

Riverland News

Thursday, September 5, 2013

Vol 31 No. 44

75 cents

City gets \$3.85M offer for Greenlight



John Pierpont



Nathan Whitt

Negotiations with Wideband Network underway

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

The acceptance last Thursday of Wideband Networks official Letter of Intent (LOI) was simply a formality by the Dunnellon City Council.

Now the real work begins as the city of Dunnellon attempts to rid itself of its financially beleaguered telecommunications system.

Wideband Networks offered \$3.85 million for Greenlight Communications and its cur-

rent customer base. Now Pierpont Consultants LLC has until Oct. 25 to negotiate and finalize the deal. As part of the deal to purchase Greenlight, Wideband Networks is offering a cash payment to cover the sales price.

"That's a really aggressive schedule," said John Pierpont about finalizing the deal. "Time is of the essence."

That would be beneficial to the city as officials must make a \$1.6 million bond payment to Regions Bank in Orlando in November, and though the

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Volunteers need for annual read-in

The 26th annual Altrusa International of Ocala Read-In will be Tuesday, Sept. 24, at Dunnellon Elementary School, and 40 volunteers are needed to read to students.

For information, call Samantha Shealy Rauba at 352-789-6520 or email samantha_rin@gmail.com.

Lake Tropicana to host Spaghetti Dinner

The Lake Tropicana Civic Association will host its annual Spaghetti Dinner from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, at the Lake Tropicana Clubhouse, 3380 SW 181st Court, Dunnellon. The public is welcome.

Advanced tickets are required and will not be available at the door. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children, 12 and younger. Tickets can be purchased from LTCA members directly, or from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursdays at the clubhouse.

For information, call 489-3923 or 465-5039, or email hall3118@bellsouth.net.

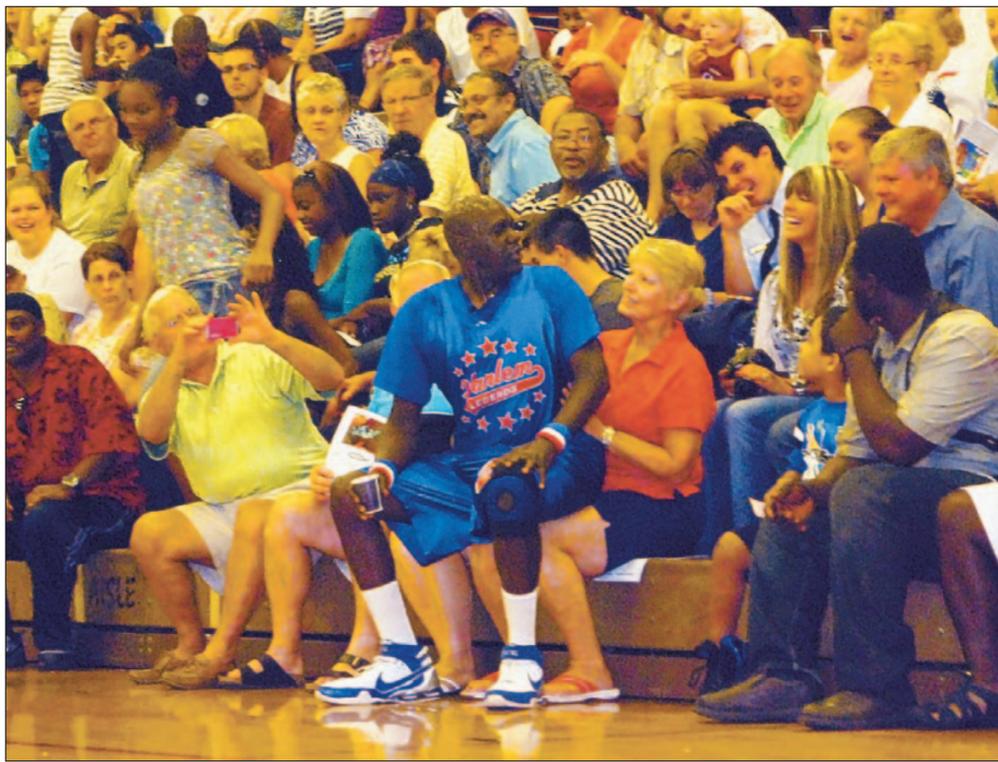
Post No. 58 plans Sept. 11 memorial

The 12th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks will be Wednesday, Sept. 11, and the American Legion Post No. 58 will host a Celebration of Life and Appreciation event at 7 p.m. at the Legion Hall, 10730 U.S. 41.

The event is open to the general public, members of the American Legion, local city, county and state law enforcement, city and county fire departments, and local city, county and state government officials. After a memorial ceremony, the Post will serve refreshments.

For information, call 489-4453.

Hoops hysteria



GAIGE EVANS/For the Riverland News

Harlem Legend Michael Douglas sits on Barb Feltner's lap during his team's contest against Christians In Action as some members of the crowd snap pictures while others laugh. The charity basketball game drew a crowd of more than 700 on Saturday night at Dunnellon High School.

Charity basketball game draws 700 for laughs, action

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

As the final buzzer sounded Saturday at Dunnellon High School, the scoreboard mattered little to the fans who watched the Harlem Legends dispatch Christians In Action (CIA).

No, indeed the thunderous applause, laughter and smiles on spectators' faces were a sure sign they had gotten their money's worth watching a handful of retired Harlem Globetrotters work their magic, not only on the court, but in the stands as well.

And for Michael Douglas, one of four retired Globetrotters to participate and the founder of the Michael Douglas Youth Foundation (MDYF), the smiles and laughter were enough for him to know it was yet another successful outing for the Legends.

"This is the best part of what I do," he said about

the smiles emanating amidst a crowd of spectators seeking autographs and photo opportunities after the charity basketball game, which benefited CIA. "To give people a chance to forget about their problems for a few hours, to come out, have fun and laugh and watch a family-friendly event. What more could you ask for?"

No one cared the end results were a foregone conclusion.

"We are able to entertain through foremost a basketball game, but we try to keep within the spirit of the Harlem Globetrotters," he explained. "And within the game, we're able to entertain both young and old."

Of course the victory is always sweet.

"We haven't lost since Lassie was a pup," he jokingly quipped. "We can play."

That wasn't lost on Team

See HOOPS page 6

Judge rules on 2 suits

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

Judge Steven Rogers granted Rainbow Springs resident Lou Benza his request and residents are getting their wish: a class-action lawsuit against the city of Dunnellon.

And in another decision, the judge denied a request by Rainbow River Conservation Inc. and a group of interveners involved in a settlement deal with the city of Dunnellon and Conservation Land Group LLC, led by property owner Jerry Dodd, their request for an evidentiary hearing.

A non-evidentiary hearing, which was sought by the city of Dunnellon and Conservation Land Group LLC, lasts up to four hours. In addition, none of the parties involved would be allowed to bring forth expert witnesses and testimony as well as new evidence discovered since the settlement was agreed upon.

In the first ruling, the first-term civil court judge approved the request Friday, after hearing a request Aug. 15 from Ralf Brookes, Benza's Cape Coral-based attorney, who will represent utility users affected by the city of Dunnellon's 25 percent charge. Brookes also represents the interveners, who include Rainbow River Conservation Inc. and a number of individuals, fighting the proposed settlement agreement involving the city of Dunnellon and Conservation Land Group LLC, which seeks to develop Rainbow River Ranch on the east side

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Resident recalls relief efforts in wake of 9/11

Brassle responded to both Pentagon, WTC sites

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

Bill Brassle had seen his share of disasters, from the bombings at the Oklahoma City federal buildings to tornadoes, hurricanes and floods and the Shuttle Columbia tragedy in 2003.

And the third-generation Dunnellon resident has seen his share of war zones, after serving two combat tours in

Vietnam during his stint in the U.S. Navy from 1965-69.

Yet, none of it prepared him for what he'd see in New York City in the days after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks toppled the World Trade Center in a matter of hours as well as the scene which unfolded at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

As the events unfolded the morning of Sept. 11, Brassle and

his co-workers watched on in horror from the Florida Salvation Army headquarters in Tampa as the second plane plunged into the second building of the World Trade Center.

However, there was little time to watch as Brassle and those who were a part of the Disaster Relief Department knew what would come in the ensuing



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Bill Brassle had seen his share of disasters, from the bombings at the Oklahoma City federal buildings to the Shuttle Columbia tragedy in 2003. None prepared him for the days after Sept. 11, 2001.

See RELIEF page 2

NEWS NOTES

Volunteers sought for hospice program

The pre-hospice program, Transitions, is in need of volunteers for respite care, friendship, transportation, errands or food preparation.

Transitions is a free community service available to anyone with a life-limiting illness. The program offers assistance during or after medical treatment for serious illnesses. Specially trained staff and volunteers provide supportive services to clients and their families.

Transitions services are available at no charge. Anyone with a life-limiting illness is eligible. Services are provided to patients in their own home, nursing home or assisted living facility.

For information, call Donna Shaffer at 854-5200.

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.

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 backpacks full of food on the weekends for needy children in the area.

For information, call 465-3666.

Writers Group meets first Saturday monthly

The Rainbow River Writers Club meets at 1 p.m. the first Saturday monthly, except January and July, at the Dunnellon Public Library, 30351 Robinson Road. All writers of all genres are welcome.

Writers hear and critique each other's creative efforts, socialize and talk shop as is the tradition and custom of all writers regardless of time or place.

For information, visit groups.yahoo.com/group/wg_dunnellon or email waltersylvester@yahoo.com

RELIEF

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hours as the towers came down.

They went to work preparing equipment and loading trucks, knowing then-Gov. Jeb Bush would dispatch the unit to either the nation's Capitol or to New York City to assist with recovery efforts.

"I had the radio on in the truck and I heard the first reports of small plane crash into the World Trade Center," he recalled about that fateful September 2001 day. "We have TVs in our facility for monitoring the weather, so we turned them on and saw the second plane hit. We went into a mode of preparation to deploy. We knew we'd be called upon. We were just waiting for the governor's dispatch."

And sure enough it came, so Brassle, the then-fleet manager of the Disaster Relief Unit and company made the long trek to Washington, D.C., driving 17 hours straight and arriving in the middle of the night. They would set up a mobile kitchen and assist others in relief efforts for the next three days.

"We were required to park next to Arlington Cemetery," he recalled. "The area around the Pentagon was very secure, we had to have escorts everywhere we went until we had proper IDs to get into the places we needed to."

"All you could see were flashlights, because most of the support equipment had not arrived yet. But once the sun came up that morning, you could see the disaster that had unfolded."

Then, Brassle and dozens of other relief workers were given orders: make the trip to New York City and to continue their relief efforts at ground zero, the site of the deadliest terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

"We went in a convoy of other disaster workers and equipment," he explained. "When we got into the city, we sat on the George Washington Bridge for two hours until police arrived, because we had to have a police escort into Manhattan."

Again, Brassle and company arrived in the dead of the night.

The sunrise shed plenty of light on the tragedy which had unfolded just five days ago.

"It was a very shocking scene," he said, adding "it was worse than a war zone."

"You can't smell the smell, you can't hear the sound" by watching television or reading newspapers he told the Tampa Tribune in its Nov. 10, 2001, edition.

"It was a war zone — this is the easiest way to explain it, a war zone with square blocks of



ABOVE: Bill Brassle was given this photo by a friend who was at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, and took this picture moments after terrorists crashed planes into the World Trade Center.

BELOW: Brassle took this photo during cleanup efforts days and weeks after the attacks occurred.



devastation."

To this day, it stands out as the most devastating disaster scene he's witnessed.

"I'd been doing this for many years — disaster work," he said. "It was the worst disaster I've ever worked, the most devastating disaster I should say, only because there were no survivors. It's the first disaster I've worked there were no survivors."

Not only does it stand as the worst disaster, the conditions in which they were required to work in as well as the lack of outside news at Ground Zero were cause for concern.

"We were scared, honestly," he explained. "We were cut off from the world. We had no communication to know if we were going to be attacked again. There were no newspapers or radios allowed, because it was such a secure area."

Even receiving supplies was a cumbersome task.

"You had to go through three sets of security as well as regular Army," Brassle explained.

"They weren't even letting vendors in the area.

You had to meet the vendors and escort them in. Certain things, such as propane for the kitchen was a big problem to obtain because authorities in New York didn't ship it. We had to have it shipped in from New Jersey and move it from place to place.

"There were a lot of logistics that had to be addressed before we could start operating in efficient manner and serve the first responders and I've worked a lot of disasters where people would line up and thank us for being there. There, it was very glum, very sad, no happiness. When they came and had breakfast, lunch or dinner, they'd quietly eat and go back on the (remains of the building)."

Worse yet was hearing the beeps from a firefighter's respiratory gear when work was halted in case a survivor had been located, but in reality, Brassle said, everyone in the area knew what the sound meant.

"It was the death of another firefighter," he explained. "It was basically how they found the bodies."

Dealing with the car-

nage of the attack wasn't the lone concern for first responders and other workers on scene. There were the unknown health-related risks they were being subjected to, Brassle explained. The acrid smell, the smoke and other potential hazards left many questioning if the conditions were safe. To ease the concerns and doubts of many, the Department of Environmental Protection Agency conducted air-quality checks frequently. However, officials later learned the numbers were incorrect.

Brassle recalls having to wear a surgical mask the first few days, but in a matter of hours, they were clogged with ash and other debris. It reached a point, he said, first responders stopped wearing them. A week later, officials then offered workers respirators; however, many didn't know how to operate the devices.

"The first 11 days I was there, I slept in the cab of the truck for two to three hours because I had to monitor equipment," he explained. "When we finished working for the day, we'd throw out clothes because they were covered

in ash. I remember taking a shower and just watching this gray water go down the drain. We all know what ash was comprised of and it was a totally shocking moment for me."

Twelve years later, Brassle said he's been diagnosed with chronic airway obstruction (COPD), asthma, chronic bronchitis, chronic rhinitis and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). He was recently approved for compensation, but it will be several years before he receives his first payment. Still, he said, the public doesn't realize there are 15,000 workers who have yet to be compensated for their health conditions, noting more than 500 people who served as first responders at ground zero have died.

"It's been tough on me personally," said the soon-to-be 65-year-old, noting he had to retire at the age of 61. "Financially and emotionally, it's been tough. I'm sure I'm not the only it's been tough on."

"You're talking guys who were in good shape, young guys too. Guys who were in their 20s, 30s and 40s who are dying of lung diseases and their families are waiting on compensation."

Despite his current health problems, Brassle said he is one of many who would have never hesitated in responding when needed.

"From my own personal standpoint, there was no hesitation on anyone's part to respond," he said. "We responded without question and fear."

But when Sept. 11 rolls around this year, Brassle will avoid watching television, just as he's done the past 10 years.

"It was rough when I got back: I was sick when I got back, from all of the smoke," he explained. "I stayed away from talking about it, I downplayed what I did there. My girlfriend, Jill, is the one who got me to come out of my shell. She was my rock, she still is my rock."

"I don't watch programs about 9/11, on 9/11. It brings back very sad memories for me: it was a very trying time for all of us, and emotionally for us."

Yet every September, he proudly wears his NYFD baseball cap.

"I wear it in honor of the thousands of lives lost that day, not just those with the NYFD, the NYPD, but the citizens who thought they'd be home in time for dinner," he explained.

Riverland News

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CITY

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purchase price won't cover all of the debt the fiber to the home program has amassed since acquiring funding in November 2010, it certainly helps, officials said.

Having the money from the sale of Greenlight Communications would allow the city to stave off declaring a state of financial emergency with the state, which Eddie Esch, interim city manager, had reported several weeks ago, but reiterated to the City Council and the public again.

Nicole Nate, of Bryant, Miller & Olive, also stressed the significance of not having to put state officials on notice.

"They could stop the sale," she explained.

Nate explained the LOI is basically a verbal agreement allowing negotiations to begin in earnest.

"It's really a tool to get this off the ground," she added.

But Pierpont Consultations LLC has plenty of work to do in the interim.

First, the City Council is hopeful Pierpont and his team can strike a deal with Wideband Networks to take control of day-to-day operations of Greenlight. Pierpont told the Council his team is hopeful it could reach a deal with Wideband Networks by today or Friday. If an Operations Agreement (OA) could be reached, the City Council would call for a special meeting again to vote on any potential deal for Wideband to take over the system.

In April, when Powell & Jones CPA unveiled its audit findings of the city's finances, the report stated Greenlight Communications was losing upward of \$280,000 per month. However, since those

findings were unveiled, staff cutbacks, among other minor cuts, Esch told the Council have lowered the city's monthly losses for Greenlight to approximately \$120,000 to \$130,000 per month.

Overall, the scope of working out a deal with Wideband Networks is "extremely complex."

"There's a lot that's going to go into this," said Esch, noting the LOI asks for the city to not engage in sales discussions with any other entity for the right to purchase Greenlight.

Overall, the city's debt for Greenlight is more than \$10 million. When then-City Manager Lisa Algieri and Marsha Segal-George, the then-assistant city attorney, reached a deal with Regions Bank in Orlando, the two, with the then-City Council, approved the deal to pledge the city's share of excise taxes.

Knowing how much debt remains with Regions Bank, Esch said, will help allow city staff to have a better grasp of budgetary concerns. City officials had a workshop Wednesday, unveiling the budget publicly for the first time. The City Council will have its first budget hearing at 5:30 p.m. Monday, before finalizing it Sept. 23. Cuts, Esch said, are going to be dramatic across the board because of the uncertainty of the financial situation.

"Everyone has been affected by this, everyone," he stressed.

SUITS

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of the Rainbow River.

The surcharge was implemented in January 2012 after city officials purchased both the Rainbow Springs and Juliette Falls' systems for more than a combined \$5 million in December 2011.

The lawsuit was initially filed Aug. 7, 2012, in the 5th Judicial Circuit Court in Marion County, Louis Benza brought the action as an individual, and as a class-action representative of approximately 1,500 former customers of Rainbow Springs Utility ("RSU") facilities (water and sewer lines and treatment facilities) all located entirely in unincorporated Marion County.

According to the suit, a statutory surcharge of "up to" 25 percent for unincorporated users available pursuant to 180.191(1) was intended to recover funds expended for the original provision of water and sewer capital facility service that is physically connected and extended to unincorporated areas.

The statutory surcharge under 180.191(1) was not intended to apply to users of a pre-existing facility located entirely outside the municipal boundaries of the city of Dunnellon when there is no physical extension or expansion of physical service connections to the city of Dunnellon.

The suit further stated no additional improvements, no additional transmission lines, no additional treatment facilities were required by the city to operate the RSU facilities located entirely

outside city boundaries and serving only non-residents.

According to the suit, no additional cost of delivery of utility services to those RSU users outside the municipal limits were incurred by the city of Dunnellon, and there were no substantial expenditures for capital improvements, which were brought about by the demand of non-city residents.

Prior to the sale and purchase of RSU by the city of Dunnellon, RSU rates were regulated by the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC). Municipal utility rates, including rates and surcharges outside municipal boundaries, and annual increases are not subject to state oversight or regulatory approval by the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC). However, municipal utility rates are subject to review by the courts under 180.191 Florida Statutes.

The suit contends the city's water and sewer rates for users of RSU facilities are more than 50 percent higher than the water and sewer rates approved by the PSC for RSU prior to the purchase of RSU by the city of Dunnellon and establishment of the new water and sewer rate, including a 25 percent surcharge by the City Council.

According to the suit, former RSU customer users were not, and are not, voters within the municipality, and have no representative(s) on the City Council to represent their interest as unincorporated nonresidents with regard to the establishment of water and sewer rate, including a 25

percent surcharge, now charged to users of RSU facilities.

The suit states the rate and annual rate increases, including a 25 percent surcharge, on all of the users of RSU is not justified by any difference in the cost of furnishing services or any prior expenses incurred by the city of Dunnellon since no connection, expansion or extension of utility lines or treatment facilities to RSU was required, and the imposition of the 25 percent surcharge is, therefore, contrary to the intent of Florida Statute Section 180.191.

The suit alleges the rate, annual increase and 25 percent surcharge on users of the pre-existing standalone RSU utility located entirely outside the municipal boundaries lacks a rational nexus to the reasonable cost of the services provided, creates an unreasonable "windfall" for the city that is unwarranted under the facts and circumstances of this case.

According to the suit, residents want the court to:

- Declare that water and sewer rates and annual increases, including

a 25 percent surcharge, established by the city of Dunnellon are unwarranted, unreasonable, and not just and not equitable as applied to users of the RSU facilities located entirely in unincorporated Marion County and not physically connected to any existing city of Dunnellon water and sewer utility lines or treatment facilities;

- Quash and enjoin any unreasonable or unwarranted rates or surcharges set for users of the RSU facilities located entirely in unincorporated Marion County by the city of Dunnellon;

- Return, refund or credit any unreasonable rates, including the 25 percent surcharge;

- Award statutory treble damages pursuant to Florida Statutes 180.191(4) (2012) (Limitation on Rates Charged Consumer Outside City Limits);

- Award statutory attorney's fees pursuant to Florida Statutes 180.191(4) (2012) (Limitation on Rates Charged Consumer Outside City Limits); and

- Any other relief deemed appropriate by the court.

Solution to puzzle on Page 10

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RIVER VIEWS

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THE OTHER GUY

Too little, too late to be angry

“Even more perplexing is the simple fact city officials, in their agreement with Regions Bank in Orlando, have pledged more than half of the city’s revenue sources if Greenlight Dunnellon Communications lays an egg. That would not bode well for services, because as we see it, the money promised to the bank if the fiber program is unsuccessful, would mean serious cuts somewhere



Jeff Bryan
Editor

along the line. As it is now, the police and fire department’s budgets combine to make up nearly the whole sum pledged to a financial institution. Is this a signal city residents should expect a merger with county officials for police and fire protection in the coming years?”
 — Riverland News, Sept. 8, 2011

an editorial titled, “Is Greenlight worth financial risk?” No one made much of those statements then. Now, I won’t admit to being a prophet and I most certainly won’t sit here and say, “I told you so.” Simply put, residents and business owners were forewarned that the then-City Council’s rubber-stamping of expenditures and expectations for the city’s telecommunications program were perhaps unattainable. With the city mired in its current fiscal crisis, the

need to sell Greenlight as quickly as possible and the likely loss of the city’s share of excise sales taxes, the inevitable is coming: Budget cuts, across the board budget cuts, which will include layoffs at City Hall and the Dunnellon Police and Fire Departments. In the past week, there’s been plenty of ire and outrage about those cuts. Honestly, it’s a shame. I have a lot of friends who work for the city of Dunnellon, folks who have seen me at my best and those who’ve seen me at my worst. Several

of them are like family to me. For those of you wondering what all of the fuss is about, the yet-to-be unveiled 2014 Fiscal Year budget will call for cuts and layoffs citywide. And folks are not just upset, they are stark raving mad. Hey, what did you expect? Most of you who are upset should be. You know folks who are going to be affected. Some might even be family members, good friends who

See OTHER page 5

LETTERS

Mayor’s logic behind rates, surcharge doesn’t add up
 In Mayor Nathan Whitt’s article of Aug. 22, he states that removing the 25 percent surcharge from Rainbow Springs water customers will cause the rate increase for in-city water customers to go from 5 percent to 11 percent. I do not understand how this can be as the two systems are not connected. Also, Mayor Whitt stated that Rainbow Springs water customers “get the administrative side of the water and sewer system for free.” Under our old, lower rates, the system owners realized administrative, operation and maintenance costs as well as, I assume a profit. Now with higher rates I can only assume that the city is receiving net income. If this income does not cover the acquisition costs of the Rainbow Springs water system, then maybe they paid too much, despite protests to the contrary.

Gene Bathurst,
Rainbow Springs

How is city going to survive fiscal crisis?

The financial audit completed April 30 showed that the revenue bond proceeds amount required was \$4,979,381, but the actual balance was \$2,448,563 for a deficit of \$2,530,818. Where will the money come from to replace this deficit? Where was the money spent? Trying to follow the finances and spending of Greenlight is impossible. The scale of the overall debt service driven by Greenlight is staggering. Operational costs can be cut back, but the debt service is unrelenting. Banks may consider restructuring once if prospects are good that the borrower has a creditable recovery plan, but then the banks must move in to make decisions for only their financial recovery, which brings us to water rates. As a utility customer who has no Public Services Commission (PSC) protection, my utility rates are controlled by the Dunnellon City Council. Using the venerable Burton & Associates Fiscal Year 2013 rate study for Fiscal Year 2014 and assuming the current approved rates go into effect, here is a comparison of city, Rainbow Springs and county utility rates on a monthly basis, which is

See LETTERS page 5



SOCIAL SECURITY (We don’t need to) see you in September

Summertime is over, and it’s time to face the fall. Hopefully, your family has enjoyed a nice vacation and you’ve had your share of fun in the sun. You may even reminisce about the popular song, “See You in September,” which was written by Sid Wayne and Sherman Edwards and made memorable by The Happenings in 1966. As children, teenagers, and young adults return to school, now is a good time for you to take a look at the books, too — whether that means starting your retirement planning, making sure your retirement plans are on track, or taking the plunge and applying for Social Security retirement benefits. But just because you have Social Security business and retirement matters to tend to does not mean you need to fight the traffic and trudge into a busy government office. We don’t need to see you (in person) in September. That’s because whether you’re working on your retirement planning or ready to retire, you can do everything from the comfort of your home or office computer at www.socialsecurity.gov. If you’ve been to our website before, you’ll notice that the new homepage is even better. We’ve revised the homepage and made it clearer and easier to use. You’ll now find what you want, without the need to read through a lot of links. If you’re starting to think about a retirement that is in the far-off future, a good place to begin is with Social Security’s Benefits Planners at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners. You can use the planners to help you understand your Social Security protection as you plan your financial future. In fact, you can



Adon Williams

learn about survivors and disability benefits as well as retirement benefits. No matter how new you may be to the working world, it’s never too early to begin planning for a sound financial future. For those of you with more years of work under your belt, get a more precise look at what your benefits will be with Social Security’s Retirement Estimator at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator. The Estimator makes use of your reported wages from past years and projects your current earnings into the future to give you an instant, personalized estimate of your future benefits. You can change the variables, such as date of retirement and future earnings estimates, to see what you can expect in different scenarios. If you’re ready to say goodbye to the daily grind of working and you’re ready to apply for Social Security retirement benefits, it’s exciting to know that you can apply from the comfort of your home or office in as little as 15 minutes. Once you complete the online application for benefits, in most cases, that’s all there is to it. No papers to sign or documents to provide. Give it a try when you’re ready to retire at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline. You have better things to do in September than to come see us. Whether you’re just beginning your retirement plans, making sure your long-term plans are on track, or you’re ready to retire, we don’t need to see you in September. Take advantage of our new, easy-to-use website at www.socialsecurity.gov. Adon Williams is the Social Security manager in Ocala.

JERSEY GIRL Trials of a teen

After spending the whole day school shopping with my granddaughter at The Oaks Mall last Saturday, I tried to remember what it was like to be a 14-year-old girl. In some ways, my teen years were a few of the best years of my life, but in others it was an emotional roller coaster. I remember the hormones were raging. One day, I would be on top of the world and the next would be pure devastation. Your best friend today would not be your friend tomorrow. You didn’t know who to trust. And if you managed to hold onto one true friend you were indeed lucky. Back then, we also had parties, bonfires, pep rallies, football games, sleepovers and hours and hours of juicy gossip. Boys seemed to be all consuming. In fact, it was hard to concentrate when the boys were around. It was around this age when I first had to wear glasses. Back then classmates made fun of each other for stuff like that. I’m glad now these things are no big deal. I would put my glasses on, but when the boy I liked would walk by, I’d snatch them off real quick. How silly that I’d rather be blind than look like a nerd. But actually I was a big nerd. I thought I was cool, but I wasn’t. I wasn’t street-smart or wise to the ways of the world. No, I was pretty sheltered. I wish I had just embraced my nerd-dom. One story that comes to mind is when, while I was in the eighth-grade, my best friend, Debby Edwards, and I told a little white lie and said we played a musical instrument so we could ride the bus to the high school. It backfired, though, when we were required to play in a music concert. We received “F’s” for that six-week period. I’m pretty sure that was the only “F” I received in all my school years. I remember being scared to enter high school. After being the big cheese in middle school, it would be difficult to go back to the bottom. What if I couldn’t find my classroom? I worried incessantly about this which is funny considering how small Dunnellon High was then. But those 3 minutes in between classes seemed very daunting to me. How were you supposed to socialize in the hallways? What if I didn’t like it? Only to be reassured on that first day that everything was going to be OK. Besides, I had my big brother who was a senior to tell me everything I needed to know. He tried to ignore me, but I wouldn’t let him. One of the highlights of my freshman year was Homecoming Week. Pageants, dressing in costumes, the powderpuff game, the school dance and senior/freshman day are fun activities I hope they still continue. I think it’s kind of neat I graduated from Dunnellon High. Likewise my two daughters did, and

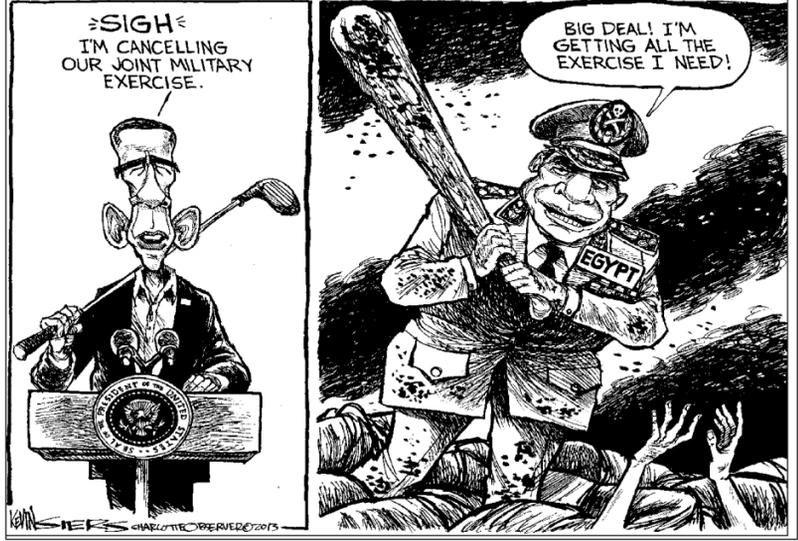


Audrey Beem

See JERSEY 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.





OTHER

continued from page 4

are like family.

The question isn't about what's going to be done. It was set in motion a long time ago.

The question is why, after being warned, didn't you step to the plate and start speaking out? Blaming the city's current administration and council members will only get you so far, because you're going to have to take a long look in the mirror this morning and point a finger at yourself. We all share in the blame for this, from the residential taxpayers to the business owners and leaders in the community.

You've idly sat by, watching from a distance as the ticking time bomb continued to its countdown. Yet, no one, not a single person outraged at the potential cuts to both the police and fire departments spoke out against the previous poor decisions being made at City Hall.

Where have you been for the better part of the three to 10 years as city officials have continually made poor decision after poor decision threatening the future of this town, your city?

How did you think this was going to turn out three years ago when the then-Dunnellon City Council approved borrowing \$7.3 million in funding for Greenlight, especially when the loan was secured with the city's share of excise

taxes?

What did you think would happen in 2007 when the then-City Council approved a comprehensive plan and two accompanying ordinances essentially creating a zero-growth policy inside the city limits?

Sure, the state mandated all municipalities statewide adopt a comprehensive growth plan, as one letter writer pointed out last week, but state officials didn't direct cities to cut off their nose to spite their face.

The fallacy here is the Dunnellon City Council, both past and current, knows what needs to be done. They know the right course of action.

The problem is they, both past and current Councils, have lacked the courage to do what is best in creating a sustainable economic engine that could have helped the city avert this current crisis.

But doing what is right, doing what is best for city residents and businesses just wasn't in the cards. Instead of making the easy choice and moving forward with plans to embrace ecotourism, they've done everything they could to negate tourism. Part of their reasoning is the fear of lawsuits from the vocal minority.

If you're so upset with the potential loss of jobs at City Hall and the police and fire departments, then why aren't you more frustrated with the City Council for not presenting a plan to help us avoid this situation in the fu-

ture?

They've been challenged numerous times, and each time they've failed to respond. They've failed to tell us, the public, how we are going to move forward, how we're going to get there and how we're going to avoid this mess in the future.

Instead, they've hidden behind the financial crisis as a shield, stating on more than one occasion, "let's get out of this mess before we move forward."

The Dunnellon City Council needs to take a close look at the cities of Crystal River and Inverness and see that not only are they tackling their respective financial crises, but they're planning for the future now.

Maybe our elected leaders need to take a page out of their books and see how to get it done.

So go ahead, be upset about the budget cuts looming citywide.

Now, maybe the residents and business leaders in the community will band together and demand more of the City Council. Perhaps, they'll demand answers, not about how are they going to resolve the financial situation, but how we're going to avoid it in the coming years.

Because mark my words, if they cannot plan for the future now, we'll be right back here again and the situation will only be worse.

LETTERS

continued from page 4

more than county rates.

County user, 3,000 gallons would pay \$53.92 while a customer using 6,000 gallons would pay \$73.93.

A city resident would pay \$59.58 for 3,000 gallons and \$73.93 for 6,000 gallons, while Rainbow Springs customers using 3,000 gallons would be pay \$67.04 and a 6,000-gallon user would pay \$119.10.

I got the Marion County rates of the available Marion County Utility rate calculator available online and it is its present rates.

However, city users versus Rainbow Springs user rates are right of the FY 2013 report. So a Rainbow Springs 3,000-gallon customer will pay \$89.52 more annually than a Dunnellon resident and a 6,000-gallon customer will pay \$158.88 more.

The spread between county rates and Rainbow Springs rates are even more severe. Bear in mind, we are not at the full 25 percent surcharge rate yet. Certainly, both Dunnellon and Rainbow Springs will pay more than a county customer. Our neighboring county — Citrus — is upset about their \$60 annual fire assessment, which may be coming Dunnellon's way if it survives.

So the staggering debt caused by the gross mis-

management and lack of oversight will continue to fall on utility customers, both in and out of the city limits.

The county is in the same enterprise money making situation as Dunnellon, but seems to be able to keep its rates reasonable — they do not gouge. The high utility purchase price and ensuing rate structure was based on revenue sufficiency to provide revenue to the city, not the true value of the utility system. Raise the rates high enough, you can pay top dollar and still have money left for city coffers. Great rate study from Burton & Associates, and the winner was Chase Utilities and the city with more money to squander.

At the heart of the problem is that Dunnellon City cannot afford the services and financial obligations it has accrued.

The Fiscal Year 2013 budget property taxes are \$853,295. The police budget alone is \$933,453 and fire department budget is \$437,579.

Inverness and Crystal River both went to county policing/fire protection. Dunnellon cannot afford city services even without the burden of the massive Greenlight debt that will certainly be left if John Pierpoint pulls off a miracle and gets anyone to buy Greenlight at any price.

The gas tax reserve may have to be used to keep the city going. The

financial "emergency" has somehow temporarily been avoided as far as state reporting to, but I do not quite understand how.

The fig leaf cover of a possible sale of Greenlight for at least \$3.85 million, plus an infusion of borrowed funds from the water/sewer enterprise funds might, on paper, circumvent the need for the emergency report for a while.

There are no plans to repay the money borrowed from the water/sewer funds under the Fiscal Year 2013 Burton & Associates study, somehow I am not surprised. I have heard the city has paid the city attorney law firm more than \$920,000 in the past 20 months. I am asking is this figure correct? If so, how come? And if it is wrong, what is the true amount?

I hope I am wrong on this amount as that would be another tough economic pill to swallow or understand.

There are so many more issues that need to be addressed and, hopefully, they will as people become more aware. So if the city does survive in the short term, can it and should it survive in the long term?

If Dunnellon disappeared and the county took over, what would be the loss to the general good?

Steve Swett,
Rainbow Springs

JERSEY

continued from page 4

now my granddaughter is there. None of the teachers I had are still there, but a few are left from my daughters' days. And, of course, it's a different building at a new location. I'm also sure it's a bit larger.

The best thing about being 14 is that you're still too young to have to worry about money, driving or serious boy problems. The worst thing about being 14 is that you're too old for Barbie dolls and getting away with acting like a child.

But you're never too old for your Nanaw to spoil you.

Teenagers are so different from when I was a kid. They are more mature and matter of fact. I think it's great how well they handle things and take it all in stride.

Racial diversity, gay marriage and even mental illnesses are learned about and accepted.

One thing we do have in common is shopping. Our school shopping trip started at 9 a.m. and didn't end until 6 o'clock that night. We sure had fun though. We didn't have cool stores like Hollister and Ambercrombie

& Fitch when I was growing up. It seems the stores cater to teenagers these days. That's probably a smart business decision.

I still can't believe she's in high school. I blinked my eyes and she was grown.

She's such a great kid though. I admire her so much. She's so cool, calm and mature while still being a kid. Her beauty inside and out takes my breath away.

To me, she'll always be that cute bundle of joy that we brought home Dec. 22, 1998. She continues to be my best Christmas present ever.

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CHURCH BRIEFS

Church plans special service

In May 1893, eight founding families met to form Dunnellon Presbyterian Church, and on Sept. 29, 1895, the original sanctuary was dedicated. Now, 120 years later, and on the 118th anniversary of the dedication of the original sanctuary, the members of Dunnellon Presbyterian Church invite the community to join in as the church celebrates the completion of repairs to the bell tower and renovation of the sanctuary.

An open house and fellowship time will begin at 9:45 a.m. including member-led tours. At 10:30, a special service will be held to honor our history and the people vital to our newest renovations. Following a short break, the formal worship service will begin at 11, wherein the members will rededicate the buildings and themselves to the continuation of the Lord's work.

Church to host guest speaker

Greg Savitt, from "Chosen People Ministries" will speak at 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15, at First Baptist Church of Dunnellon. For information, call Bess Edwards at 489-2730.

Church to host Saturday Supper

The Third Saturday Supper will be from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21, 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.

Church slates fashion show

The Episcopal Church of the Advent will host a Fashion Show and Luncheon on Oct. 5 at its facility at 11251 County Road 484, just west of State Road 200 and across from the fire station. Tickets are \$10 each.

For information or to reserve tickets, call the church office at 465-7272.

Church plans concert series

The Dunnellon Presbyterian Concert Fall Series has scheduled the following appearances. All events will begin at 3 p.m. and are free will. The church is at 20641 Chestnut St.

- Oct. 20 — Megan Thompson, singer, and Donna Topp, pianist, presenting "Two Americans in Paris."

- Nov. 10 — Dunnellon Community Chorale presents a tribute to veterans and the American flag.

- Dec. 15 — The Central Florida Master Choir will present its annual Christmas program.

Beth Israel to change locations Sept. 27

Beginning Sept. 27, Congregation Beth Israel of Ocala will meet at First Congregational United Church of Christ at 7171 State Road 200 in Ocala, southwest of Interstate 75, Exit No. 350. Services will be in the choir room of the main building, which is to the left of the lobby. The facility is handicapped accessible.

The inaugural service in the building will be at 7:30 p.m. when a special Shabbat-Simchat Torah will be led by Karen Allen, the congregation's rabbi.

For information, call Judi at 352-237-8277 or Mary at 352-861-2056.

Pastor wishes we'd all be California foils

OUT TO PASTOR

It was my pleasure to take my first trip to California. I heard many rumors about California and particularly the people there. Overall, my trip was a blessing and the people I met were truly wonderful.



Rev. James Snyder

I did, however, have an illusion of California burst. You know how it is, you hear a lot about something or someone and much of what you hear you later find out is not true. One of the first things I discovered when I got to California was that they are not as progressive as I was led to believe. Everybody thinks California is way ahead of the rest of the country. I found it not to be so.

Coming to California from Florida I discovered California is at least three hours behind Florida. This came as a shock to me. I could not believe people in Florida were ahead of people in California in anything. Truth cannot be denied when faced boldly. Also, I heard interesting rumors about the L.A. Freeway. Believe me, it is really nothing to boast about. The speed limit sign along the freeway said 65 mph. I guess that represents some of the comedy Hollywood is known for. Driving on the freeway, when I was

See **PASTOR** page 11

HOOPS

continued from page 1

CIA, which boosted a team of local talent, including deejays from Citrus 95.3 and Fox 96.7, to name a few.

"It was amazing, it was really amazing," said Joshua Murillo, a West Port High School graduate who played basketball at both the prep and collegiate levels. "This is definitely a moment in life you don't forget about. When I first heard about the game, I was hoping for an opportunity to play."

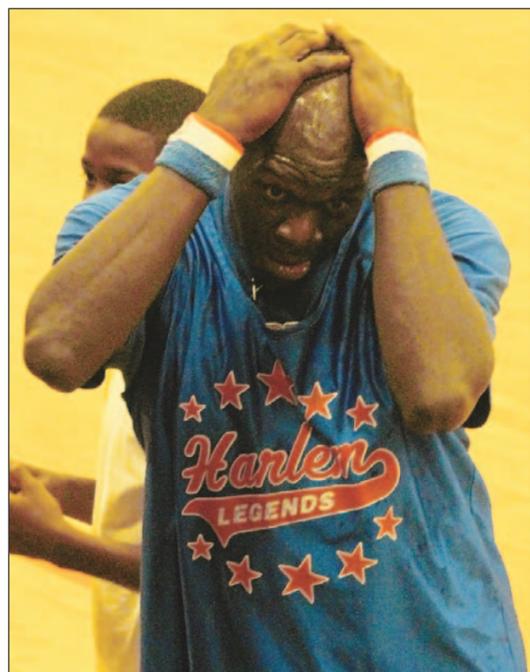
The end results didn't matter. "Of course the competitor in you wants to do well and you want to win," he explained. "But you get caught in the moment of what it is really about, and you don't even pay attention to the score."

Keeping a straight face during the antics throughout the night wasn't easy.

"Oh you cannot keep a straight face, you're laughing just as much as everyone else," he admitted. "This was a great opportunity to be a part of this, and I certainly hope they come back. I'd love to be a part of it again. This is a moment I can tell my kids and family about: I played, in essence, against the Harlem Globetrotters."

The Harlem Legends were fresh off a Friday night performance in St. Petersburg prior to Saturday's game against CIA, before heading to San Antonio, Texas, for an exhibition contest in the Lonestar State. But playing is a job, playing in smaller venues in rural America is a special treat.

"It's more intimate," Douglas said, nodding to the after-game crowd seeking photographs and autographs. "This is really amazing, because afterward we can all



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News
Harlem Legend Michael Douglas playfully mocks the crowd after a bucket of confetti was dumped on them. For more photos, see Page 8.

interact, and they can approach us and not see us as big stars who aren't approachable. That's what this is about, all coming together.

"And we love being able to support local causes. That's one of the goals of the Legends and the MDYF, it's help groups doing things in the community and supporting those endeavors."

The game featuring the Legends against the CIA served as a fundraiser for the charitable organization which provides toi-

lettries 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 are 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.

Dr. Abraham Robinson, pastor of New Second

Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, was thrilled with the success of the group's first fundraising initiative. All told, more than 700 tickets to the game were sold, as was evidenced by the packed gymnasium and delayed start of the game so attendees could make their way into the facility.

"We're really, really pleased," he said, in between the closing minutes of fourth-quarter action. "The turnout was great, far better than we anticipated. We had a goal of selling between 500 and 600 tickets. We knew if we could sell that many we'd be in great shape."

"The people who were involved this just did a tremendous job, and we cannot thank the community enough for coming out and supporting this."

Next year, Dr. Robinson said, the group is hopeful they can bring the Legends back for a rematch, but perhaps have the game hosted at a facility in Ocala.

"They put on a great show," he added. "These guys are not just nationally known, they're known around the world. It was a great opportunity to have them here, to have them be a part of what we're trying to do and have them support that."

For information about the monthly distributions of toiletries and clothing, call Geri Davis at 489-6332 or Susan Lebrun at 465-8660.

OBITUARIES

George Taylor Williams, 96

George Taylor Williams, 96, of Dunnellon, died Monday, Aug. 26, 2013, in Ocala. Mr. Williams was born in Johnstown, N.Y., to the late Raymond and Nina Taylor Williams. He moved to Dunnellon in 1992.

He was a salesman for several publishing companies including Structures Publishing, a member of the First United Methodist Church in Dunnellon, and a Mason.

Surviving family includes his wife, Adele Williams; son, Glenn Williams; 18 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorial donations to the First United Methodist Church, 21501 Hwy. 40, Dunnellon, FL 34431. Funeral arrangements are under the care of the Roberts Funeral Home of Dunnellon 352-489-2429.

Idella Burns, 81

Idella Burns, 81, of Dunnellon, passed away Aug. 31, 2013. She was born in Rockwell near Chatmire.

Her husband, Clinton Burns; eight children; 26 grandchildren; 7 great-grand children; and a host of cousins, nieces, and nephews, survive her.

Visitation will be at the Mount Olive Baptist Church, 1775 W. J. Williams Lane in South Dunnellon, Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013, from 6 to 7 p.m. The memorial services will be at North Oak Baptist Church, 9324 North Elcam Boulevard, Citrus Springs, Saturday, Sept. 7, 2013 at 11 a.m., the Reverend Eric Cummings presiding. Interment will follow in Holder Carnegie Funeral Home of Chiefland, is handling arrangements.

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Tigers tame Wolf Pack, 39-28

Sims runs wild in opener

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

OCALA — If Forest Gump would have been searching for Bubba on Friday night, he wouldn't have had to look any farther than West Port Stadium and the Dunnellon High School backfield.

That's because Devin "Bubba" Sims wasn't hard to find, but he was difficult to stop as the Wolf Pack defense can attest to.

The 5-foot-11 junior back paced the Tigers rushing attack, amassing a career-high 241 yards and one touchdown on a game-high 35 carries.

"First off, the credit goes to my offensive line for doing a great job and opening holes for me," he said. "They played great tonight and I can not say enough about their performance."

But it was Sims and the Tigers' third-quarter efforts which sealed West Port's fate allowing Dunnellon to win its fifth-straight season-opener, 39-28, in coach Frank Beasley's nine-year tenure.

After falling behind 28-20 with about nine minutes remaining in the third quarter when the Wolf Pack's returned a blocked field goal attempt 60 yards, that the Tigers refocused and went about their business.

Dunnellon responded with a five-play, 65-yard drive capped by Justin Hamm's 15-yard scoring catch from sophomore quarterback Kobie Jones that pulled the Tigers to within 28-26 with less than seven



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Dunnellon running back Devin "Bubba" Sims moves around a pair of blockers as he looks to move the ball upfield Friday night against West Port. The junior back rushed for 241 yards and one touchdown on 35 carries.

minutes left in the period.

Then Dunnellon's defense stepped up, recording the first of three second-half turnovers when LD Thomas picked off, setting the Tiger offense up at the West Port 44-yard line.

Four plays later — all carries by Sims — and Dunnellon had staked itself to a 33-28 lead with 5:05 left in the third quarter. Sims capped the scoring drive with a 15-yard run for his lone score of the contest, which proved to be the difference.

The extensive workload caught Sims off guard in his first varsity start.

"I certainly wasn't expecting to get the ball as

much as I did tonight," Sims said. "My main concern was just moving the ball forward and hanging onto it."

Beasley credited offensive coordinator Tommy Sutton and his offensive staff for creating a solid game plan to exploit holes in the Wolf Pack's defensive unit. Overall, the Tigers gained 406 yards of offense, with 313 yards coming via their rushing attack.

"Our goal was to certainly pound the ball, get first downs and chew up the clock," said Beasley, whose team didn't turn the ball over once while forcing four turnovers of their own, all in the critical second-half surge. "The

See **TAME** page 10

BOWLING SCORES

Parkview Lanes
Weekly News
League scores for the week ending Sept. 1:
Monday Night Special:
Handicap: Larry Fritz 276; Bill Levert 264, 749; Chris Carr 264, 746; Michelle Shirley 304; Lori Ciquera 290, 769; K.C. Cridland 733. Scratch: Larry Fritz 265; Chris Carr 259, 731; Bill Levert 656; Michelle Shirley 258; Lori Ciquera 254, 661; K.C. Cridland 679.

Scratch Challenge: Bobby Craft 278, 672; Chris Carr 243; Tim Lawrence 632; Lori Ciquera 193, 515; Kim Mullis 179, 513.

Wednesday Night Men:
Handicap: Dennis Bonnell 284, 764; Jay Willet 283; Sean Fugere 762. Scratch: Phil Spencer 279; Dennis Bonnell 278, 746; Sean Fugere 759; Phil Spencer 734.

Holder Hotshots: Handicap: Rich Williams 289, 795; Mike Serrano 288; Joe Markham 760; Dawn Dearlove 266, 736; Carolyn Handley 262; June Williams 725. Scratch: Rich Williams 257, 699; Mike Serrano 220; Jerry Ness 578; Dawn Dearlove 209, 565; Carolyn Handley 182; Diane Mauck 462.

Bowlers of the Week: Dawn Dearlove, 76 pins over her average, and Rich Williams, 135 pins over his average.

League scores for the week ending Aug. 25:

Monday Summer Special:
Handicap: Rich Lieval 268; Wes Foley 263; Sy Leiner 743; David Rogers 733; Joann Wayne 262, 752; Beverly Tidwell 262, 735; Bridget Foley 256. Scratch: K.E. Conrad 237, 582; Wes Foley 236; Eddie Corbitt 580; Bridget Foley 170, 470; Michelle Shirley 169, 471.

Tuesday Summer NoTap Tourney: Handicap: Robert Bennett 871; Ken Meldrum 839; Shorty Williams 818.

Wednesday Night Men:
Handicap: Bill Levert 296; Sean Fugere 279; John Schott 783; Gary Brown 777. Scratch: Sean Fugere 278, 736; Joe Barrera 252; Phil Spencer 700.

Holder Hotshots: Handicap: Billy Liik 313, 770; Ted Apple 277; Dick Regan 748; June Williams 263, 727; Edith Regan 260; Clara Myers 717. Scratch: Billy Liik 256, 599; Rich Williams 580; Edith Regan 196, 510; Dawn Dearlove 182, 523.

Bowlers of the Week: June Williams, 67 pins over her average, and Billy Liik, 110 pins over his average.

SCOUTING REPORT

DUNNELLON VS. CITRUS

- **WHEN/WHERE:** 7:30 p.m. Friday at Ned Love Field.
- **RECORDS:** Citrus 1-0; Dunnellon 1-0.
- **LAST WEEK:** Citrus throttled Springstead, 42-14, its season-opener at the Citrus Bowl; Dunnellon stymied West Port, 39-28, on the road.
- **WHO TO WATCH:** Citrus QB Deion Moore was 7 for 10 passing for 128 yards and one interception, and chipped in another 52 yards on four rushes against the Eagles. RB Breon Whaley 10 carries, 72 yards and two TDs. Defensively, the Hurricanes forced a pair of interceptions and one turnover. ... Dunnellon QB Kobie Jones was efficient and effective at guiding the Tigers' offense. The sophomore signal-caller was 6-of-10 passing for 93 yards, two scores and no turnovers. RB Devin "Bubba" Sims rushed for a career-high 241 yards and one touchdown on 35 carries. RB Kane Parks had a pair of TDs in the Tigers' victory, scoring on a 33-yard run and a 35-yard reception. Defensively, Dunnellon forced four turnovers, as DB Anthony Small returned an interception 32 yards late in the game.

Golfer records first ace



Special to the Riverland News

Dave Farrell, middle, recorded a hole-in-one Aug. 29 on hole No. 9 at Rainbow's End. Witnesses were Jimmy Hawkins, left, and Tony Winter, right. Farrell hit a 7-wood on the 149-yard, par 3. He has been playing for more than 30 years, but this was his first hole-in-one.

Purple Pinkie Peanut 5K slated

CAROLYN TEN BROECK
For the Riverland News

Sometimes ideas that start out as personal goals mushroom into bigger ideas that can benefit a community.

That's what happened when Justin Head, a Williston native and Rotarian, decided he wanted to run a 5K race.

About four months ago, Head set a goal, downloaded an iPhone app called "Couch to 5K" (C25K) and began an eight-week program that, if completed, would have him physically ready to compete.

Those 30-minute, three times a week, workouts paid off and sure enough by the end of the eight weeks he was running 3.1 miles and ready to

compete.

The only problem? There wasn't a 5K race around.

Shortly after that, during a Williston Rotary Club meeting, members were brainstorming ideas to grow the membership and promote the upcoming Peanut Festival.

That's when Head and Chris Cowart, fellow Rotarian, threw out the idea of a 5K race to coincide with the annual Williston event.

The Purple Pinkie Peanut Run will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 5 right before the Peanut Festival kicks off.

Preregistration is underway and will continue through Sept. 20. After that date runners will still be able to race,

but there is no guarantee of a commemorative T-shirt.

Head pointed out this is not a highly competitive event.

"It's about having fun," he said.

Four prizes will be given at the end of the race: fastest male, fastest female, oldest entrant and youngest entrant.

Entry fee is \$25 through Sept. 20 and \$30 after. The race will begin at the north end of Heritage Park, Head said, and aid and water stations will be available. Register at www.active.com.

Not up to the 3.1 miles? You can also walk/run in the one mile event, he said.

"Our goal is 100 runners," Head said.

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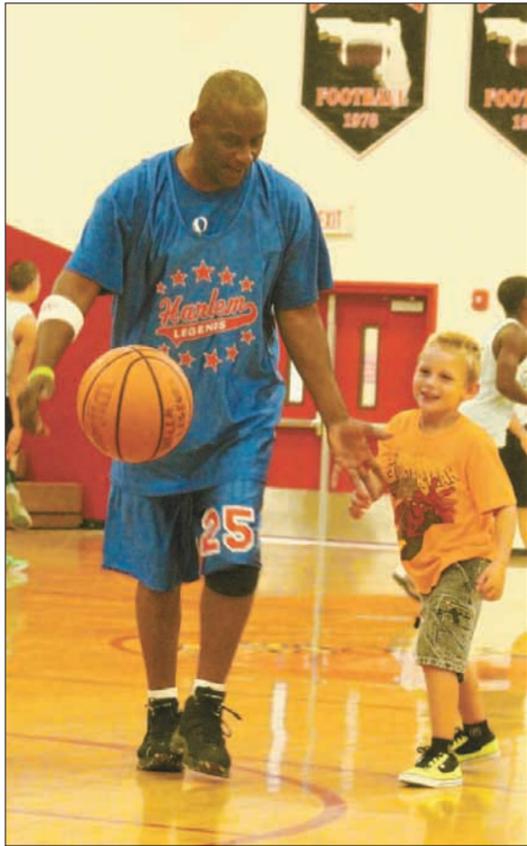
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Hoops hysteria



Photos by JEFF BRYAN and GAIGE EVANS/Riverland News

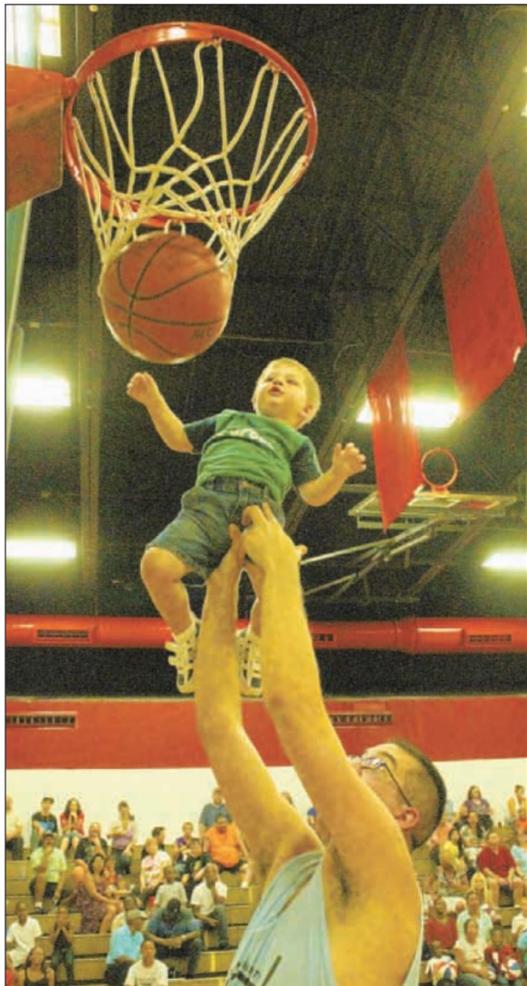
Steven Robinson (2) with Christians In Action soars through the air on an attempted alley-oop dunk against the Harlem Legends, which kept the team of local athletes at bay during the charity basketball game Saturday at Dunnellon High School.



ABOVE: Larry "Shorty" Coleman, left, jokes around with Mason Hendrix, 5, during pre-game warm-ups against Christians In Action.
BELOW: Anthony Voisinet lifts his son, Zachery, 2, to the hoop during a halftime shooting contest at the game.



ABOVE: Kevin Sanford, left, jokes around with the referee prior to tipoff of the Harlem Legends charity basketball game.
LEFT: The Harlem Legends introduce the crowd to the newest honorary member of their team.
BELOW: Two-year-old Emma Walters tries to get a dance with 14-month-old Xavier Johnson Jr. during halftime of the Harlem Legends charity basketball game as Johnson's mother, Nina Simmons looks on.



DHS harriers prep for start of season

LAURA RILEY

For the Riverland News

September marks the beginning of the high school cross country season for prep teams across the state, including Dunnellon.

Valerie Bazarte will coach the boys for the third consecutive year, while Roger Sibbald enters his

first year as the girls' coach.

"We have a great group of kids with a lot of determination," Bazarte said, noting her team goals are to have at least five of her boys qualify for regionals, which would be the second straight year the Tigers accomplished the feat.

Senior Kevin Hanson,

she explained, is a runner to watch. Last year, Hanson suffered severe cramps during regionals, but has his sights set on qualifying for the state meet, much like Victor Chicas accomplished a year ago.

The girls team is comprised of three runners — Courtney Pike, Laura Riley and Taylor Volker. A

small team has become the norm for the Lady Tigers in previous seasons, but Sibbald views it as a positive. "A team such as this allows for much more individualized training than on a larger squad," he explained.

Dunnellon will compete at 5 p.m. Tuesday at the Lake Weir Invitational.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

State park to host special event

Rainbow Springs State Park will participate in National Public Lands Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28. The event, titled "Fun in the Sun," will also feature a drum circle.

The event will allow participants to visit with rangers, see educational exhibits, live animal displays, guided tours and discuss volunteer opportunities with Rainbow Volunteers. Everyone can participate in the Sidewalk Chalk Free for All. The drum circle will feature dancers, extra drums and some fun items for the kids.

Admission to the park is \$2.

For information about the Drum Circle, email b.seth@gmail.com.

For information about the "Fun in the Sun" event, call 465-8555.

AARP Driver Safety Classes slated

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

Bring your AARP card with you.

The course will be from 1 to 4 p.m. Sept. 12 and 13 at the Marion County Sheriff's Substation on U.S. 41. Class size is limited and reservations are required.

For information or reservations, call 465-6359.

The course will also be offered from 1 to 4 p.m. Sept. 24 and 25 at the Rainbow Lakes Estates Clubhouse, north of Dunnellon. Class size is limited and reservations are required.

For information or reservations, call 489-1574.

Knights plans dinner dance

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor an Oktoberfest Dinner Dance at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, in the parish hall of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. The event will feature German cuisine, a cash bar and entertainment by Joe Koons. Doors open at 5:30 with dinner served at 6:30. There will be a door prize, a 50/50 raffle and basket raffles. Tickets are \$15 each and are available from the Knights or the church office at 7525 S. U.S. 41 in Dunnellon.

For information or to reserve a table for party for 8 to 16, call 489-6221.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Church men's club to play horseshoes

The Men's Club of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church will play horseshoes at 9 a.m. Wednesdays at the church.

Horseshoes will be provided to anyone needing them and instructions in pitching, scoring and court maintenance will be provided. The public is welcome.

For information, call 489-5954.

Golf course hosting multiple events

Rainbow's End Golf Course's Tuesday Twilight League has begun. The points game starts at 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays, running through October.

Entry fee is \$20 and includes fees, cart, closest to pin prize, year ending championship and three-place payout prizes.

The event is open to all players. Show up by 5:15 p.m. and the pro shop will establish your points quota. Also, a side skins game is available. The event is limited to the first 40 players.

The next Night Golf event will be at 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21. An optional nine-hole skins game starts at 5 with dinner at 7. Cost is \$35 per player. The event is limited to 12 teams.

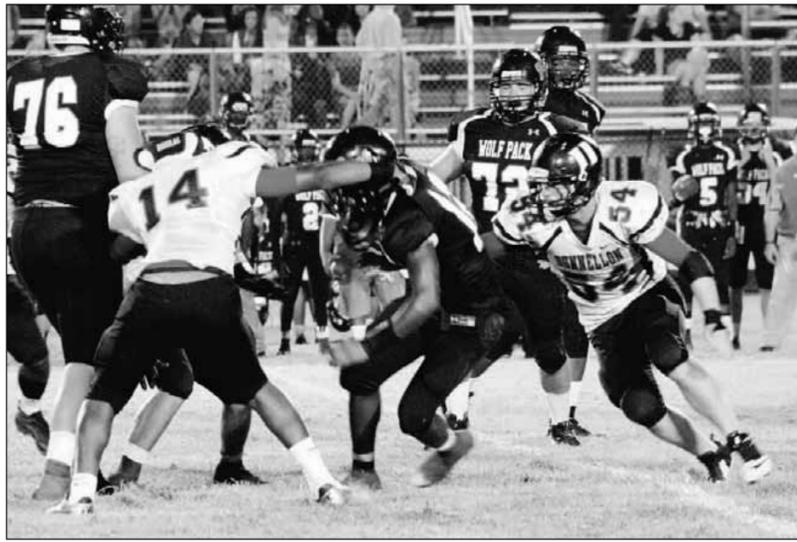
Junior Thursday is now underway for children, ages 5 to 13. It starts at 5:30 p.m. Junior golfers can play three holes for \$5, which includes a hot dog and soda.

For more information or to sign up, call 489-4566.

Group to host charity golf tournament

Human Trafficking Prevention.Org will host its second annual charity golf tournament Oct. 11 at the Ocala Golf Club, 3130 E. Silver Springs Blvd. Human Trafficking Prevention.Org, a non-profit organization, is a rescue and recovery group that proactively works worldwide to rescue victims from slavery and return them home.

For more information, visit Breaking Outs website at www.breakingoutcorp.org or call 866-224-2888.



Dunnellon defenders Zahid Hujurat (14) and Cole Fagan (54) bring down a West Port ball carrier during fourth-quarter action of the Tigers' 39-28 victory against the Wolf Pack.

Photos by JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

TAME

continued from page 7

credit goes to coach Sutton and the offensive staff for coming up with a great plan.

"Bubba certainly set the bar very, very high for what we expect out of him this season. He played great tonight. The whole team played great, and I'm proud of them and the coaching staff."

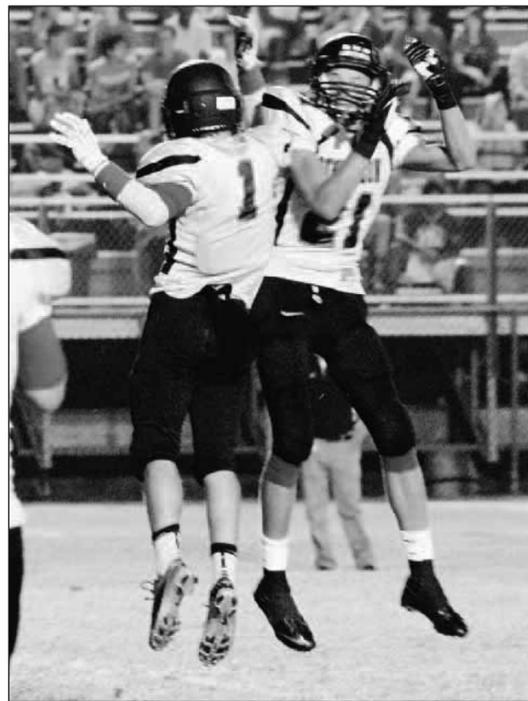
But there were times, especially in the second quarter and the opening minutes of the second half when it appeared West Port might finally have the Tigers' number.

After storming out to a 14-0 first-quarter lead on a pair of Kane Parks' touchdowns (one rushing and one receiving), but thanks to a 28-yard touchdown reception by Dhryromi Maxwell on a crucial fourth-and-10, the Wolf Pack cut their deficit in half, 14-7.

Dunnellon struck again, driving 57 yards in seven plays taking a 20-7 lead on Jones' 1-yard plunge into the end zone.

However, the momentum quickly switched in favor of West Port when Quandre Woods scored back-to-back touchdowns — the first on a 78-yard kickoff return after Jones' score — and the second on a 3-yard run, with 4:40 remaining in the second quarter, giving the Wolf Pack to a 21-20 lead entering the half.

And in the opening minutes of the second half, it appeared the Tigers had stymied West Port's momentum when Dunnellon forced a turnover and moved



Running backs Justin Hamm (1) and Josh Williams (21) celebrate after Hamm's third-quarter touchdown reception against West Port.

within field goal range. However, the Wolf Pack blocked Dunnellon's attempt and Jalen Smith recovered the block and returned it 55 yards for a score, boosting their lead to 28-20.

But West Port's second special teams score of the game seemingly sparked the Tigers.

That's when Hamm and Sims scored, and the Tigers' offense went into ball control mode.

Dunnellon maintained possession of the ball for more than nine minutes before the Wolf Pack stopped a Tiger drive at the 33-yard line. Dunnellon forced a punt, was again stopped on downs, but the Tigers sealed the

victory when Anthony Small intercepted a pass and returned it 30-plus yards.

"That's how games go with momentum swings," Beasley said. "We had the momentum in the first quarter, then they took over in the second quarter and part of the third. But we also teach our kids it's about what team can ride that momentum out and what you do afterward."

"Once we got that lead, we were able to grind it out like we know we're capable of. Again, I cannot say enough about our kids' effort tonight. They played great, the coaches prepared a great game plan and we executed."

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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			8		4			9

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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Horizon of Hope luncheon slated

Special to the Riverland News

The seventh annual Horizon of Hope Luncheon will be at noon Saturday, Sept. 14, at the Citrus Hills Golf and Country Club in Hernando.

Doors open at 11 and lunch will be served at noon. Tickets are \$25 and include lunch, a live

auction featuring "designer" purses, silent auction items, raffles, door prizes and other goodies.

Alma Tankersley will host the event, which benefits the Michelle-O-Gram Foundation, which provides assistance to women who are either uninsured or under-insured for both screening

and diagnostic mammograms as well as breast ultrasounds.

The Michelle-O-Gram was founded 3 1/2 years ago following the death of Michelle Blausler Standridge, a wife and mother of two boys. She was a victim of breast cancer. While fighting her battle, Standridge was constantly remind-

ing women of the importance of getting their mammograms.

The Michelle-O-Gram has already assisted nearly 600 women at a cost of more than \$125,000.

For information or to purchase tickets, call Diana 352-527-8831 or the Michelle-O-Gram message line at 352-690-6006.

Labor Day relaxation



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Tubers and other recreational users flocked to the Rainbow River during Labor Day weekend to enjoy the unofficial end of summer. Tubing, kayaking and canoeing are popular events for recreational water users.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Friends of Library to meet Sept. 10

The Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10, in the meeting room at the Dunnellon Public Library at 20351 Robinson Road. For information, call 438-2520.

Women's Club meeting slated Sept. 12

The Women's Club of Dunnellon will meet at noon Thursday, Sept. 12, at its Clubhouse at 11756 Cedar St. Eight new members will be initiated. There will be a busi-

ness meeting and plans will be made for the upcoming year as well as a potluck luncheon.

For information, call Joan Lindell at 465-3249.

Community Chorale to host concert

The Dunnellon Community Chorale rehearses at 3 p.m. Mondays at the Dunnellon Presbyterian Church, 20641 Chestnut St.

The Community Chorale will host a tribute to veterans and the American flag at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 10, at the church. The American Legion Post No. 58 Color

Guard will begin the program, followed by patriotic music, including a special tribute to World War II.

For information, call Judy at 489-2682.

CF to host local musician

Mark Johnson of Dunnellon will bring his music to the College of Central Florida as CF hosts the "Clawgrass" music of Mark Johnson and Emory Lester, at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 6, in the Charles R. Dassance Fine Arts Center at the Ocala Campus, 3001 SW College Road.

A second performance is slated for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, at the Citrus Learning and Conference Center, CF Citrus Campus, 3800 S. Lecanto Highway.

For information, call 352-873-5810.

Boys & Girls Clubs seek donations

Many Boys & Girls Clubs are benefiting 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.

PASTOR

continued from page 6

moving, I almost hit 15 mph. For a state so concerned about global warming, they allow their cars to sit on the freeway doing nothing but blowing exhaust into the sky.

In the state of Florida, an old geezer will not get in his car unless he can hit 70 mph, along with other things.

I must admit those California people on the L.A. Freeway were very friendly indeed and much to my surprise, quite religious. All of them were greeting me in a very husky voice and then pointing me toward heaven. They actually were encouraging me to go to heaven.

Of course, in all the anxiety of the L.A. Freeway, they got their fingers mixed up and instead of using the index finger, used another finger. That is beside the point. The important thing is they wanted me to go to heaven. Of course, as I think of it now, maybe they wanted me to go to heaven at that moment!

During my visit, friends took me to several Mexican restaurants. For the first time in my life, I had what is called a taco.

How they come up with these names I will never know.

An interesting thing about a taco is that whoever prepares it, does not actually prepare it. When my taco came, it was all over my plate. There were little piles of this ingredient and that ingredient and then something folded up on my plate, which was the taco shell.

What I was supposed to do was "build" my own taco. Never having done such a thing in my life I covertly glanced around to see how my friends were "building" their taco. I tried to do the same.

I got all the ingredients on my taco shell, rolled it up, folded it and then looked around to see what I was supposed to do next. Is this finger food? Should I be using a fork or a spoon?

I noticed everybody at the table picked up their taco as though it was fin-

ger food or maybe a sandwich. Actually, I am not sure what a taco really is. Therefore, not to be the odd guy at the table I picked up my taco and took the first bite.

The taco I built was rather cantankerous. As soon as I bit it, all the ingredients in that taco deserted the taco shell and went back to the plate. Now what was I supposed to do? As discreetly as possible, one of my friends at the table slipped me a fork. I do not know if you are supposed to eat a taco with a fork, but I did, so arrest me!

On my last day, I went to my hotel front desk to see if I could find another restaurant in the area for my last meal in California.

I told the person at the front desk that I had eaten at some Mexican restaurants and was wondering if she could recommend a non-Mexican restaurant in the area.

She smiled at me and said, "Sí, señor."

She caught me off guard so I spun around but did not see any seniors behind me. I turned back and asked again if she could recommend a non-Mexican restaurant.

"Sí, señor." Again, I turned around and as true as I am telling this, there was nobody behind me, especially a senior. Then it dawned on me. She was speaking Spanish. After all, this is California.

I understand that "Si" is the Spanish word for the English word "yes."

I did not let on, however, but I was slightly offended by her calling me a senior. All she had to do was just say "yes, sir." That would have made me happy.

It is important to hear but more important than that to hear the right thing. After all, some of the stuff we hear is not worth hearing let alone repeating.

The apostle Paul set this down for us. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17 KJV).

My faith is not based upon any rumor but upon the Word of God.

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Today's New Ads



Rainbow Lakes Estates 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Pool home on almost a half acre. Newer roof, a/c, flooring, etc. in last 1-7 years. Owner-finance considered. Regular sale. \$89,900. 21376 SW Plantation, Dunnellon. Mike McGuire, Arthur Kowitz Realty, 386-871-4901.

WANTED! (HAM Radio Equip.) Vintage or Modern, tubes, tube audio amps, speakers, test equip. call Ethan 775-313-2823

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Lost AT & T Cell Phone, Black case, near Crocks Rodeo Grill Dunnellon (352) 804-6543

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General Help

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Marion County

is accepting applications for several positions for the new center in Dunnellon, Florida. The available after-school positions include:

- Bus Driver / CDL license / Passenger endorsement
- Youth Development Specialist
- Street Smart Program Instructor
- Education Assist.
- Computer Lab Tech
- Athletics - Triple Play Instructor

Do you have a passion for working with youth? Are you interested in assisting youth with their homework? The Boys & Girls Clubs teach valuable life skills to young people, including how to live a healthy life, how to be a responsible citizen and the desire to be a life long learner. We are looking for individuals who are self motivated, energetic and creative. We are also looking for individuals who can develop and implement daily programs with enthusiasm. To apply please go to website www.bgcfmarion.com, download employment application and new 2013-2014 membership application, or email resume and cover letter to: tjackson@bgcfmarion.com

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Mobile Homes with land. Ready to move in. Owner financing with approved credit. 3Br 2Ba. No renters. 850-308-6473. LandHomes Express.com

Real Estate For Sale

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

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Auctions - Estates

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Marion County Homes



Rainbow Lakes Estates 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Pool home on almost a half acre. Newer roof, a/c, flooring, etc. in last 1-7 years. Owner-finance considered. Regular sale. \$89,900. 21376 SW Plantation, Dunnellon. Mike McGuire, Arthur Kowitz Realty, 386-871-4901.

Out of Town Real Estate

433-0905 RIV 09/19 sale PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: BIG JOE'S TOWING SERVICE INC. gives No-

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Lien Notices

434-0905 RIV 9/17, 9/19, 9/20, 9/23 sale dates PUBLIC NOTICE Notice of Public Sale:

Lien Notices

713.78 of the Florida Statutes. **BIG JOE'S TOWING SERVICE INC.** reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids. **1995 MERCURY VIN # 2MELM75W55X602631** September 5, 2013

Superior Towing/C&M Towing gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicle(s) pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. Superior Towing /C&M Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids. **SALE DATE: 9/17/13 - 1995 JEEP VIN #1Y1JK5269S2047250** Sale Date: 9/19/13 - 1996 JEEP VIN #1J4GZ58Y1TC183711 Sale Date: 9/20/13 - 2003 DODGE VIN #1D4GP44343B3055986 Sale Date: 9/23/13 - 1995 SUBARU VIN #4S3B6K655X3759747 September 5, 2013

435-0905 RIV 09/23, 09/25 Sale Dates NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE Superior Towing/C&M Towing gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicle(s) pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. Superior Towing /C&M Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids. **SALE DATE: 9/23 AT 9:00 AM AT 36 N.E. 8TH ST., OCALA, FL 34470** 2000 FORD VIN #1F1MZU735EY2A76828 **SALE DATE: 09/25 AT 9:00 AM AT 2157 NE JACKSONVILLE RD., OCALA, FL 34470** 2000 NISSAN VIN #1N4DL01D1Y1C114423 September 5, 2013

Reading critical role in Common Core Standards

Reading will be a very important part of our implementation of Common Core Standards this year. We have lead teachers who have attended several training sessions during the summer to learn new ways to teach and new materials to use to help the students.

We have expanded the Action 100 pilot reading project this year to include all of second grade. Every student



Jane Ashman
Romeo
Principal

in that program at second grade ended the year reading at or above grade level. We will need for the parents help with it to achieve the same goals.

We will make many changes this year due to the budget constraints. One of them will have parents use the computer — Parent Portal — to check their students' progress. We will only print the first interim this year. We may have to discontinue the monthly newsletter in print and move it to the school web page sometime during

the year. We are excited to have your children, and look forward to a wonderful year.

Title I Resource center

Your Romeo Parent Center is an excellent resource center for parents to obtain a wealth of information, along with useful tools and ideas needed in helping to reinforce the skills at home that are being taught in the classroom.

Parents can check out a variety of items throughout the year and learn many valuable skills that will help make your child a stronger

and more confident student. The Romeo Parent Center is available from 7:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday in the Media Center.

For information, call Jackie Landreth at 465-6700, or visit www.fldoe.org/bsa/title1/, or the District Title I Office at Howard Academy, 306 NW Seventh Ave., Ocala, FL 34475, or call 671-4175.

Box Tops for Education

Box Tops for Education are an easy way to help Romeo raise funds year round. Box Tops for Educa-

tion are on many products that you use daily and purchase weekly from the local grocery stores.

Visit the Box Tops for Education program website to find out how your contributions benefit our school. We invite you to drop off your box tops at the front desk in Building No. 1.

Schedule of events

- 6 to 8 p.m. today — Girl Scout round-up.
- 12:05 p.m. Sept. 11 — Early release day.
- 2:30 p.m. Sept. 17 — PTO meeting in the Media Center.
- Tuesday, Sept. 24 — Altrussa Read-In; 2:30 p.m. SAC meeting in the Media Center.

NEWS NOTES

DHS grads complete Air Force training

Air Force Airman 1st Class Jessica B. Anthony and Airman



Jessica Anthony



Bailey Decker

1st Class Bailey Decker graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. The airmen completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Anthony is the daughter of Tamora and Kenneth Anthony of Dunnellon.

Decker is the daughter of Toni and Patrick Ingram of Dunnellon and the granddaughter of Carol James, also of Dunnellon.

Both Anthony and Decker are 2012 graduates of Dunnellon High School.

American Legion activities slated

American Legion Wall-Rives Post No. 58 and the Women's Auxiliary meetings for September have been cancelled for September. The Post No. 58 building will be closed Sept. 3 to 5 for repaving of the parking areas.

Post No. 58 meets at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday monthly. Dinner is served at 6. Cub Pack No. 469 will meet from 7 to 8 p.m. Mondays, starting Sept. 9.

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

The outdoor flea market and pancake breakfast will be Sept. 21.

Gearing up for the big game



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Alexis Shutt, a junior varsity cheerleader at Dunnellon High School, rehearses a routine with her teammates recently as the squad prepared for the season. The Dunnellon JV football team posted a 14-7 season-opening victory against West Port last Thursday. The team plays at 6 p.m. today at Citrus High School.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Young Marines seek new members

The Dunnellon Young Marines is seeking new recruits. Interested youth, ages 8 through high school age are eligible. The Dunnellon Young Marines will meet from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 27, or Tuesday, Sept. 3, American Legion on U.S. 41 in Dunnellon. The fee to register for the first year is \$45.

For information, call Capt. Rocky Chin at 352-873-9396.

DHS' Kiddie World has openings

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

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

The Kiddie World programs offers an array of activities such as teaching centers, snack time, playground time, music, basic language skills (phonics) and math skills.

In addition, there will be an Open House from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Sept. 9. Parents should bring the following: copies of child's birth certificate, immuniza-

tion records and school release forms from their doctor, copy of health insurance cards, and any emergency contact information for the child. The first day of Kiddie World will be Sept. 10.

For information, contact Tracy Zellers at 465-6745.

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.manatee.div.org or call Commanding Officer Todd Dunn at 352-212-5473 or tdunn@manatee.div.org.

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SATURDAY: Italian Specials