riverland News

Girl Scout Troop No. 320 of Dunnellon members Megan Burns, Natalee Horton and Alexandria Noland recently earned the Girl Scout Bronze award for their project "Birthday in a Bag." The girls put together 50 gift bags with cake mix, candles, balloons and party favors and donated them to the Marion County Domestic Violence Shelter. To earn the award, the girls were required to create a new project that would benefit the community, write a plan and timeline and carry the project to completion. The Girl Scouts Bronze Award is the highest honor a registered Junior Girl Scout can earn. Pictured, from left, are: Burns, Horton and Noland.

CHURCH NEWS

Bethel Baptist to host pre-VBS program

First Bethel Missionary Baptist Church will host the pre-VBS program, "Fishin' on a Mission with Jesus," at 3 p.m. Sunday at its church at 203 N. Williams St. For information, call 465-0064.

Church to host Saturday Supper

The Third Saturday Supper will be from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, June 15, at the Community Congregational Christian Church at 9220 N. Citrus Springs Blvd., Citrus Springs in the Dewain

Farris Fellowship Hall.

Adult tickets are \$10 and children are \$5. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Takeout is available.

For information, call 489-1260.

First United Methodist schedules annual VBS

The First United Methodist Church of Dunnellon will host the Everywhere Fun Fair Vacation Bible School from 5 to 8 p.m. June 24 to June 28 at its church at 21501 W. State Road 40.

Dinner will be served from 5 to 5:30. There is no charge for the program. Preregistration is

now open for children and adults. Forms are available in the church office and in the Narthex of the church at the VBS booth.

For information, call 489-4026.

Beulah Baptist church to host VBS program

Beulah Missionary Baptist Church will host its VBS program, "Fishin' on a Mission with Jesus," at 6:30 p.m. July 22 to 26. First Bethel and Mount Olive AME will also be utilized for classes. Beulah Missionary Baptist Church is at 11732 Illinois St. For information, call 465-7557.

OUT TO PASTOR

Pastor not trick proof as he once thought

I was minding my own business last week, which is the only business I am concerned about, when the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage posed a question.

It is in the area of questions I feel the most inadequate. Maybe it is because I have not heard all the questions yet, but I think I have come close. I should know that any question that comes from my wife has a hidden agenda. Usually, she asks questions that have no answers.

"Let's go out for lunch today," she said rather chipperly. Experience should have taught me that when she is chipper, I am in trouble, because I am always the chippee.

"We have," she explained, "some gift cards for a restaurant across town."

Then she smiled and that should have been a giveaway for me.

When you mention lunch, and when you add the word "free" to it, I lose all sense of proportion and sanity, if I had any. Actually, to be honest about everything, it does not take much to scratch between my ears and get me purring.

Then she threw in a perk that sold me completely on the idea. I love perks.

"I'll drive."

When you think you have heard every trick in the book, somebody writes a new book. Usually, I forget some old trick that she has played, and here was an old one she was playing on me again.

On the way to the restaurant, I had a little uneasy feeling, but as we sat down and began ordering, all suspicion faded into thin air. It was a scrumptious lunch and we both enjoyed being together, carefree and enjoying the ambiance.

When the check came I casually said, "You know, we ought to do this more often."

She smiled and nodded her head.

When we got into the car, she said somewhat nonchalantly, "Oh, by the way, since we're here I need to run into the mall and pick up an item."

When I heard those words, I froze. Not the mall! I hate shopping, especially at the mall. In my mind, the word "mall" is the acronym for May All Lose their Loot. Since I do not have that much loot to lose, I do not like going into a place designed to relieve me of my loot.

Every time I walk down the center of the mall, I feel eyes glaring at me and piercing to the core of my wallet trying to suck out all my money. And, by the way, they take credit cards. Boy, do they "take" credit cards.

When we parked at the mall parking lot, I indicated I would stay in the car and wait for her. "Oh, no," she exclaimed, "come on in, you need the exercise. I'm just going to run in and run out."

Here is where the language differential between husbands and wives shows itself. Unless you are familiar with English with a feminine twist, you are going to get trapped every time.

For example: when a husband says the word "run," he is referring to speed. When his wife uses the same word it means she is going to run into every store in sight within the mall with one agenda, and that is to buy. For which I can say goodbye to my money.

Why don't local universities offer a degree in wifeology? They have degrees in everything else, why not here where it would be most useful. By the time I reach the equivalent of a doctorate in wifeology, I would be too old to do any good with it.

Those who insist there is no difference between a man and a woman have never been married to a woman. Husbands get into trouble assuming their wife is just like them and thinks just like them.

Exiting the shopping mall my wife looked at me, smiled and said, "Now, wasn't that good exercise?"

I nodded as I walked to the car with both my hands filled with recently purchased items from the shopping mall. Now I know my part of the exercise was hauling her purchases to the car. Halfway to the car I had to stop and catch my breath and wondered if I would really make it to the car.

"Come on, we're done shopping for the day. Let's get to the car!"

While driving home I was afraid my wife was going to wear out her smile.

"This has been a great day. We'll have to do this more often."

Then she began humming a song, "We've only just begun." I think this is her theme song; in fact, I am afraid it is.

About half way home, I had a wonderful thought. It was a good day. I can always earn more money, but I can never get another wife quite as nice as the one I have. Then I began humming, "We've only just begun."

A verse of Scripture began playing in my mind as we continued our journey home.

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:3 KJV).

Driving into the driveway, I realized this was not our final destination. God has a wonderful place prepared for those who have put their trust and faith in Him. No tricks about it.

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship in Ocala. Call him at 866-552-2543 or email james.snyder2@att.net. The church website is whatafellowship.com.



Rev. James Snyder

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First Baptist Church
20831 Powell Road
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www.fbcduunnellon.com

Phone: 352-489-2730
Fax: 352-465-7729
E-mail: fbcduunnellon@bellsouth.net

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Healing Service
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Following 9:00 AM Service
holyfaithepiscopal@att.net

489-2685

Holy Faith
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CR 484 SR 200

Calvary Baptist Temple

21841 S.W. Marine Blvd.
Rainbow Lakes Estates

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

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

Every 4th Sunday.....5:00 p.m.
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www.fumc-dunnellon.org

Dunnellon Seventh-day Adventist Church

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Saturday
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Sermon.....11:00 AM

Tuesday
Bible Study.....4:30 PM

For more information:
352-489-3455
www.dunnellonsdachurch.com

Catholic Community of St. John the Baptist

Father Jean H. Desir, Pastor

MASSES

Saturday Reconciliation.....3:30 PM

Saturday Vigil.....4:30 PM

Sunday.....8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Sunday - Spanish.....Noon

Mon. Thru Fri.....8:00 AM

Holy Days.....8:00 AM and 7:00 PM

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Sunday School 9:30 AM
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Wednesday

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Youth Group 6:30 PM
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Sunday Worship Service 10:00 A.M

Wednesday Bible Study 10:00 A.M
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SUPPORT GROPS

CareGiver Support Group to meet

The local CareGiver Support Group meets at 12:30 p.m. the first Tuesday monthly in the First United Methodist Church (West Building) on West State Road 40. The group shares information and access to resources that can help care givers be more effective. For more information, email rhenton584@aol.com.

'Forget-Me-Not' open to public

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

Reformers Unanimous meetings scheduled

Reformers Unanimous is an addictions program developed from more than a decade of experience, and is the fastest growing faith-based addictions program in America. Meetings are directed not toward a specific addiction, but toward overcoming any addiction through the Higher Power that is Jesus Christ. For information, visit the national website at www.reformu.com. Local meetings are at 7 p.m. Fridays at Riverland Baptist Church, one mile north of State Road 40 on U.S. 41.

Kiwanis golf tourney a success



Photos by JEWEL PONTIUS/Special to the Riverland News

The Kiwanis Club of Dunnellon recently hosted its annual golf tournament at Rainbow Springs Golf & Country Club. ABOVE: Scott Durden, golf pro, right, gives the go ahead to start the tournament. BELOW: Bill Yates, Dick Williams and Jack Barbour watch teammate Jim Shultz putt's. The foursome won the tournament, donating the prize money back to the Kiwanis Club of Dunnellon.



WE WANT YOUR NEWS

The Riverland News seeks community news announcements such as first birthdays, births, engagements, weddings and anniversaries. To submit news, email Editor Jeff Bryan at editor@riverlandnews.com. Photos must be high-resolution images. Print photos can be scanned at our office at 20441 E. Pennsylvania Ave.

CHURCH NEWS

Church showing video series

Springs Presbyterian Church will show a video series about "The 7 Churches of Revelation" at 5:15 p.m. now through July 3.

For information, call 489-8992 or stop by the church at 1060 W. Withlacoochee Trail, Dunnellon.

Church hosts LIFT Ministry

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

If child care is desired, call the church office for arrangements. LIFT meets at 7 p.m. the last Wednesday monthly.

For information about this ministry, email Cindy Greaves at RSVChurch@gmail.com or call the church at 489-0249.

Rainbow Springs Village Church is at 20222 S.W. 102nd St. Road, Dunnellon, south of Winn-Dixie and west of U.S. 41.

Church to host Men's ministry

Join the men at the Rainbow Springs Village Church for the Men of Valor Ministry. The goal is for real men with real issues having real faith in Jesus Christ.

If child care is desired, call the church office for arrangements. Men of Valor

meets at 7 p.m. the last Wednesday monthly.

For information about this ministry, email Chris Greaves at RSVChurch@gmail.com or call the church at 489-0249.

Rainbow Springs Village Church is at 20222 S.W. 102nd St. Road, Dunnellon, south of Winn-Dixie and west of U.S. 41.

New women's Bible study slated

New Women's Cross Denominational Bible study called One Woman's Prayer meets at 7 p.m. the third Monday monthly at the Dunnellon Women's Club Clubhouse at 11756 Cedar St. Doors open at 6:30. For more information check us out in Facebook at One Woman's Prayer.

Church hosts bingo weekly

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church hosts bingo at 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Prizes up to \$250. Doors open at 10 a.m. Tuesdays and 4 p.m. Wednesdays. The church is at the corner of U.S. 41 and State Road 40.

Church seeks members for choir

First Congregational United Church of Christ is about to begin its summer choir program, and if you'd like to join us, come to the church at 10 a.m. Sundays to rehearse a simple anthem and sing it on Sunday in church. For information, call 352-237-3035. The church is at 7171 S.W. State Road 200.

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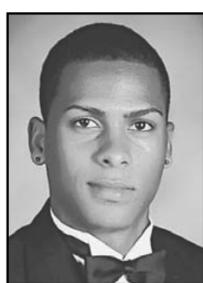
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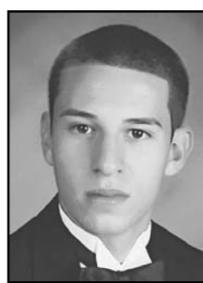
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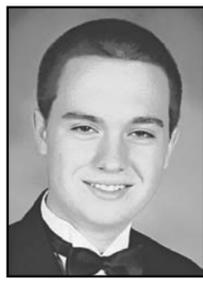
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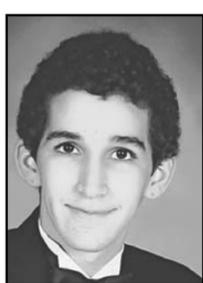
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Megan Caranci



Anna Carmona



Brandon Carmona



Nicholas Carothers



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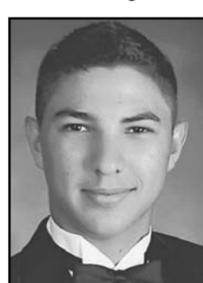
Melissa Clark



Violet Colon



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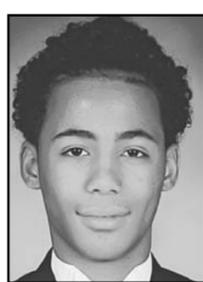
Austin Cooke



Ellaina Crooks



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James Cruz



Bre'anna Curtis



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Marissa Daly



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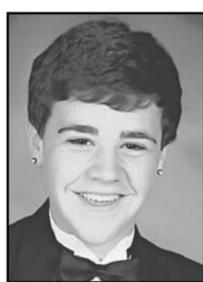
Irma Echevarria



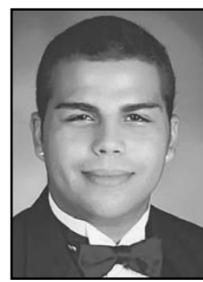
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Kyle Fennell



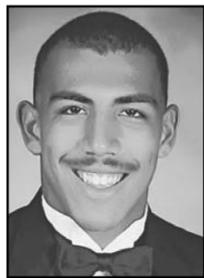
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Tatiara Fernandez



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Andrea Gallant



Celina Garcia Millan



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Staci Golding



Alexander Gonzalez



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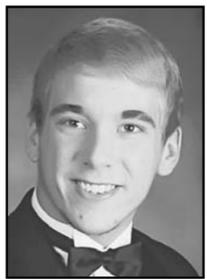
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Alvaro Hernandez



Kyla Hernandez



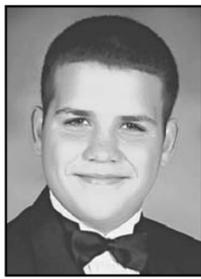
Shakera Hilbert



Vinny Hillman



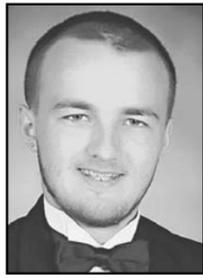
Lawrence Hines-Cornell



Kevin Hitt



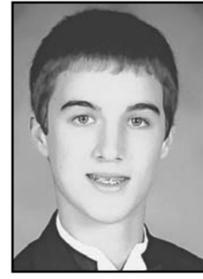
Stanley Hodge



Jonathon Hogan



Derek Holt



Jeremiah Honan



Gavin Honeysette



Tyrell Horn



Rachel Horne



Harley Hoste



Danielle Hurley



Jacilyn Indelicati



Cody Ingalls



Andre Jackson



Christopher Jackson



Tanika Jackson



Catherine Jager



Latricia Janichi



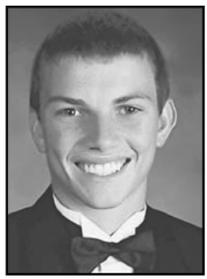
Randi Jarrell



Marcus Jennings



Shawna Jeroski



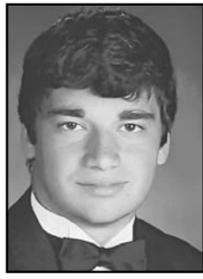
Lee Joiner



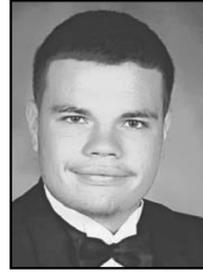
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Christopher Kessener



Justin Kiger



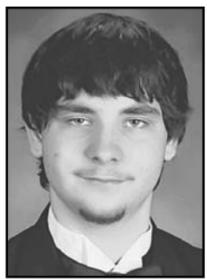
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Courtney Kusmerz



Brittany Landers



Michael Launier



Richard Litterine



Joseph Lobsiger



Jaime Lopez



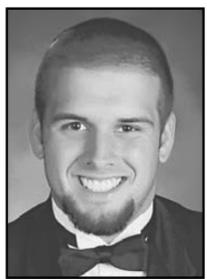
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Jordon Loyola



Leslie Maddox



Zachary Main



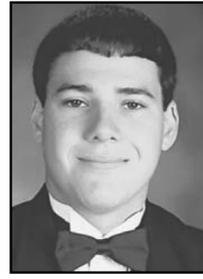
Shatara Marrero



Casundra Martin



Zachary Matthews



Brandon Mccabe



Roni Mccoy



Marshall Mcdowell



Amber McDuffie



Jamilee McFarlane



Kaila Mckee



Johnathan Melendez



Jonathan Melendez



John Mendez



Christopher Miller



Dustin Molina



Ryan Molloy



Daisy Morris



Heather Mumm



D'andre Munford



Jonathan Nedrick



Alex Nonnemacher



Omar Novoa



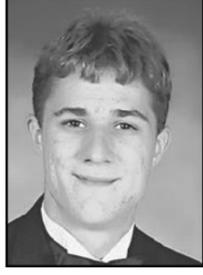
Hali Oberbeck



Lianna O'Bry



James Olmo



Mark Opatz



Amanda Oram



Devon Orona



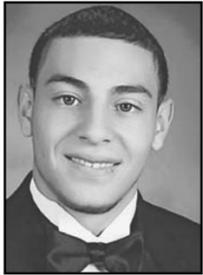
Zahyrimar Otero Diaz



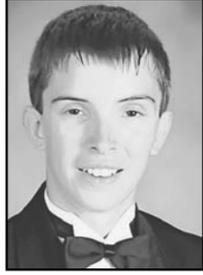
Carlos Otero



Kayla Owens



Jonathan Padilla



Daniel Pastore



Kwanicia Perry



Danielle Piercy



Nikolai Pierro



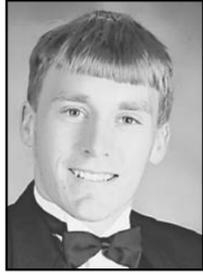
Hannah Pomeroy



Danielle Prinz



Brent Proto



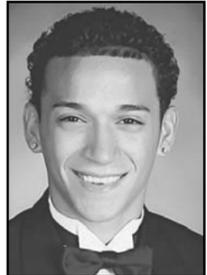
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Max Pudlo



Marykay Quick



Juan Quinones



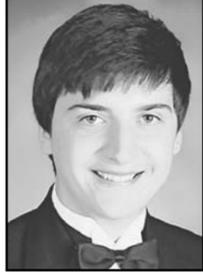
Rajendra Ram



Kristoff Rampersad



Micheal Record



Denver Reich



Natalie Reid



Chase Reilly



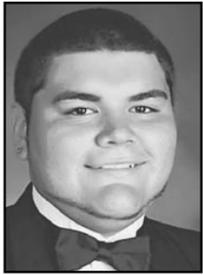
Traci Rice



Kerry Ritzie



Carmen Rivera



Christopher Rivera



Julian Rivera



Michael Roberson



David Roberto



Kelli Robinson



Bridgette Rodriguez



Danny Rodriguez



Heidi Rodriguez



Karla Rodriguez



Nicholas Rodriguez



Drew Rondeau



Austin Roosen



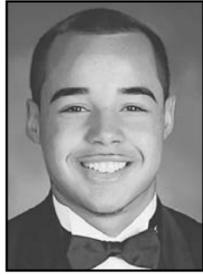
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Robert Rupprecht



Rayven Russell



Gabriel Saathoff



Megan Sain



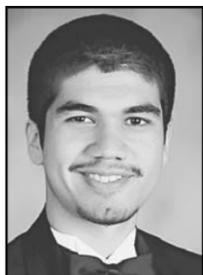
David Saint Louis



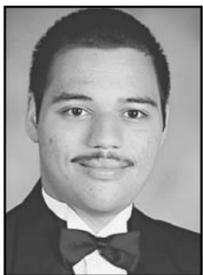
Mirlanda Saint Louis



Sara Mia Sanchez Perez



Jose Sanchez



Joseph Satiro



Annie Scharet



Lakiya Scott



Kayla Sears



Ashley Segarra



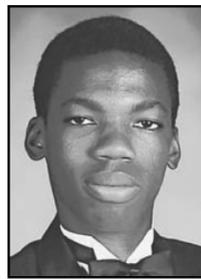
Roberto Segarra



Morgan Shalna



Mark Shoultz



Ngqabutho Sigogo



Jeremy Sizemore



Meagin Smeriglio



Christopher Smith



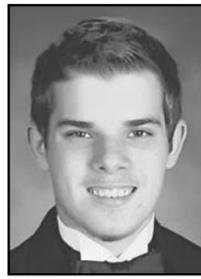
Quenton Smith



Tiana Smith



James Sponagle



Tyler Sponagle



Roland Stamm



Alexander Stetz



Robert Stoots



Shawn Sullivan



Brittany Swaney



J'von Swoll



Devin Taylor



Geempsey Telfort



Edward Terrero



Tiara Thomas



Michaela Thompson



Victor Tirado



Kelsie Tomaine



Germarie Torres Leon



Chandra Torres



John Torres



Jose Torres



Courtney Trapp



Dominique Triplett



Chad Turner



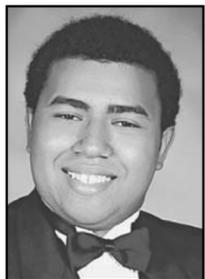
Raquel Umana



Emmily Valeo



Christine Valme



Jovon Vargas



Trent Vaughn



Glory Vazquez



Jazmine Velez



Priscilla Velez



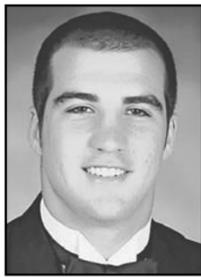
Teresa Vereen



Marquinsia Walker



Dana Washington



Connor Wentz



Stevie White



Rebecca Wilkerson



Shae Williams



Barret Willingham



Elizabeth Worner



Aimee Wright



Elizabeth Wright



Shayla Wright



Erica Wygant



Jamie Yaklin



Sarah Young



CLASS

continued from page 1

difference. Does that make it less of an honor? No, not at all, because it's an important honor."

Sharing it with Prinz was not surprising. The two became good friends their junior year while taking AP Spanish, the two realized, and each would be the push they needed to do their best in the classroom.

"She definitely deserves it," Jennings said about Prinz. "She's definitely put in the hours, the dedication, not only in the classroom but in all that she does. Without a doubt, she's one of the hardest working, most sincere people I have met. Others care a lot about others. I'm honored to share this with her."

Prinz's comments about Jennings were of

mutual respect, too.

"I remember my first encounter with Marcus, he had drawn a picture of me on the dry erase board and wrote, 'she's going down' on it," she recalled. "At first, I was scared. But he kept me on my toes."

"Once I got to know him, he was a big teddy bear. He's lovable, and he's just really friendly."

Jennings dismissed the notion he was a teddy bear:

"I want to be a tiger," he quipped, referencing the school's mascot.

"He's got a very big heart, too," Prinz replied.

Though both will be attending "rival" universities, there's no such rivalry between the top two graduates for the Class of 2013. However, with some prodding from a reporter, there was some friendly debate about whether Florida

State University (Jennings' school of choice) or the University of Florida (Prinz's selection for the fall) would win this year's football game.

"It's in our house, sister," Jennings joked.

"We've got it this year," Prinz was quick to point out the first-ever meeting on the gridiron was between the Gators and Seminoles was won by none other than Florida.

"That's the past, we're talking about the future," Jennings replied.

Both then laughed, as the conversation turned toward their respective futures.

Jennings plans to double major in nursing and chemistry, and one day attend medical school. His long-term goal is to work in the radiation field. Having chosen FSU over Florida was about where he felt most comfortable.

"I just really fell in love with the campus, the teachers, the school," he said. "It just felt like this is where I wanted to be. I have nothing against Florida, they have a great history, a great school and a great campus. FSU felt just like home for me."

Prinz opted to remain closer to home by selecting the University of Florida, where she plans to major in telecommunications. Her hopes are to be a broadcast journalist overseas, especially Spanish speaking communities.

"I really want to be able to speak Spanish fluently and travel and see the world," she said.

Both realize the impact their speeches can have on their classmates. Prinz admitted hers was already written, but she planned to tweak it.

"I would tell my classmates to just do it, do

whatever you see yourself doing or that you believe in," she explained. "Simply, just believe in yourself."

Jennings said he wants his speech to be "epic."

"You've got to keep it short," he said. "But, most importantly, I want to tell my classmates not to just settle for being happy with having graduated high school, you owe it to yourself to want more, to do more. You have an obligation to do that."

Principal Ken McAteer praised both Jennings and Prinz for their accomplishments not only in the classroom, but also in the community the past four years.

"They are excellent, excellent members of our student body," the first-year principal said. "They are a part of a class who excel in several different areas, not just one. I think they have given the junior class something to strive for next year."

Elizabeth Campbell
2013 Graduate

Congratulations on your high school achievements at Dunnellon Christian Academy. You have done so well. We are very proud of you and hope the next four years go as well. Always stay the same beautiful, loving, friendly girl you are now.

We love you, Grandma & Pa

DES assistant principal reassigned

Gina Dickey, assistant principal at Dunnellon Elementary, will move into the same role at Legacy this August.



Dickey will continue career at Legacy, set to open in August

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

Longtime Dunnellon Elementary School assistant principal Gina Dickey, along with 11 others, will be on the move come the 2012-13 school year, the Marion County Public School

System announced last week.

With vacancies created by new principal announcements earlier this month and others by resignations and retirements, Superintendent George Tomyn announced replacements to fill the vacancies.

Dickey, who's been the assistant principal at DES for the past four years, is moving to the same position at Legacy, the district's newest elementary school slated to open its doors this August.

"I have loved working at Dunnellon Elemen-

tary over the past four years and will treasure the memories and relationships that I have built during this time," Dickey said. "I would like to say 'thank you' to the parents and families for allowing me to be

See PRINCIPAL page 17

NEWS NOTES

Boys & Girls Club Summer Camp slated

The Boys & Girls Club of Dunnellon is now taking applications for its 2013 Summer Camp, which will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, June 17 through July 31, but closed July 3 to 5.

Registration cost is \$15 for new members and \$25 weekly. Applications may be picked up at the club's current location in Ernie Mills Park on Bostick Street.

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 information, call 489-5954.

Sea Cadets Corps seeks members

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

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

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

Boys & Girls Clubs seek donations

Many Boys & Girls Clubs are benefitting from car donations. The cars are sold at auction and the funds generated help support their many programs.

People wishing to donate their cars or for information call 800-246-0493.

Solo flight

DCA honors one grad

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

There was plenty of Pomp & Circumstances last Thursday morning at Dunnellon Christian Academy, even if the school's Class of 2013 consisted of one student — Elizabeth "Lizzy" Marie Campbell.

During her farewell speech in front of family, friends and students, Campbell recalled how she struggled with being the "only" student in her grade. However, she realized God had a plan for her and no matter the struggle, she persevered. Campbell, who will attend the College of Central Florida in the fall, praised her parents, David and Denise Campbell. She also thanked her many instructors throughout the her time at DCA.

"I realize the sacrifice they made to make sure I received a great education," she said as the tears began to well up. "Thank you to all of my teachers who really made a difference in my life."

During the brief ceremony to honor Campbell, Principal Kristy Nelson offered words of encouragement from well-known figures such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Rev. Billy Graham and George Washington Carver.

Nelson also read a letter prepared by Pastor Russ Randall

See FLIGHT page 16



Photos by JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

ABOVE: Dunnellon Christian Academy senior Elizabeth "Lizzy" Marie Campbell attempts to compose herself during her farewell speech to staff and students. BELOW: Campbell prepares to present roses to her mother, Denise, while her father, David, looks on.



Voluntary Pre-K, kindergarten registration open

District calling all 4-, 5-year olds

There's no better time than now to register children for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten classes this summer and regular kindergarten classes this fall.

Parents can register their children at local elementary schools at any time. They can complete and print online forms to bring with them to save time in the waiting line. Currently, more than 3,120 kids attend kindergarten in Marion County Public Schools.

Forms are available under the "Student Enrollment" option in the "Parent Information" tab at www.marion.k12.fl.us.

Summer VPK (Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten) classes are available from 7:39 a.m. to 5:20 p.m. June 10 through Aug. 1 at 10 elementary schools: Belleview, College Park, Dunnellon, East Marion, Fessenden, Greenway, Madison Street, Maplewood, Marion Oaks and Oakcrest.

To participate in VPK, children must be 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2013, a Florida resident, and not participated in a VPK school-year program.

Free breakfast and lunch are part of the VPK program each day, along with a snack. Parents must provide their own transportation for summer VPK programs and obtain a VPK Certificate of Eligibility from the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County at 352-369-2315.

To register, parents must provide the student's original birth certificate, two "proof of residency" documents (not including a driver's license), physical and immunization records and the child's social security card (optional).

To attend kindergarten starting this August, the same rules apply.

To register for kindergarten, parents should complete the online form mentioned earlier, print it out, and bring it with them to their neighborhood school.

For more information, call your nearest elementary school or call the K-12 Academic Services Office at 352-236-0500 or the Title One Office at 352-671-4171.

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

DMS students, staff end year

Today is the final day of school at Dunnellon Middle School and

throughout Marion County. On the final day of school, DMS students will complete their CEOCE exams for Blocks No. 5 and 6 and enjoy an early release from school at 1:40 p.m. as they begin their summer vacation.

The final report cards will be ready for pick-up June 27 at Dunnellon Middle School. To confirm report cards are available, call 465-6720.

Of course, we cannot end our final article be-

fore summer break without bragging about our students.

We begin with congratulations to Tyler Bryden, seventh-grade student, who was nominated to represent Dunnellon Middle School as the "Most Improved Math Student" at the PRISM Awards and won the district title.

Bryden wrote an essay describing, "Why Math and Science are Important." He won \$125 and the opportunity to go to the Math and Science Camp this summer.

Trevor Vonselger, also a seventh-grade

student, was DMS' nominee for the "Most Outstanding Math Student" for PRISM Awards. He met with some very stiff competition and represented himself and DMS very well. Vonselger received an opportunity to go to the Math and Science Camp this summer. We are extremely proud of these young men and their academic accomplishments. Thank you for your commitment to your education and love of math.

Thank you to the Florida Department of Forestry for its donation of 50 long-leaf pine trees to Mr. Allison's seventh-grade students

See SMALLRIDGE page 16

Romeo PRISM winners



Special to the Riverland News
The Marion County School District recently hosted its annual PRISM Awards recognition ceremony. PRISM, which stands for Promoting Regional Improvement in Science and Math, recognizes outstanding math and science teachers and secondary students. Romeo Elementary School teachers Stacey Crowder was selected for her math instruction and Julie Peterson for science instruction. The elementary science teacher selected as most outstanding for Marion County was Peterson, who will be presented with a cash award at a school board meeting in the fall. Their spouses were able to join them for the night with hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Pictured, from left, are: Julie Peterson, Tim Peterson, Stacey Crowder and David Crowder.

Field Day of Fun



Photos by JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Romeo Elementary School students compete in scooter races Friday during the school's annual Field Day event. School-age children competed in a variety of fun-filled events throughout the morning or afternoon as they celebrated the end of another school year. Marion County schools let out today for summer break. Schools will resume in August.



ABOVE: Lindsey Gunn, foreground, Brooklyn Adams, middle, and Payton For, participate in a tug-of-war Friday with classmates during Romeo Elementary School's annual Field Day events.

RIGHT: A student races toward a teammate in a watery fun-filled event.

BELOW: Macie Dewitz, middle, receives advice from Ashley Segarra, a volunteer from Dunnellon High School, at the "Clam Diggers" station as Charlie Foley fishes for "clams" with one foot. Students had to fish a "clam," or marble, out of the soapy water.



ABOVE: Drops of water fly through the air after Romeo Elementary student Sarai Hernandez wrung out a sponge soaking a classmate. **BELOW:** Shyla Pyles smiles as she is doused with water by a classmate.



FLIGHT

continued from page 14

of First Baptist Church. Randall was unable to attend the ceremony he typically presides over, but offered words of encouragement and advice.

"Today is a defining moment," Randall wrote. "They rarely happen without support and encouragement of others around you such as your parents, David and Denise Campbell. They, along with you, have always been an important part of our lives here at the church and the school."

Randall, in his letter, told Campbell the world might tell her to seek fame and fortune.

"They will not bring you peace and joy," he wrote. "Follow what Jesus wants for you; not what the world tells you. You will have eternal rewards this world cannot understand."

After the ceremony, Campbell said she hopes to earn her associate's in science before transferring to a four-year university. She plans to major in psychology and become a licensed therapist.

"I'm a very emotional person and it's hard to regain my composure," she said of the tears she shed during her farewell remarks. "It was difficult. I probably looked silly."

"I like to help people. I like to listen to their problems and offer advice. It's always been something I've been interested in."

Horses are also another passion of Campbell's. For a number of years, she's ridden, broken and trained them.

"It's something I'd love to continue to do," she explained.

SMALLRIDGE

continued from page 14

to take home and plant. Also, Mr. Allison's seventh-grade science students have enjoyed a year of hands-on and real-life experiences with science.

Recently, the class took their studies outside and discussed forest ecology, plant identification and the importance of fire to the state's forests. This discussion continued back in the classroom as the students designed oak forest habitats, determining the annual amount of acorn yield and determining the number of a population of Gray squirrels in their ecosystems that could be supported by their oak forest. Wow.

Dunnellon Middle School would like to request the community please save your Box Tops for Education throughout the summer for DMS. This can be a great "Be There" opportunity to demonstrate charitable giving.

We would also like to request the community save its sample-sized toiletry items you may collect during the summer for our DMS SAVE Club. The DMS SAVE Club will once again prepare small gift bags of toiletries for the children of Arnette House. We thank everyone who has donated to this project the past two years. Your donations of sample-sized toiletries have made a positive impact on children who, sadly, may not have a great deal of kindness in their lives.

Summer office hours at DMS will begin Monday and run through Aug. 9. During our summer hours DMS offices will open from 8 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Offices will

be closed July 1 through July 5.

The 2012-13 year has been a very exciting and successful year for DMS. We introduced several new programs to help students build and strengthen their academic skills as well as build an understanding of the phrase "to be of good character." We strive to instill a willingness and excitement to the learning process as well as an enthusiasm toward community service and giving.

Our ROAR Program (Respect, Own It, Active Learner and Responsibility) has helped us teach our students the value of a good education and the value of being a good citizen both at school and within their community. We will continue to build our ROAR Program during the next school year as we continue to build educational skills, confidence, a good work ethic, and social responsibilities within our students.

The Student of the Month Program was initiated at DMS at the end of January. The Student of the Month program was requested by our teachers as a way to recognize students as these students demonstrate the desire to learn, display proper classroom etiquette, complete assignments on time and contribute to classroom discussions, in other words, ROAR. To be nominated for recognition by a teacher as the Student of the Month is an honor. The Student of the Month recognition program at Dunnellon Middle School will continue and will grow in the next school year.

Looking ahead for the 2013-14 school year, DMS has tentatively scheduled an Open House/Orientation from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15. Parents and students are

encouraged to visit campus, pick up their schedule and meet their teachers. Parents, this is the perfect opportunity to sign up for the Parent Portal and sign an email permission form with guidance. We will also have a representative from transportation on campus to assist you with bus passes and bus stops. It is a great night to become acquainted or reacquainted with the Dunnellon Middle School campus.

We extend a reminder to parents that seventh-grade students must have an updated vaccination record to attend school in August as mandated by the state.

As you know, DMS loves to read. Research has proven that children who read throughout the summer do better in school than children who don't. Just 20 minutes a day devoted to reading will help your child do better in school as they

open the doors of their imagination and wonder. Our "Be There" summertime tips for motivating summer reading are:

- Involve your child in picking out titles they are interested in for summertime reading.

- Visit the local library and speak with the librarian about summer reading programs and suggested reading lists your child can review and choose from.

- Have the entire family sit down and read together for 20 minutes a day or read aloud to each other. No one is ever too old or too young to be read to.

- Don't make reading a chore.

- Let your child know that summertime reading activities can be fun. Encourage your child to read about fun activities like their favorite sports, camping, swimming, etc.

- Use incentives to motivate summer read-

ing. Set a benchmark for reading that will include a reward, i.e., another book of their choice, favorite meal, etc.

As we close our final Dunnellon Middle School article for the school year, the DMS administration, teachers and support staff would like to say thank you to our students, parents and community for your support this past school year.

Finally, we would like to recognize and say thank you to our teachers and support staff here at Dunnellon Middle School. We are very proud of the contribution each and every person provides daily along with the caring guidance given to every young person who walks through our doors. We had a great school year and look forward to an exciting 2013-14 school year.

Be safe, have a wonderful, fun-filled summer and see you in August.

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International Satellite & Antenna Service announces FREE iPad promotion, gives new Hopper customers power to watch TV anytime, anywhere!

Ocala, Florida June 1, 2013— John Pearce at International Satellite & Antenna Service, Ocala's authorized DISH retailer, today announced he is offering new subscribers the choice of an iPad 2 instead of first year programming discounts for customers who sign up for the Hopper with Sling@Whole-Home HD DVR and a qualified programming package. This will give new customers a comprehensive TV anywhere experience driven by the Hopper entertainment platform. Customers can watch all their live TV, DVR recordings and On Demand shows using the popular iPad tablet anywhere. (Viewing requires Wi-Fi connection or use of Hopper Transfers™ app.) The Hopper with Sling and iPad offer begins May 22, 2013 and runs through September 18, 2013.

According to John, this offer is another example of how DISH's innovative service offerings and technological advancements are changing the way people watch TV. "Hopper with Sling transforms the TV-viewing experience by letting DISH customers access the shows they pay for on their computers, smartphones and tablets. Putting an iPad in our customers' hands gives them the tools they need to watch TV anytime, anywhere, and fully experience all Hopper benefits." DISH has developed a collection of iPad apps that enhance and extend the DISH television experience anywhere. DISH mobile apps include: DISH Anywhere™—Watch live TV, DVR recordings and on-demand programs anywhere with an Internet connection. Viewing is enabled by Sling technology built into the new Hopper with Sling. Hopper Transfers™—Move recorded television programs from the DVR to iPad for times when an Internet connection is not available. DISH Explorer™—An intuitive second-screen app for the Hopper that combines program-discovery tools, social media engagement and remote-control capabilities. DISH's apps are free to download and available from the App Store.

About The Promotion

The Hopper and iPad offer requires activation of new qualifying DISH service with 24-month agreement and credit qualification. Monthly DVR and receiver fees apply. All prices, fees, packages, programming, features, functionality and offers subject to change without notice. To qualify, customers must select the Hopper system and minimum of America's Top 120 package. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. This offer cannot be combined with promotional pricing. Offer not available in Puerto Rico or USVI. Activation fees may apply. Visit www.newdish.tv for more details.

About International Satellite & Antenna Service

John and the crew at International Satellite & Antenna Service have been selling and installing satellite and antenna systems in the greater Ocala area since 1983. Their office/showroom is located 3 miles west of I-75 on State Road 200, in the Jasmine Plaza. "When it comes to having satellite installed at you home, our customers appreciate that we do not sub-contract the work out to an out of area company. They also understand that having a local dealer can save them time and money when it comes having someone local that can guide them through connecting new TV and related services.

International Satellite & Antenna Service is an authorized DISH retailer, and provides Marion, Citrus, Levy, Lake and Sumter Counties with satellite-TV sales and installation, delivering the highest quality programming and technology with the most choices at the best value. Subscribers enjoy industry-leading customer satisfaction, the largest high definition line-up with more than 200 national HD channels, the most international channels, award-winning HD and DVR technology and International Satellite & Antenna's award winning customer service. For more information, stop by the Ocala showroom, visit their website: www.newdish.tv or call your local office at (352) 237-3811!

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PRINCIPAL

continued from page 14

part of their children's lives. "The faculty and staff are amazing to work with and I have learned so much from them. The Dunnellon community is so very kind and supportive and I will miss everyone that I have come to know so well. This is a bitter-sweet move for me."

Dickey is excited about the opportunity to open a new school.

"Very few administrators get this opportunity and I feel honored to have been chosen as the assistant principal at Legacy Elementary," she explained. "I look forward to the opportunities that this experience will bring."

To replace her, Tomy selected Carol Hall, who moves from reading coach at Oakcrest Elementary, to fill the void.

Among the other personnel moves, Tomy announced, include:

- Oakcrest Elementary — Carmen Smiley, who moves from math coach at Reddick-Collier Elementary.
- Reddick-Collier Elementary — Joe Surani, who moves from dean at Shady Hill Elementary.
- East Marion Elementary — Beth Aten, who moves from coordinator at Greenway Elementary.
- South Ocala Elementary — LeAnn Giberson, who moves from reading coach at the same school.
- Maplewood Elementary — Brian Greene, who moves from program manager of Alternative Programs at the district level.
- Maplewood Elementary — Claire Smith, who moves from assistant principal at Hillcrest School.
- Hillcrest School — Mike Collins, who moves from assistant principal at Forest High.
- Marion Oaks Elementary — Natalia Robledo, who moves from assistant principal at Sunrise Elementary.
- Sunrise Elementary — Victoria Thomas, who moves from dean of students at Romeo Elementary.
- Belleview Middle — Dorenda Westfall, who moves from dean at the same school.

Dunnellon High bookworms



BETH WOOD/For the Riverland News

The Dunnellon High School Battle of the Books team recently won first place at the countywide competition. Team members, from left, are: Media Specialist Joan Lourenco, Amanda Oram, Joseph Satiro, Tunisha Chest-Moore, Danny Rodriguez, Krista Dowling and Media Aide Rebecca Jenkins.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

New Writers Group meets first Saturday monthly

The Writers Group of Central Florida (Dunnellon), a new group open to all writers, will meet at 1 p.m. the first Saturday monthly at the Dunnellon Public Library. For information, email wgdunnellon@yahoo.com.

TOPS welcomes members, visitors

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Chapter 375 Rainbow Lakes welcomes new members and visitors. TOPS meets at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays at the Rainbow Lakes Community Center 4030 S.W. Deepwater Court, Rainbow Lakes. Take U.S. 41 to Rainbow Lakes Boulevard, 4.5 miles to the Com-

munity Center. For information, call 465-5807.

Master Choir holding auditions

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

DCF seeks volunteers for program

The Department of Children and Families in your community has been awarded a Food Stamp Par-

ticipation Grant. DCF is looking for committed volunteers with computer experience to help our food stamp customers navigate the online application process. For information, call Nora Larsen at 352-330-5517 or email Nora.Larsen@dcf.state.fl.us.

Agency needs items for homeless program

The Annie W. Johnson Senior and Family Center is in need of items for its Project Homeless program, which is designed to help the homeless with food, tents and coolers. All three items are needed at this time.

If you are able to assist us in this matter, contact the Annie W. Johnson Center at 489-8021.

Penno VFW Post plans events

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

Join us for darts at 1 p.m. Tuesdays and bingo at 1 p.m. Mondays. \$1 Hot dogs are available for lunch on those days.

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

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

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LETTERS

continued from page 7

businesses in Ocala, Crystal River and Inverness, so why not Dunnellon, especially when people have to travel through Dunnellon to get to the other Big Lot stores?

We need a major restaurant chain to locate here such as a Sonny's or TGIF, Chilies or Applebee's. If we don't build up the commercial businesses, then we'll never be able to support all the amenities needed to run a city.

Dunnellon lost out on a major corporation back a few years ago by putting too many demands on them and that was Lowes. Can you imagine the tax revenues Dunnellon could have collected from them plus all the sales tax? But, again, the previous administration thought different and they declined their offer.

We know Dunnellon is a quiet little town, which has its point, but to continue to grow with the times we need people who want the town to

prosper:

We need competition amongst the businesses that are presently here now and if this is suppressed by those businesses in operation now, then the city will never survive its present situation.

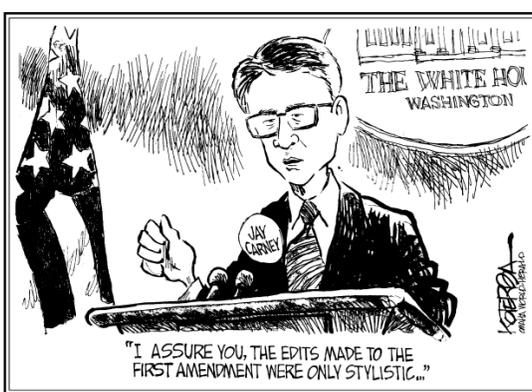
As I said in my opening sentence, I am not a politician, but when I was a manager for two telephone companies I handled millions of dollars of equipment, materials and personnel and was able to make money for the companies and the people who worked for me.

It takes a lot of planning and level thinking to make things work and make money, too. This city wasn't thinking too well in the past, but our new mayor has the right idea, so let's support him and get the city back on track.

**Thomas Christensen,
Dunnellon**

Mending fences laudable

The residents of Dunnellon made a wise choice last November in electing Nathan Whitt



as mayor. Mr. Whitt should be commended for seeking the office in the first place. He noted, when the city manager resigned, that she was "running from a burning building." That is the same burning building he willingly stepped into, and he is doing his very best to put the fire out. A tremendous amount of damage has already been done though.

The mayor's attempt to mend the broken relationship between Dunnellon and Rainbow Springs is laudable. Still, good intentions can only go so far. The lawsuit that Rainbow Springs residents have

been pursuing — subject to continuing delay tactics by Dunnellon's overpaid attorney — is needed to redress problems created by the previous administration.

The confiscatory rates that were imposed on Rainbow Springs, etc., a year and a half ago, compounded by the unwarranted surcharge, have financially stung the community's residents. The rates were obviously imposed to tax surrounding communities to shore up the massive debt and deficits of the city's finances.

The first 10 months of the new rates generated at least a \$1.5 million of

excess profit in the water and sewer account, allowing the "loan" of that amount to the failing Greenlight project.

Clearly, after the past year and a half of overcharges, Rainbow Springs customers are collectively owed millions of dollars of refunds. A court decision is necessary for that to happen, as it is also needed for permanently removing the surcharge, and for recovering legal expenses.

A court decision would also be beneficial in preventing future misapplication of surcharges by other Florida municipalities.

No one can speak for all the residents of Rainbow Springs, but it is safe to say that everyone in the development wishes that Dunnellon had never purchased Rainbow Springs Utilities, and that everyone wants the current situation to be resolved soon, and in a manner that reduces the unjust water and utility rates. I would posit that

there is more than just a "vocal minority" that recognizes the validity of, and the requirement for the lawsuit. Most people would recognize that the Dunnellon Council would not, and in fact could not, willingly refund the overcharges noted above.

Dropping the suit in return for a partial fix, or worse, for promises of a partial fix, would see the community caving in while holding a position of likely victory.

The issue is about poor business decisions and unscrupulous behavior by the previous city management. It is not about Nathan Whitt.

**Ted Apple,
Rainbow Springs**

Editor's Note: Mayor Whitt, at a recent City Council meeting, publicly announced the \$1.5 million loan given to Greenlight did not come from monies generated by utility customers in Rainbow Springs. The amount, he said, came from several years of reserve buildup from existing utility customers, mainly city residents.

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The following property will be sold at public auction per FL Stat 677.209-10 for storage and other charges for which a lien on same is claimed. Auction is June 17, 2013 at 10:00 AM at Marino's Cars & Trucks Inc, 623 N Magnolia Ave, Ocala FL 34475, phone 352-732-6011. No titles, as is, cash only
2000 MAZDA MIATA VIN# JH4NB3539Y0145432
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Interested parties, contact: State Filing Service, Inc. 772-595-9555
May 30 and June 6, 2013,
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FAITH

continued from page 1

into power in Cuba and there was a mass exodus of Cubans to Florida creating the need for more priests to this area.

"I've always wanted to work with the poor before the priesthood because of my mother," he explained, noting his mother was a nurse by profession. "She always worked with the African-American babies and the African mission. She was good."

MacGabhann especially enjoyed working with the youth. Just one of the many ways he helped them was by teaching them to organize and produce Broadway-type plays with the teens as actors, stage hands and crew.

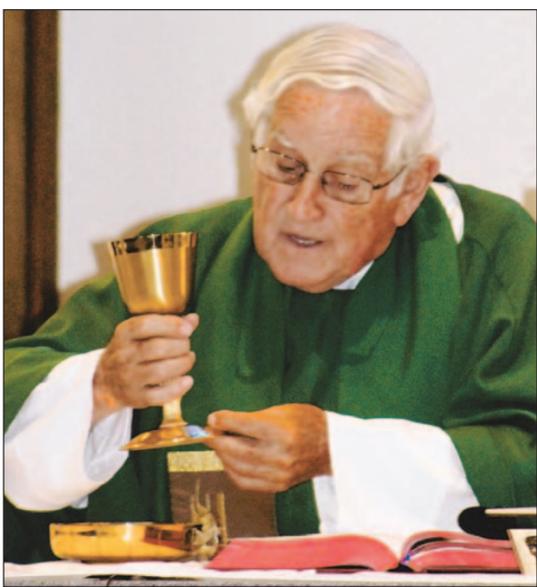
"Kevin had a good talent dealing with youth," said Father Richard Murphy, pastor of Holy Cross in Vero Beach and a longtime friend. "He is a very caring type of fellow."

Murphy and MacGabhann were just two of the many Irish priests who found themselves alone in a strange country and became friends. Not knowing each other before reaching Miami, the group supported each other like family and reminisced about Ireland.

"I came over from Ireland with about 13 others in 1965," Murphy said. "All being from the same neck of the woods, we understood their ups and downs and their good and bad points."

Father Joe Pinchock, now retired, was the pastor of St. John the Baptist Church when MacGabhann moved to Dunnellon in 2004. They actually first met 50 years ago when Pinchock was the student and MacGabhann was the new pastor.

"My family lived in Hialeah and I was in high school at Immacu-



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Father Kevin MacGabhann blesses the wine Monday prior to communion at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. Although retired, he still continues a full schedule at the church and assists at the Open Gate Retreat Center in Williston.

late Conception when I first saw Kevin with his rosy cheeks," Father Pinchock recalled. "He had the largest Catholic Youth Organization in the diocese and his plays touched so many people's hearts. The court systems respected him enough to ask for his intervention in some of their youth cases."

The Irish priests and nuns came from cold Ireland, dressed in very heavy, black garments and soon went over to a lighter, white habit after living in Florida for a while, according to Father Pinchock.

"Most of the Irish left home and family to come to a missionary land," Father Pinchock explained. "Monsignor Berry took all the Irish priests under his wing to make sure they had a good experience in America."

Father MacGabhann owns a modest home in Dunnellon and although retired, still continues a full schedule at the church and assists at the Open Gate Retreat Center in Williston.

"Father Joe (Pin-

chock) set it up in the fall of 2008 for Father Kevin to do the liturgy here," said Brother Hugh McFadden, co-director of the Open Gate. "A friendship struck up and he is like an older brother to me. He does about half the liturgy here and he is a blessing to us."

At his first service at St. John the Baptist, Father MacGabhann impressed one of the parishioners with his compassion. John Deakins was helping his wife, Beverley, prepare the church when they received a call that a 3-year-old had died and they wanted to see a priest.

"I drove father to the house a long distance away, down a dirt road," Deakins said. "He comforted the parents and related of his own experience of his sister dying and it consoled them. It was very moving."

The first variety show Father MacGabhann produced and directed in Dunnellon was in April 2005 included both the young and older parishioners. The tickets to an evening of

music, dance and laughter were quickly sold out and the audience encouraged him to continue doing the productions. Due to the serious illness of key participants, the last event was in March 2010.

"We enjoyed doing the shows because it brought laughter to everyone at a time when we all needed it," MacGabhann said.

Although retired, he has spent the past nine years in Dunnellon helping people and making an impression on them and he is still going strong.

"He is a blessing for me and the parish and whenever I knock at his door he is there," said Father Jean Desir, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church. "His faith is strong. His wisdom and humility inspires me."

Augie Salzer is a correspondent for the Riverland News. Email her at Augie@ThingsinTown.com.

GOLF SCORES

Rainbow Springs LGA Results from May 23

Tournament play was "Cross Over," individual gross and net. Consecutive scores from the back nine were compared with consecutive scores from the front nine, with the better score being used to calculate the best nine holes played. Handicaps were used hole by hole.

Flight A

First Low Gross, C. Oman, 38.
First Low Net, T. Bulson, 30.

Flight B

First Low Gross, S. Abrams, 45.
First Low Net, tie, N. Meyer/A. Carey, 33.

Greenies: C. Oman, hole No. 4, 1 feet, 6.5 inches; T. Bulson, hole No 8, 3 feet, 9 inches; T. Bulson, hole No. 13, 7 feet, 4.5 inches; T. Richard, hole No. 16, 1 foot.

Results from May 16

Tournament play was, "Blind Holes," individual gross and net. After all players had begun the round, the Pro Shop randomly selected the 12 holes — six on the front and six on the back — to be counted for the tournament.

Flight A

First Low Gross: G. Baker, 54.
First Low Net: S. Abrams, 46; second low net, J. Botzenhart, 47.

Flight B

First Low Gross, K. Guckert, 69.
First Low Net, M. Holsipple, 48; second low net, C. Boos, 50.

Chip-Ins: J. Botzenhart, hole No. 13.
Greenies: J. Villa, hole No. 4, in the hole; A. Carey, hole No. 8, 11 feet, 5 inches; J. Villa, hole No. 13, 5 feet, 9 inches; G. Baker, hole No. 16, "In the Hole."
Birdies: J. Villa, hole No. 4.



A healthier you is the first step to a healthy baby.

Baby steps to better health can deliver big results. **Before, during and even after pregnancy**, take a multi-vitamin containing **foliac acid** every day, get regular medical **checkups and screenings**, and maintain a **healthy weight** with daily physical activity and a balanced diet.



baby steps to a healthy pregnancy



To get tips for a healthy pregnancy, visit www.text4baby.org. Find parenting resources at www.ounce.org.

REWARD



Sometime between late Saturday, May 18 and Thursday morning, May 23, someone took one of our wooden canoe paddle chimes from the front porch of our gallery. We will offer a reward for the return of the wind chime, or will exchange for another wind chime, or bring it back and I will help you make a chime for you to keep.

REED GALLERY

20709 W. Pennsylvania Ave.
In the Historic Village, Dunnellon, FL 34431
Summer Hours: 11 to 4 Thursday, Friday and Saturday

Thank You, Jim & Jill Reed