

Riverland News

Thursday, October 31, 2013

Vol 31 No. 52

75 cents

Council OKs Greenlight deal



Nathan Whitt



John Pierpont

Officials, Regions Bank still in talks about agreement

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

The city of Dunnellon is about to eat \$6-plus million after its failed attempt to launch its own telecommunication system, and that's con-

tingent on the sale of Greenlight Communications to Florida Cable for \$1 million.

Florida Cable has agreed to purchase the city's financially beleaguered fiber to the home program as well as negotiate with All-American Leasing to

take over lease for the head-end equipment. Currently, the city owes slightly less than \$1 million on the current lease.

But the \$1 million potential sales price is nowhere close to the \$7.3 million the then-City Council approved in No-

vember 2010 when financing was secured through Regions Bank in Orlando. The city is also on the hook for a \$1.6 million bond payment due Friday.

"It's wait and see (now), it's not set in stone," Mayor Nathan Whitt said. "I'd like to

See GREENLIGHT page 3

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Thrift store slates holiday food drive

The Annie W. Johnson Thrift Store will host a Thanksgiving food drive Friday through Nov. 16.

Those who bring canned goods to the store will receive a 10 percent discount. For information, call 465-7957.

Spaghetti dinner slated Nov. 9

Families in Need of Dunnellon will host an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner from 4 to 8 p.m. Nov. 9 at American Legion Post No. 58 on U.S. 41, north of Walmart.

Cost is \$6 per person. Proceeds from dinner will be used to purchase food to be cooked Thanksgiving and Christmas days at the American Legion.

Those dinners are free to the community. Donations are welcome. Checks can be made out to Families In Need and can be mailed to P.O. Box 662 Dunnellon, FL, 34431. For information, call Leo or Jan DeWitt 352-208-3514.

Fire Rescue seeks donations for party

Dunnellon Fire Rescue is seeking donations for its yearly Needy Childrens Christmas Party.

Anyone wishing to help in this cause may send their donations to 12014 S. Williams St., Dunnellon, FL 34432. The event will be at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, at the Dunnellon Bingo Hall.

Women's Club to host yard sale

The Dunnellon Women's Club will host its annual yard sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday and Saturday at its Clubhouse at 11756 Cedar St. Refreshments will be available for a nominal fee. Proceeds will benefit various charities supported by the club. Members are asked to drop off items today during the setup.

For information, call Joanne Schemery at 465-8195 or Gerry Hess at 465-7161.

Familiar haunts



Riverland News file photo

Even adults were in the festive spirit of Halloween as the Queen of Hearts, left, and the Scarecrow, follow their children, Alice, and the Pumpkin, along East Pennsylvania during the Trail of Treaters last year. This year's event will be from 5 to 7 p.m. tonight.

Trail of Treaters, other events on tap for Halloween

Riverland News

The streets of Dunnellon will belong to the ghouls, goblins, princesses, superheroes and villains tonight as youths will mark a right of passage seeking more treats than tricks.

And they're bound to get it as the Dunnellon Area Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with local businesses along East and West Pennsylvania Avenue, will host the annual Trail of Treaters from 5 to 7 tonight, starting at the Chamber of Commerce at 20500 E. Pennsylvania Ave.

There, youths and their families can obtain a map of participating businesses and a treat bag to fill with goodies.

"I love it, I love seeing the kids, I love seeing the families," said Beverly Leisure, executive director of the Dunnellon Area Chamber of

Commerce. "It seems like we get more and more families each year."

More important, Leisure said, the event provides children a safe environment for youths to trick-or-treat.

"I think it's just a safe way, with the way the world is, for the kids to go out and have some fun and for the parents to know it is safe," she added. "And it's a way for the businesses to get some exposure. Some of the families who come get to know what businesses are here that they might not know about otherwise."

Plus, it brings everyone in the community together, Leisure said.

"It's a good way to keep our kids safe and off the streets," she added, noting the police department works with the Chamber and businesses to

See HAUNTS page 9

Police offer safety tips

Special to the Riverland News

Halloween is what kids of all ages wait for, but before trick-or-treaters hit the streets in full costume in search of candy, it's important to know how to remain safe during the busy night.

The Dunnellon Police Department urges parents to carry some kind of light source and to always keep eyes on their children, and for drivers to be mindful of people on the streets. Extra patrol will be out and monitoring

See SAFETY page 9

'Music on the Rails' slated

Duo to play at Depot

AUGIE SALZER

For the Riverland News

With the weather getting cooler, thoughts may easily float to a Caribbean island with their gentle ocean breezes, drinks with little umbrellas and the unique music.

The Greater Dunnellon Historic Society is bringing that special melodious sound to Dunnellon. They will magically turn the Train Depot into a south sea island featuring a live performance by recording artist Bickley Rivera in the "Music on the Rails" concert.

Rivera will perform a selection of reggae music, calypso and soca, which is the sound of calypso combined with the American soul music. She also is a steelpan artist and has used the instrument to develop her unique Nujazz and Chillout genre.

The steelpan is the national instrument of Trinidad and was originally discovered by slaves. Not being able to attend the festivities of their masters, the slaves used an old oil drum and developed the steelpan for their own entertainment.

Rivera's album "Chillin' After Five" has the sounds of steelpan and vocals in the trendy chill-out style.

"I have heard Bickley perform many times already," Frank Strobl, event co-chairman, said. "She is a great musician and her husband, Nelson, is her percussionist. They are both lovely

See MUSIC page 2

Gator gunned down in 'home invasion'

Rio Vista resident shocked by incident

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

Christmas might be two months away, but in the early morning hours of Oct. 22, there arose such a clatter that Alan Abele sprang from his bed to see what was the matter.

Even he knew it wasn't a visit from the jolly ol' elf, St. Nicholas,

"It rose you out of bed like a shot," the longtime Rio Vista resident said, explaining

he believed it was a serious home invasion. "It was not just something thumping at your front door. It tore the screen door off its hinges."

Abele didn't tear open the shutters and throw up the sash, instead he immediately grabbed his Smith & Wesson .357, flashlight and the phone.

"The screen door had been lodged wide open by a large pottery landscaping pot that had been turned over," he said of the scene as he

stepped onto the back porch.

There, he crouched down, "because he didn't want to make himself a target."

"I shouted, 'I have a gun and I called the police,'" he explained.

As he panned the flashlight along the

See GATOR page 2

Alan Abele shows off the alligator he killed during an incident at his home, which he thought was a home invasion.

Photo by Judy Tudor



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Friends of the Library plan meeting

The Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library will host its monthly meeting at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5, in the library meeting room at 20351 Robinson Road. For information, call 438-2520.

Eastern Star to host fashion show

Order of the Eastern Star Dunnellon Chapter No. 235 will host its annual Fashion Show at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, at the First Presbyterian Church at 20641 Chestnut St. Guests will be served

lunch while viewing the latest fashions for the holiday seasons as presented by Bon Worth.

In addition, there will be door prizes, a silent auction and also a 50/50 chance drawing. Tickets are \$15 per person.

For information, call Jan Rowe at 352-436-4148.

Friends of the Library to host book sale

The Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library will host a book sale from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 18 through 26. All material will be 50 percent off.

For information, call 438-2520.

GATOR

continued from page 1

alligator.

"When I first saw it, it's coming out like a raving maniac," he said. "Alligator can move really fast."

What happened next remains a blur, he said. The alligator hit him in the right arm, and in split seconds, Abele pulled the trigger of his handgun.

"It was kind of a lucky shot," he said. "I blasted it right in the head. He was 3 inches from my head. I stood back up, got the door shut and blasted through the door just to make myself feel better. It was dead."

Even he knows killing an alligator is not an easy feat, especially with a handgun.

"The problem with an alligator, or any reptile, their nervous system is more spread around," he explained. "They're tougher to kill, take my word for it."

Killing the alligator was regrettable, Abele explained.

"I feel badly, I don't want

to kill anything," he said. "Alligators don't attack unless you provoke them. This was an entirely different case. This animal needed to be eliminated; it was a very rare attack. It was a very unusual attack."

An FWC spokesperson said that although alligators are a federally protected species and are managed by state wildlife regulations, it was determined that Abele's actions were appropriate, considering the circumstances.

"It was a surprising situation to say the least," the spokesperson said. "Mr. Abele clearly had no other choice."

This wasn't a situation one could back away from and just close the door, Abele said.

"It was not an avoidable situation," he explained. "If someone is invading my house, I'm going to confront them, because I'm not going to be somebody's victim. I feel badly, but I was protecting myself."

As dangerous as the situation was, Abele realizes it could have been a lot

worse for him.

"It's hard to hit something with a pistol, even that close," said Abele, noting he has years of experience handling firearms. "Because this thing was right on you, jaws open in your face. It could have pushed me right back in the house. It's dark, you're disoriented and it was in full attack mode. I suppose animals can be deranged. That's the only explanation."

There's one thing he would have done differently had he known what the true scope of the situation was before stepping

onto the back porch.

"I would have used my shotgun, I've got one of those, too," he said.

There has to be some humor in the incident, Abele said. As a matter of fact, he added he's tanning the gator's hide. OK, not him personally.

"(Officials) brought in a gator wrangler and they're letting me have his hide," he explained. "So I'm having the hide tanned, it's going to be a great souvenir. There's got to be some humor in all of this. It'll put a smile on your face."

And an alligator hide on the wall.

MUSIC

continued from page 1

people and so personable."

Her lively and entertaining music has been heard on The Weather Channel, streaming through some European hotels, land radio and Internet and satellite radio. "The quality of her performance is equal to that of a high-end hotel," said Elizabeth Letchworth, event co-chairwoman. "We were lucky to get them."

Rivera is also going to perform at the inaugural Ocala Strawberry Festival slated for early next year.

The "Music on the Rails" concert will be from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 8, at the Historic Train Depot located at 12061 S. Williams St.

There are 75 tickets available for \$10 per person in advance or \$15 per person at the door. Dancing is encouraged and several dance contests will be held. Ticket price includes hot and cold appetizers and drinks. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

"Her concert is like sitting on a beach at St. Croix," Strobl said. "It is wonderful."

To purchase advance tickets call Elizabeth Letchworth at 465-2399 or at the Train Depot on Tuesdays between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

To purchase tickets in advance, call Elizabeth Letchworth at 465-2399 or stop by the Riverland News between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Riverland News is at 20441 E. Pennsylvania Ave.

Riverland News

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GREENLIGHT
continued from page 1

see some kind of possible revenue share agreement, but I realize that's pretty far-fetched."

Currently, Eddie Esch, interim city manager; John Pierpont of J.M. Pierpont Consultants LLC; and legal representatives from Bryant, Miller & Olive have been in discussions with Regions Bank about a settlement agreement. Neither side has reached a tentative deal, but Esch told the City Council at its Oct. 23 special meeting that each party has exchange offers. "Regions negotiations are still ongoing, but getting more intense by the moment," as we get closer to Friday, Esch wrote in an email to the Riverland News.

The City Council asked that several initial stipulations in the sale be changed to include:

- Providing Florida Cable a reasonable lease of the building currently housing the Greenlight central office, head-end and sales room in exchange for providing the city of Dunnellon with two customer exchange counters for conducting city water and wastewater transactions, and space for two office cubicles for the use of utility of Dunnellon water and wastewater clerical or analyst employees, and space for a printer/copier, together with reasonable access to restrooms, air conditioning, as well as electric, water and wastewater utility services, at Florida Cables sole expense. The square footage committed

to these employees will be similar to that currently dedicated to these uses.

- Perpetual access and non-disruptive use of all city easements/rows as well as those held by the city outside of the incorporated area as well as rail and highway crossing permits.

- A commitment, based on quality of service, from the city to use Florida Cable as its telecommunications provider; its heirs and assignees with a 90-day notice of intent to switch providers thereafter.

When the then-City Council, in November 2010, approved the financing agreement with Regions Bank, the contract stipulated the city would pledge its share of state excise taxes if the city were to default on the loan agreement. That deal was struck by then-City Manager Lisa Algieri and Marsha Segal-George, the former assistant city attorney, but approval had to be OK'd by the Council, which consisted of Mayor Fred Ward, the late-Fred Starke, Dennis Evans, Lynne McAndrew and Penny Fleeger. The latter three currently remain on the City Council.

For Fiscal Year 2014, which began Oct. 1, the city's share of state excise taxes was slightly more than \$700,000. Because of the unknowns surrounding if Regions Bank would take a portion, or all, of the excise taxes, the Dunnellon City Council on Sept. 23 approved a budget calling for a 17 percent cut to \$2,716,311. In 2013, the general fund budget was set at \$3,543,836.

However, the Council also approved a tax hike of 6.67 percent, increasing the millage rate to 7.1403, compared to the 2013's rate of 6.672. Thus far, city officials have been able to hold off on declaring a financial state of emergency with state officials. Doing so could impact any potential sale of the telecommunications system.

"I want to keep it off the back of the taxpayers and not see them left holding the bag," Mayor Whitt said. "They didn't ask for this and it's unfair to them. Before we sign a final deal, I want Florida Cable to understand that and help us going forward the next three to five years."

In other action, the Council:

- Authorized staff to advertise a public hearing to consider implementing a fire assessment. The first public hearing will be at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 9 to adopt a Resolution of Intent to use the uniform method of collection for a fire assessment program in the calendar year prior to any such collection. The adoption of the resolution does not obligate the city to impose a fire assessment. For more coverage about this story, see next week's edition of the Riverland News.

- Approved Resolution No. 2013-17 regarding public code of ethical conduct.

- Approved Resolution No. 2013-15 regarding the City Council of Conduct.

- Approved Resolution No. 2013-16 and reimbursement agreement with FDOT-railroad for East McKinney Avenue.

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Solution to puzzle on Page 5

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RIVER VIEWS

RIVERLAND NEWS

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THE OTHER GUY

Memories will be best treat

Ah, it's Halloween. Yippee! Tricks and treats, and I've always preferred the latter over the former.

I loved Halloween as a youth. It was even better when we didn't need a chaperone — typically my mother or father — because then we could venture off for hours, ringing bells, knocking on doors and gathering up as many free goodies as we could. What kid doesn't enjoy free candy? OK, there's a few, but as a youth bringing home a bag full of treats and sorting through the haul was priceless.

Then again, I'm not sure who enjoyed it more — my siblings, myself, our friends or, more important, my parents. My dad has a sweet tooth to kill for, and I'm fairly certain we could pin the blame on my grandmother.

If we were late returning from a night of trick-or-treating, we could typically bribe him. That generally meant letting him ransack through our sack of goodies. He was sly. The old man knew what he was after, but rarely did we complain. The bribe was better than a beating if he deemed we were "too late" in getting home.

I'm older now — much older — and trick-or-treating is frowned upon by a thirtysomething adult, and dressing in a costume doesn't intrigue my inner child. Of course, there are some typical days of the week I wouldn't mind putting on a disguise just to make it through the day.

This Halloween, though, will be special. I get to take my kids door-to-door and watch the excitement on their faces as their bags fill up with treats. Much like my father did, I'll have to make sure everything checks out and "sample" a few goodies.

What's undecided is what Jackson and Jayden are more excited about: trick-or-treating or the characters they will portray. They will be Jedi Knights, or more precisely, Master Jedi Jackson and Master Jedi Jayden. Yeah, go ahead, say that three times fast. No Jedi is complete without his trusty light saber, which they made themselves this past May at Disney World during Star Wars Days.

Emma, of course, will join us. The debate about a 20-month-old girl and the fitting outfit was up for debate — between her grandmother and aunt. Dad didn't have much of a say, but then again, I wasn't going to debate the topic when it was Aunt Jen who was paying for the costume.

Initially, my sister wanted Emma to portray Little Red Riding Hood. Plans were scrapped and the debate ensued: should we dress her as Princess Leia, R2-D2 or Master Yoda? I was leaning toward Princess Leia. She would have two Jedi Knights to pro-

tect her from the evil Sith Lord, who will be in tow. My sister decided her niece would be better suited — no pun intended — as a superhero.



Jeff Bryan
Editor

Emma will transform into Bat Girl.

Apparently, my brother has a sense of humor. I tend to call it something entirely else, but for censoring purposes I will not use the first term that comes to mind. Let's just say my family is fluent in sarcasm, and we'll leave it at that.

Needless to say my brother took it upon himself to make sure the boys had a villain to strike down. So yes, Daddy will "dress up" this year as Darth Maul.

When I broke the news to the boys, they shouted with glee. Personally, I thought they meant I wouldn't be sampling their candy.

Jayden was matter-of-fact in what it meant. "Daddy, we're going to have a light saber fight, and I'm going to strike you down." Yes, I have a red light saber fight. You cannot have two Jedi Knights without a villain.

Tonight will certainly be an adventure.

Speaking of costumes ...

Having spent more than three years at the helm of the Riverland News, I finally made it to one of the Greater Historical Dunnellon Society's Murder-Mystery Dinners at the Historic Train Depot.

I was assured of a fun evening, and I must say, I wasn't disappointed. The packed house enjoyed an evening of entertainment and fellowship. The back-and-forth heckling between the actors — and maybe that term should be used loosely — and the crowd was wonderful.

If you have never been, I highly recommend keeping them on their schedule. They host shows on a quarterly basis, and if you cannot wait until the first part of 2014, the group will be in action again soon.

Tickets are on sale for the murder mystery, "Murder is Par for the Course," and dinner, which will serve as a Kiwanis of Dunnellon fundraiser. The event will begin at 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, at the Rainbow Springs Country Club. Tickets are \$25 each.

For information, call Ellie Pollock at 465-6803.

And changes ...

Don't be surprised if you walk into the Riverland News office and see a familiar face.

Yes, you'll be greeted by Michel Northseas, a former editor, who is back, but not in the same role. She'll serve as the office manager and advertising representative.

Darlene Mann, who has served as the office manager for the past year-plus, will step down in her current role with the Riverland News to focus solely on the Pinacle, a monthly publication serving Citrus Hills and Black Diamond.

THE JERSEY GIRL

Fall comes galloping in

Wasn't it just September and the kids were getting used to being back in school and now here it is the end of October? Once the month of September arrives, the rest of the year seems to fly by. It's crazy how that happens.



Audrey Beem

I recently read words of wisdom somewhere stating September is the beginning of the end. Instead of meandering away, the last four months of the year seem to gallop. "Where did the year go?" is heard over and over.

Can it be because we're all so busy at this time of the year? There are more activities, school functions and football games, Little League and high school. Then, of course, with the days getting shorter it seems there are fewer hours to get everything done.

It could also be all the planning we're doing: preparation for the fall season as well as cleaning, then the holidays. We go from Halloween, to Thanksgiving to Christmas with nary a

moment to catch our breath. Many people start shopping and decorating for Christmas as soon as fall arrives.

I love Florida all year round, but October and November are my favorites. I love taking a walk and seeing all the people outside enjoying the weather and not hiding inside with the air conditioner running. There are many yard sales right now, too, and I've been stopping at as many as I can. It's also perfect weather for bike rides.

When the weather starts cooling down and those few certain trees start changing colors, people pull out their chili recipes and dig their sweat pants out of the closet. It's time for apple cider, hot chocolate, chestnuts and stone crabs.

It's also the only time of the year you'll find candy corn, caramel apples, scarecrows and gourds. It's also the perfect time for Farmer's Markets and fresh apple butter.

I, myself, love all the Florida

Fall Festivals, so I found a website where I could print them all out. People in Florida love food and love to be outside. It's a great way to combine the two into one.

The variety of festivals surprised me. The Epcot International Food & Wine Festival in Lake Buena Vista is well-known, but there are comparatively smaller events such as the Plant City Pig Jam, the Kumquat Festival in Dade City and Flan Fest in Tampa, which sounded quite appealing.

There are peanut festivals in Williston and Jay, a town in the Panhandle. Bradenton has its pumpkin festival. LaBelle celebrates the wonder that is the swamp cabbage, which is not really a cabbage, but the heart of a sabal palmetto. Land O' Lakes in Pasco County is home to the three-day annual flapjack festival the first weekend in November. Flapjacks are free on that Saturday morning.

The Windsor Volunteer Fire Station hosts the Windsor Zucchini Festival, complete with zucchini ice cream and a zucchini

See JERSEY page 5



SOCIAL SECURITY

Don't be spooked by the Internet

Don't look now, but it's Halloween! Halloween is time for kids of all ages to dress up in costumes and go trick-or-treating. But it is also a time of visiting haunted houses and watching those scary horror films. Think of the movies that frightened you the most, and they usually have an element of fear of the unknown.



Adon Williams

Doing business online may also needlessly frighten people. When it comes to Social Security, however, there is nothing to be spooked about. We take all the fear out of doing business online.

There are a number of things you can do online at www.socialsecurity.gov, and none of them should send so much as a shiver down your spine. Save yourself a trip to a Social Security office and transact your business from the comfort of your home. No need to be afraid to go online; it's so easy and safe to do business at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Here are just a few of Social Security's online services you can easily access from the convenience of your home or office computer:

- Apply for retirement, disability, or Medicare benefits;
- Find out what benefits you might be eligible to receive;
- Set up a my Social Security account so you can access and update your information anytime;

- Apply for extra help with your Medicare prescription drug costs;

- Estimate your future benefits;
- Appeal an unfavorable decision on a disability claim;
- Change your address; and
- Report employee wages.

For a complete list of our online services, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices. You also can find forms, publications, answers to frequently asked questions, Social Security news, and much more at www.socialsecurity.gov.

You'll find our online services are frighteningly easy to use. Save your fears for the monsters on television or the costumed creatures knocking at your door. Don't be afraid to visit www.socialsecurity.gov.

Social Security Q&A

Question: What is the earliest age that I can apply for my Social Security retirement benefits?

Answer: If you want benefits to begin at age 62 — the earliest age you can receive reduced retirement benefits — you must be at least 61 years and 9 months of age to apply. Keep in mind that if you retire before your full retirement age, your monthly benefit amount will be permanently reduced. On the flip side, if you delay your benefits until after your full retirement age, you'll receive higher benefits because of delayed retirement credits. Even if

you are not ready to retire, you should still sign up for Medicare three months before your 65th birthday. You can do both (and try out different retirement scenarios) online at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline.

Question: Can I delay my retirement benefits and receive benefits as a spouse only? How does that affect me?

Answer: It depends on your age. If you are full retirement age or older when you first apply, and your spouse is receiving Social Security benefits, you can choose to apply and receive benefits on just your spouse's Social Security record. This way, you could delay applying for benefits on your own record in order to receive delayed retirement credits. If you are full retirement age or older, and have already applied for retirement benefits, you can request to have payments suspended. If you qualify for a spouse's benefit, you can receive those payments and earn delayed retirement credits on your own record. By applying only for benefits as a spouse, you may receive a higher retirement benefit on your own record later based on the effect of delayed retirement credits. You can earn delayed retirement credits up to age 70 as long as you do not collect your own benefits. Since the rules vary depending on the situation, you may want to talk to a Social Security representative about the options available to you. To learn more, visit www.socialsecurity.gov or call us at 800-772-1213 (TTY 800-325-0778).

Adon Williams is the Social Security manager in Ocala.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Annie Johnson Thrift Store changes hours

The Annie W. Johnson Thrift Store has changed its hours of operations. The store is now open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Donations being dropped off at the store are welcome from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and pick up of donations can be scheduled between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays. For information, call 465-7957.

AARP Driver Safety Class slated

An AARP Driver Safety Class for those 50 and older which, with certain exceptions, qualifies graduates for a discount on their automobile insurance, 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. Nov. 7 and 8 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.

RS Garden Club meeting Nov. 7

The Rainbow Springs Garden Club will meet at 1 p.m. Nov. 7 due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The meeting will be at the American Legion Hall, 10730 U.S. 41,

north of Walmart. D & L Nursery will present a program about bonsai gardening.

New members and visitors are always welcome. Annual membership, September through May, is \$10. Visitor fee is \$5 per visit applicable toward membership; two visits and the annual fee is paid. Door prizes, plant sales, and refreshments are available.

For information, call Alice Kennedy, president, at 465-3002.

JERSEY

continued from page 4

carving contest. It reminds me of the yellow squash festival from the movie "Doc Hollywood," which was filmed outside of Gainesville in the fictional town of Grady.

The McIntosh and Micanopy Fall Harvest Festivals are very big around here. Likewise, the seafood festivals in Cedar Key, Apalachicola and Port St. Joe, to name a few are big events.

Yankeetown has one we go to every year. It may be small, but there's plenty to buy and sample.

My favorite is still our very own Dunnellon Jazz Festival, which was held a few weeks ago. It's the perfect time of year to mingle and see old friends while eating great food and listening to the best music in town.

Most families I know start out the first of October with weekend plans and it never seems

to stop until January.

November will bring a visit from my brother in Iowa as we will celebrate his birthday and Thanksgiving. We won't want to miss the big rivalry game between University of Florida and Florida State or Black Friday, which can be great fun or great

chaos.

December brings its own craziness with shopping, planning and decorating. Our family has five December birthdays. How will we ever get it all done?

So hold on and fasten your seat belts. Once again, it's going to be a bumpy ride.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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OUT TO PASTOR

Thumbs up, thumbs down, now turn around

Flying in an airplane is not my preferred style of transportation. However, flying without an airplane is quite disastrous, if you know what I mean!

I am not quite sure the Wright brothers would be too happy with some of the things passing as an airplane these days. It seems to me that psychotic midjets have designed modern day airplanes.

Nothing in an airplane is designed for the normal person, and I might as well say it, I consider myself normal. I may be a shade taller than normal but I am normal in every other respect.

The one plane I took from Detroit to Dayton, Ohio, was about as small as I have ever been on. Walking down the aisle, I could not even stand up but had to bend over in order to walk down the aisle. I heard a noise behind me that startled me and I stood up only to dash my head against the ceiling. That was not the worst headache of my flight.

One of these days, I would like to meet the person who designed the seats in those planes. I will admit to being a little post thin, but after all shouldn't you be able to sit down in a seat when you are flying?

I truly do not understand what a seatbelt is for with individuals like me. I can barely squeeze myself into that seat and then it takes me about 15 minutes to extract myself from the seat. I suppose a seatbelt is for the comfort of the pilot who believes that somehow I will not bounce out of my seat while he is flying. I could not bounce out if my life depended upon it.

My seat was so tight and I fit so snugly in it that when I sneezed it felt like I did some damage to my inner organs. Somewhere in the Constitution there has to be something to the effect that an individual has the right to sneeze without hurting himself.

What I want to know is why do I always have to sneeze when I am in certain situations like this?

Then, comes the time when you need to go to the bathroom. The flight attendant will bring you all the free beverages you can consume. They know, and I guess they are snickering behind our back, that everybody is going to have to go to the bathroom at the same time.

Coordinating the bathroom run is one of the trying exploits of flying the friendly skies.

For one, by the time I realize I have to go to the bathroom there is a line for the bathroom. Fortunately, by the time I extricate myself from my seat the line has dwindled dramatically. Then again, I have to go to the bathroom so bad I am dancing up the aisle to the bathroom to the great applause of the people sitting there.

Once I fasten myself into the seat, I try to get comfortable enough to do a little reading. Since I am sitting in the aisle seat, everybody is bumping into me as they go up and down the aisle.

Now that I am situated so that I cannot move, they come again with beverages. Why is it I forget there is a link between drinking a beverage and going to the bathroom? I know there is a link but when I am up in the air so high my tiny little grey cells are

working in slow motion. So why take a free beverage? Well, it is free!

I am at the age in my development where going to the bathroom is a frequent activity, even when not drinking any beverages. When consuming a beverage, this activity kicks into high gear. Once again, I need to extricate myself from my seat and find my way to the bathroom.

I am not quite sure about this, but I believe in midair the airplane pilot switches the bathroom from the front to the rear. I am dancing up the aisle, which I believe is in the direction of the bathroom, only to discover I am going in the wrong direction.

A few of the people in the seats are smiling at me and one person gives me a thumbs-up as I turn around and dance in the direction of the actual bathroom facility. With a forced grin, I give a thumbs-up back at him

See PASTOR page 8



Rev. James Snyder

CHURCH NEWS

Holy Faith to host Harvest Festival

Holy Faith Episcopal Church will host a Harvest Festival from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 1 and 2, at its facility in Blue Cove.

The event will feature 20 vendors, who will offer customized children's books, artwork, handmade dulcimers, jewelry, candy, hand bags, and more.

For information, call 489-2685.

Church schedules annual Fall Festival

Deeper Life Church of Dunnellon will host its annual Fall Festival from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2. The church is at 9425 N. Citrus Springs Blvd. There will be a bounce house along with games and prizes. A Chinese auction will be one of many activities that will be available with gifts to win including a \$50 cash prize.

Deeper Life of Dunnellon hosts services at 2 p.m. Sundays in the Fellowship Hall connected to the Lutheran church.

For information, call 352-361-2861.

Church of Christ plans gospel meetings

The Dunnellon Church of Christ will host a Gospel meeting Sunday, Nov. 3, through Wednesday, Nov. 6, featuring Gene H. Miller, preacher of Steer Creek Church of Christ in

Stumptown, W.Va.

Three meetings are scheduled for 10 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3 with topics about "Tempted and Tried," "The Magic Touch" and "The Only Forgotten Son." A fellowship meal will follow the 10:45 meeting and refreshments will be provided after the Sunday night meeting. Meet-

ings will begin at 7 p.m.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday with topics about "How Big Is Your God?," "Why Be A Christian?" and "Anywhere with Jesus." Refreshments will be provided after all evening meetings.

For information, email Stuart Schlachter at schlacht@bellsouth.net or call 352-447-2944.

Church to host flea market

The Altar & Rosary Society will host its semi-annual flea market from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, in Father Stegeman Hall at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church at the corner of U.S. 41 and State Road 40.

For information, call Pat at 489-1984.

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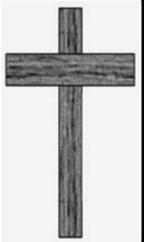
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Matthew 18:20

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H1019_MKFNPR323027 Accepted

CHURCH EVENTS

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.

- 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.

Church to host Saturday Supper

The Third Saturday Supper will be from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17, 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.

FUMC schedules Gospel concert

First United Methodist Church of Dunnellon will host the return of gospel great Ivan Parker of the famed gospel group The Gathers on Saturday, Jan. 4, in the church sanctuary.

Tickets are \$25 per person for reserved seating in the "artist row," which offers assigned seating within the first five rows of the sanctuary and a meet-and-greet with Parker prior to the show.

General admission tickets are \$15 per person. Tickets are available:

- In the church narthex at the conclusion of the 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. church services;

- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at The Sign Shop at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Williams Street. For information, call 489-2114.

- On the Internet at www.villagecrier.com. First United Methodist Church is at 21501 West State Road 40.

Rally supports Food-4-Kids



Photo by Jerry Meyn

Carol Lynn Scheer introduces Melanie Meyn, Food-4-Kids representative, on Oct. 12 at the Lutheran Women's Missions League (LWML) of the Peace Lutheran Church of Dunnellon LWML North Central Florida Rally. The LWML is the official women's organization of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, which supports mission outreach and personal spiritual development. The LWML selects a local charity to support in conjunction with the rally and Dunnellon Food-4-Kids Inc. was selected as the beneficiary of participant donations. Carol Lynn Scheer, LWML president, and Shelby Putansu, LWML zone vice president, introduced Food-4-Kids representatives Melanie and Jerry Meyn, who addressed the rally and spoke about the mission and activities of the Food-4-Kids backpack program. The rally participants generously gave \$839 in food and monetary donations to help feed needy Dunnellon area school children on school weekends.

PASTOR

continued from page 6

and proceed in the direction of the bathroom.

It is at this point that I run into a line. Wouldn't you know it; the line is for the bathroom?

This is a real thumbs-down for me. It is at this point that I really wish I was not a gentleman. After all, a gentleman has to let the ladies go first. I think if some of these ladies would know the actual situation, they would insist I go first and I certainly would give them a wonderful thumbs-up.

As I was standing in line, a verse of Scripture

popped into my head. "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left" (Isaiah 30:21 KJV).

Many things in life have us going in circles to which there is no end. God, however, puts us on the straight and narrow path that ends with Jesus Christ.

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship in Ocala. Call him at 866-552-2543 or email jamesnyder2@att.net. His website is www.jamessnyderministries.com.

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dish
AUTHORIZED RETAILER

HAUNTS

continued from page 1

"make sure the kids stay safe."

"We all work together to make it a great event for the kids and the community."

Leisure said maps won't be finalized until this afternoon, allowing any business that wishes to be included on it to call the Chamber at 489-2320.

Leisure also noted that businesses not along East and West Pennsylvania Avenue that wish to be a part of the event can have a table set up outside of the Chamber of Commerce building.

"That makes it kind of nice for them to be a part of it and have some fun, too," she explained.

Haunted house

The Rainbow Lakes Estates Fire Station will host a Haunted House from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday as well as Halloween night. Donations are welcome. For

information, call Chief Mike Noller at 445-7344. **'Dark Side of the Rainbow'**

Rainbow Springs State Park will host its third annual Haunted Trail Walk, the "Dark Side of the Rainbow," at 7 p.m. today. The Trail of Terror will be inside the main park entrance. The first guided walk begins at 7 and the last walk will be at 9:30.

There will be scary sites and loud noises, so parents should take that into consideration when bringing young children, said Monay Markey, park services specialist. Visitors should wear comfortable, close-toed shoes due to uneven terrain on the Trail of Terror. Flashlights will not be permitted on the trail, but costumes and glow sticks are encouraged.

Admission is \$2 per person; children 5 and younger are free. Funds raised from the event benefit the Rainbow Springs State Park volunteer program. To register in advance to volunteer as cast or

crew, email Monay Markey at monay.markey@dep.state.fl.us.

For information about the "Dark Side of the Rainbow," call 465-8555 or visit www.FloridaStateParks.org.

Cormier family light display on tap

If you're looking for some spooky fun this Halloween season, check out the third annual Cormier Family Light Display today at the Cormier residence at 19719 SW 57th Place in Rainbow Acres, one block behind the Dollar General Store on U.S. 41.

"We've cooked up some new stuff this year," Cormier said, noting there are ghouls, a witch and plenty of zombies in the haunted graveyard. One of the newest additions will be a television showing video of all the songs, the family calls "zombie vision"

For information, call Mark Cormier at 489-7582 or email marvmarkm@yahoo.com.

SAFETY

continued from page 1

neighborhoods and businesses.

Police Chief Joanne Black's top safety tip for Halloween is parents, or a trusted adult, should be accompanying minor children on Halloween night and she stresses the importance of going out in groups and making sure all of your family and friends stay together.

"Count the numbers that are going to be in your group," Black said. "If you have a group of friends that you are going trick or treating with, count those on each block and make sure the same number of kids are in that group."

Chief Black also suggests wearing bright colored or reflective costumes to ensure kids are visible to drivers and also make sure the costume allows the child to see out of the mask easily.

"We would ask motorists to make sure they

are watching for children that may not be in groups or may be wearing dark colors, because not everyone out there is going to have reflective material on," she added.

If problems do arise, don't hesitate to bring it to our attention. Here are some other safety tips:

- Take a cell phone in case of emergency.
- Make sure props, such as knives and swords, have plastic rounded edges.
- Never enter an unknown home or vehicle.
- You can also check online for registered sex offenders in the

area at www.fbi.gov.

• Be careful when you cross a street. Make sure to look in both directions and make sure that there are no cars coming. If you have a little brother or sister with you, take their hand and help them get across the street, too. If the street has a stoplight, wait until the crosswalk light tells you that it's OK to cross now, but still check before you cross — look both ways.

• Don't eat the candy until you have an adult inspect it, unfortunately there are some people who think it's funny to hurt children.

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Rams clip DHS, 20-17



JULIE MANCINI/For the Riverland News
Dunnellon running back Josh Williams looks to move the ball up the field against a hoard of Eastside defenders Friday night at Ned Love Field. Williams led the Tigers with 83 yards on 10 rushes including a 24-yard run in the first quarter. Bubba Sims ran 46 yards on 16 carries.

Tigers drop third straight, finish regular season Friday

STEVE MCGUNNIGLE
For the Riverland News

On Senior Night, it was a freshman who almost led an undermanned Dunnellon Tigers football team to a comeback victory, as visiting district foe Gainesville Eastside held on for a 20-17 win Friday night at Ned Love Field.

Down by 10 points midway through the fourth quarter, the Tigers (5-4, 3-3 in District 5A-5) got a big defensive stop and earned good field position.

From Eastside's 44-yard line, freshman quarterback Zach McKee took the snap and lateraled to Justin Hamm, who found Joey Pollizzi all alone deep down the right sideline for the touchdown, bringing Dunnellon to within three.

But the Tiger defense, which forced three first-quarter turnovers to help Dunnellon jump out to a 10-0 lead, could not stop the feet of Rams running back Octavious Simmons (27 rushes for 95 yards) down the stretch, as Eastside (4-4, 4-1) kept it on the ground to gain a pair of first downs and run the clock out to victory.

"I'm really proud of our kids

for battling and giving everything they had against a really good Eastside team," Dunnellon head coach Frank Beasley said. "I couldn't have asked for more from them."

Turnovers were key to the outcome of the first half.

Dunnellon's Bo Dewitz sacked Eastside quarterback Landon Rogers, forcing a fumble that Keiwan Jones recovered for the Tigers to end the Rams' opening drive.

Hamm then intercepted an errant pass toward midfield from Rogers, returning it to the Eastside 35-yard line, which resulted in a 39-yard field goal from Zach West to start the scoring.

Eastside's next possession started and ended with another fumble, as Cole Fagan forced the turnover while bringing down Rams running back Malachi Lofland.

On Dunnellon's next snap, Josh Williams took a McKee handoff through the middle and found a wide opening on the left side to scamper 24 yards for the score and an early 10-0 Tigers lead.

Simmons' 2-yard run on first-and-goal began the second quarter, and the Rams' en-

suing kickoff was fumbled by Dunnellon and recovered by Eastside at the Tigers 31-yard line.

Simmons punched it in for another short touchdown, giving Eastside a 13-10 edge going into the half. Dunnellon had a great opportunity before the half's end, but the Rams defense stymied Tiger backs four consecutive times after facing a first-and-goal.

Simmons' longest run of the night, a 23-yard dash off left tackle extended the Tigers' deficit to 20-10 early in the third quarter, before the late Dunnellon dramatics.

Williams led the Tigers with 83 yards on 10 rushes, while Devin Sims ran 46 yards on 16 carries.

McKee finished 2-for-5 passing for 48 yards, and after getting his first varsity action, drew praise from Beasley.

"It's a tough situation for him to come into, but I thought he did a great job. He ran the offense efficiently," Beasley said of his young signal caller, filling in for injured starter Kobi Jones.

Dunnellon will close out the regular season at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Lecanto.

Tiger harrier earns regional berth

LAURA RILEY
For the Riverland News

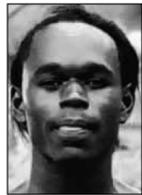
The Dunnellon High School cross country team's closed out its season Saturday, Oct. 26, at The Villages Polo Club while competing in the District 2A-6 Cross Country Championships.

But one Tiger runner extended his season for one more week, and Kevin Hanson looks to make it two this Saturday at the Region 2A-2 Cross Country Championships, slated for 9:30 a.m. at Nature Coast Technical School in Brooksville.

Hanson, the top runner this season for Dunnellon, finished 10th Saturday, earning his first berth to regional competition. This past Saturday, he finished with a time of 18:38 to pace the Tiger harriers.

Dunnellon's other top two finishers included Lucas King, who ran a 19:43, and Kyle Blankenberg with a 20:03.

"I didn't doubt for a second that (Hanson) would make it to regionals," said Dunnellon boys coach Valerie Bazarte. "He has a great work ethic at practice and on the weekends and he has a lot of heart."



Kevin Hanson

On the girls side, Laura Riley and Courtney Pike both set their personal bests for the season, with Riley finishing at 25:11 and Pike at 34:21.

"Laura had a great season, and improved her time by three minutes," Dunnellon girls coach Roger Sibbald said. "Overall, we had a great season with what we had to work with."

County seeks entries from youth in contest

Ninety-two miles of rivers. Thirty-two thousand acres of lakes. More than 40 springs. Opportunities to enjoy Marion's water resources are almost unlimited, and a Marion County department wants to bring local youth closer to them this month.

The Marion County Office of the County Engineer invites students ages 18 and under to participate in its "Discover our water resources" art and photography contest. Through Nov. 22, students attending a public, private or home school in Marion County may submit creative entries depicting any of the following themes: Marion County water bodies, wildlife, karst or limestone features, water uses and recreation in water.

Art entries must be original illustrations created in print or digital formats. Print entries must not exceed 8 1/2 by 11 inches in paper size. Photography

entries must be original and unedited, and must be submitted in digital versions of at least 300 dpi (dots per inch) in size.

A selection committee will recognize the top art and photography entries through publication of the winning creations in the Office of the County Engineer's 2014 "Discover our water resources" stormwater education booklet. The publication will be distributed to local schools and county residents to encourage learning about water quality and stormwater pollution prevention.

The contest application and guidelines are available at www.marioncountyfl.org/stormwater.htm. Entries are due Nov. 22 and may be emailed to stormwater@marioncountyfl.org or delivered to Kim Dinkins at the Office of the County Engineer at 412 SE 25th Ave., Ocala, FL 34471.

For information, call 352-671-8686.

DHS swimmers make splash at district



JULIE MANCINI/For the Riverland News
The Dunnellon High School boys and girls swimming teams competed in the District 2A-4 Swimming and Diving Championships on Friday at the Stephen O'Connell Center in Gainesville. Thomas Reilly, above, and Jamie Haught paved the way for Tiger swimmers. Reilly won the district championship in the 500-yard freestyle while finishing as the runner-up in the 200 freestyle. On the girls side, Haught advanced to the Region 2A-2 Swimming and Diving Championships in the 500-yard freestyle as well as the 200- and 400-yard freestyle relay teams that placed fifth in the district. Cierra Thompson, Madison Brown and Rebecca Frechette are also part of the teams, while Shelby Webb and Sarah Janosik are alternates. The Region 2A-2 championships will be at 4 p.m. Friday at the YMCA Aquatic Center in Orlando.

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Report cards to be issued

Report cards will be issued Friday at Dunnellon Middle School.

Parents, please review your child's progress for the first quarter as it is a reflection of how well your child is doing in school.

If you would like to arrange for a parent/teacher conference, call the guidance office at 465-6720. The guidance office can also arrange to set our parents up to view the Parent Portal, which is a real-time, on-line tool giving parents the opportunity to view how their child is doing daily.

Tutoring

Free tutoring is avail-

able from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday.

There is no tutoring on early release days and non-school days. Tutoring takes place in the DMS Media Center with highly qualified instructors.

Parent Permission forms are available at the front desk if you would like your student to attend tutoring. Please fill out a Parent Permission form and return it to the front desk. Transportation must be arranged prior to students staying for after school tutoring. Due to tight budget constraints, we must insist parents

arrive promptly at 4:45 to collect students.

Students are invited to wear their Halloween costume today for a \$2 donation that will go toward the United Way campaign. Please be reminded costumes must be within DMS dress code guidelines: No masks or hair dye, but wigs are fine; minimal face makeup; no weapons or hand-held items will be permitted. DMS students are very, very creative and we are anxious to see the results of this creativity through their costumes.

The boys and girls volleyball teams will compete at 8:30 a.m. Saturday in the Marion County Volleyball Tournament at Liberty Middle School. A thank you

See **SMALLRIDGE** page 15



Delbert Smallridge
DMS Principal

Madison Brown, girls swimming

Brown placed eighth in the 50-yard freestyle with her fastest time ever, and she was a member of both the 200- and 400-yard freestyle relays that placed fifth in the district and qualified for regionals.



Madison Brown



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Thomas Reilly, boys swimming

Reilly captured the district championship in the 500-yard freestyle and was runner-up in the 200-yard freestyle, qualifying for regional action this Friday.



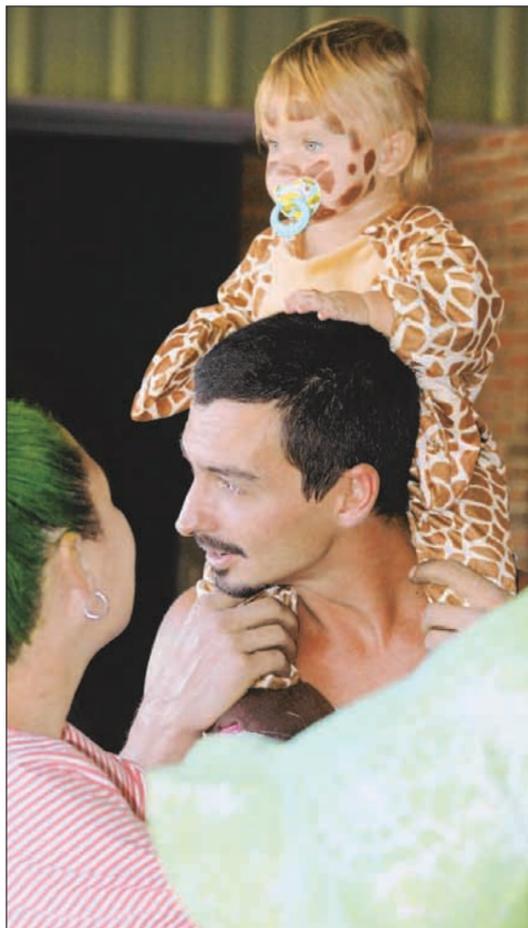
Thomas Reilly

Reeling 'em in at Round-Up



Photos by JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Youths and their families make their way along the walkways at Romeo Elementary School as go from specific classrooms to trick-or-treat during the annual event.



ABOVE: James Pyles carries his daughter, Athena, on his shoulders as they prepare to trick-or-treat at the Romeo Round-Up.

BELOW: Krystal Duran, 3, holds her head high as her mother, Martiza, adjusts her facemask. Krystal came dressed as Bat Girl for Romeo Elementary School's annual Romeo Round-Up. The event allows youths to go from room-to-room trick-or-treating while participating in several games along the way.



ABOVE: First-grader Hunter Schleher, right, and his brother, Logan, stage a makeshift sword fight prior to the start of the Romeo Round-Up. LEFT: Sarah Ferrell, 3, flashes a bright smile as her mother, Tracy, watches her daughter during their participation in the Romeo Round-Up. BELOW: Kasey Lemanski, 9, watches as her shot falls through the net during a game at Romeo Round-Up as her friend, Connie Downs, waits her turn.



Reeling 'em in at Round-Up



Photos by JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Youngsters and their mother make their way through the courtyard at Romeo Elementary School during the annual Romeo Round-Up, an event geared toward providing a safe trick-or-treating environment as well as games.



ABOVE: T.J. Watts, an 8-year-old third-grader, watches as a football bounces off the target during a game of football toss.

BELOW: Sara Daugherty, a second-grader at Romeo, pulls on her fishing pole during a game at Romeo Round-Up.

ABOVE: Haleigh Bourgeois, front, waits in line for a game along with her brother, Jacob, and sister, Makaylah, at Romeo Round-Up.

RIGHT: Michelle Vann carries her daughter, Blaire, during Romeo Round-Up.

BELOW: Four-year-old Dangelo James holds still as Eulie Elias paints a turtle on his cheek.



Vegas Party cranks out laughs



Photos by JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

The Greater Dunnellon Historical Society hosted the Las Vegas Murder-Mystery Party the past two weekends with the final performance wrapping up Saturday at the Historic Dunnellon Depot. Cast members, from left, were: Frank Strobl as "Wild Bill" Billions; Missy King as Misty Monroe; Deb Simpkins as Lisa Ride; Carolyn Cairns as Debra Downs; Jerry McMichaels as Preston Ellis; John Taylor as the police investigator/emcee; and Brad Nimmo as Jess Pawnit. The Greater Dunnellon Historical Society in conjunction with the Kiwanis Club of Dunnellon will host the murder mystery, "Murder is Par for the Course," at 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, at the Rainbow Springs Country Club. Tickets are \$25 per person. For information, call Ellie Pollock at 465-6803.



ABOVE: Linda Sterling, a first-time guest at the murder-mystery theater, asks a question of one of the cast member as Linda Strobl looks on.
BELOW: Jerry McMichaels, who played the role of Preston Ellis, an Elvis Presley Tribute Artist, performs for the crowd.



ABOVE: Donna Parsons, left, and her daughter, Amy, applaud the cast of the Las Vegas Murder-Mystery Party at the end of their performance.
LEFT: Ian and Jessica Sharkey listen to a cast member answer a question as the audience attempts to solve the mystery.
BELOW: John Taylor, left, stands next to Deb Simpkins, who portrayed Lisa Ride, a limo driver, and Carolyn Cairns, who played the role of Debra Downs, a black jack dealer, after the mystery was unraveled revealing the two females were the murderers in the Las Vegas Murder-Mystery Party.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Casting call set for tourism campaign

The Ocala/Marion County Visitors and Convention Bureau is inviting residents to an open casting opportunity for a national advertising campaign promoting tourism in the Ocala/Marion County area.

The open casting will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday at the Visitors and Convention Bureau office at 112 N. Magnolia Ave., Ocala. Casters are seeking a variety of people to represent the campaign's target audiences, including families, singles, couples and grandparents. Interested residents should plan on being available for photo/video shoots Nov. 13 to 14 for those selected at the casting call.

The advertising campaign and other efforts by the Visitors and Con-

vention Bureau to grow Marion County's travel and tourism industry are solely funded by a 2-percent tourist development tax collected on transient accommodations (e.g. hotel and campground stays). For information, visit the Visitors and Convention Bureau on Facebook at www.facebook.com/VisitOcalaMarion.

Golf tourney to benefit DHS baseball program

The second annual Aaron Deneau Memorial Golf Tournament will be at 8 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, at Juliette Falls Golf & Country Club.

Cost is \$75 per person or \$300 for a four-person team. Prizes will be awarded for the three lowest gross score teams and the three lowest net score teams.

For information, call Gary Kudlack at 352-464-7007 or Ann or Kyle Deneau at 489-3859.

Aktion Club hosts Halloween party



Special to the Riverland News

The Aktion Club of Dunnellon had its Halloween dinner Oct. 22 at the Dunnellon Presbyterian Church. The evening's activity was to decorate their own pumpkin. Seated, from left, are: Susan Stroliske, Kathy Anderson, Tim Robb, Sheryl Micklus and Michelle Garcia; standing, Michael Phillips, Gary Trapp, Tim Stewart, Michael Serrano and Kevin Flynn. The Aktion Club is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Dunnellon.

SMALLRIDGE

continued from page 10

to our volleyball players and their families for all the after-school hours of practice put in away from their families to hone their volleyball skills.

We would also like to thank our coaches Amy Guerra and Greg McManus for sharing their volleyball expertise as they taught our young people leadership skills and the importance of working together as a team.

We wish our players

the best of luck at the tournament and to have fun.

The first "ROAR" party of the year will be Wednesday, Nov. 6. Students will enjoy music and snacks while they spend their DMS Dollars they have earned by building and displaying our core characteristics of: Respect, Own it, Active learner, Responsibility. We are extremely proud of our Dunnellon Middle School students as we watch them grow and mature into fine young men and women of our

community.

The winners of the Coupons for Education contest are: Jayson Malanik and Rayanna Carlisle, who were the top sellers and will be treated to lunch with Principal Delbert Smallridge. IPOD shuffle winners included: Alyssa Mills, sixth grade; Anthony Litterine and Sydney Hanchar, both seventh-graders. Additionally, congratulations to our winners of the pizza lunch and snow cones.

Thank you to the faculty, staff, students and parents who donated

items or time to the first SAVE dance, which was a great success.

The kids really enjoyed it and we collected trial-sized toiletries for projects next spring.

Thank you to our DMS SAVE Club members and sponsors, Cynthia Wise and Nicholas Johnson, for leading the charge against drug use and violence and for making arrangements for the dance and all the activities for we enjoyed during Red Ribbon Week.

Schedule of Events

Today

- Wear your Halloween costume for \$2 donation; proceeds benefit United Way of Marion County.
- Final payment for the Washington, D.C., trip due.
- FFA Meeting at 7:30 a.m. - Parliamentary Procedure Practice.

Friday

- Report cards will be issued.

Saturday

- 8:30 a.m. - Volleyball tournament at Liberty Middle School. Entry is \$2 for adults and \$1 for students.
- 3:40 to 4:45 p.m. - Tiger Fit Club meeting.
- 7:30 a.m. - FFA Parliamentary meeting in the Ag room.
- 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. - DMS Chorus Practice in the Band Room.
- 3:45 to 4:55 p.m. - Academic Brain Bowl practice, with Mr. Williams.

Wednesday, Nov. 6

- 1:40 p.m. - Early release day.
- ROAR Party for each grade.

The Sixth Annual Stone Crab Jam

Saturday, November 2nd, 2013
4pm-1pm • West Citrus Avenue
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OBITUARIES

Mamie E. Richards, 88

Mamie Era Richards, loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, peacefully died in her sleep at home Oct. 18, 2013, at the age of 88, following a long illness.

She was born in Romeo, Fla., Sept. 20, 1925, to Clara Barton (Lewis) and Ollie Clyde Markham. Following her graduation from Dunnellon High School in Dunnellon she worked as a telephone operator during World War II. She met Miles Richards at a USO function, and they later married in Beaumont, Texas in 1946 and lived in the Rutland area throughout their 58 years together.

Mamie worked many years as a secretary for various businesses and organizations in Rutland, including the Howe Richardson Scale Co., Alcohol Information and Referral Center, and the College of St. Joseph. She also served as a RSVP Volunteer at the District court of Vermont, was instrumental in initiating the monthly senior luncheon supported by the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging in Mt. Holly, and actively involved in RSVP Bone



Mamie E. Richards

Builders. She was a member of the First Congregational Church of Wallingford, the VFW Auxiliary, and the Rural Letter Carrier Auxiliary. She also served as auditor for the town of Mt. Holly for several years. An avid bowler for many years, Mamie won many tournaments and was especially proud of her game winning high of 254.

She is survived by her children, George Richards and wife, Lois of Aurora, Ill.; Pamela Terril and husband, Bruce of Vienna, Va.; son-in-law, Dale Decker of Canaan, Maine; Martha Moyer and husband, Norman of Mt. Holly, Vt.; Millicent Johnson, and husband, James of Mt. Holly, Vt.; Miles Richards Jr. and wife Deborah of Bennington, Vt.; Clara Levesque, and husband, Richard of Nashua, N.H.; five siblings, 16 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Miles Richards Sr. and her daughter, Ruth Decker wife of Dale Decker.

The memorial service will be 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2, 2013, at the First Congregational Church of Wallingford. Burial will follow at the Laurel Glen Cemetery in Cuttingsville. Memorial contributions may be given to the charity of your choice. Arrangements are under the direction of Tossing Funeral Home in Rutland.

Patti Sue Kelsoe Purvis, 69

Patti Sue Kelsoe, of Dunnellon, Fla., passed away Friday, Oct. 25, 2013, at her home. She was 69.

Funeral services were at 2 p.m., Monday, Oct. 28, 2013, at the First United Methodist Church in Enterprise with the Rev. Eddie Fulford and the Rev. Tonya Elmore officiating. Burial will follow in Meadowlawn Cemetery with Searcy Funeral Home and Crematory directing. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, PO Box 22718, Oklahoma City, Ok. 73123-1718 or First United Methodist Church, 21501 W. Hwy. 40, Dunnellon, Fl. 34431. Patti was preceded in death by her parents, Billy and Eloise Kelsoe and her husband, Wayne Purvis.

She is survived by three sons and daughters-in-law, Blake and Shannon Purvis, Montgomery, Ala., Barry and Theresa Purvis, Ocala, and Britt and Vivian Purvis, Los Angeles, Calif.; six grandchildren, Kate, Grant, Grace, Zachary, Haley, and Dalton Purvis; one sister and brother-in-law, Kathy and Bill Gammill, Enterprise, Ala.; one brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Ramona Kelsoe, Enterprise, Ala.; step father-in-law, Roy Grimes,

Goodman, Ala.; and several nieces and nephews.

You may sign the register book or send condolences to the family at our website: www.searcyfuneralhome.com.



Charles Andrew Mowrey, 88

Charles Andrew Mowrey passed away Oct. 22, 2013, at his home in Dunnellon, Fla. He was born Jan. 1, 1925, in Johnsonburg, Pa., into a family with four brothers and three sisters, two of his sisters survive him.

Charles and his wife Margaret Marie Lupole were married Nov. 18, 1944, while he served his country in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1945 in Washington, D.C. He worked at Penntech Papers until 1985 when he retired. They were residents of Dunnellon for 27 years. Among Charles favorite hobbies were fishing, hunting and playing cards. He was a member of the American Legion, and head usher at Rainbow Lakes United Methodist Church.

Charles was predeceased by his wife Margaret, Jan. 17, 2011. Survivors include his three sons, James, Charles R. (wife Cathy), and Denis (wife Bev); along with five grandchildren; eight great-

grandchildren; and his two surviving sisters.

Funeral arrangements are under the care of the Roberts Funeral Home, Dunnellon, 352-489-2429.

Edna Kropp Dolan

Edna Kropp Dolan, went to be with her Heavenly Father Oct. 26, 2013. She had been lovingly cared for at White Oak Manor of York, S.C. Services will be private.

Mrs. Dolan is survived by her sister, Corinne Bruns of Amityville, N.Y.; brother, John Kropp and sister-in-law, Helen Kropp of Lake Wylie, S.C.; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Vincent and Ellen Kropp; brother, Vincent Kropp Jr.; and her loving husband, Frank Dolan.

Mrs. Dolan was a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Dunnellon, Fla., where she served as financial director for many years. She and her husband also started a food pantry there about 20 years ago which is still successfully operating. She will be buried in Florida next to her husband in Bushnell National Cemetery.

Online condolences may be made at www.mlfordsons.com.

M. L Ford & Son Funeral Home in Lake Wylie, SC is serving the family of Mrs. Dolan.

NEWS NOTES

Farm slates open house, tutorial

Gunter's Teaching Farm will host an open house from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9, for teaching and implementing a community to grow on. Topics will include aquaponic, perma culture, green technologies and more. Gunter's Teaching Farm is at 1985 W. Spring Lake Drive, Dunnellon.

For information, Gunter's Teaching Farm at 352-895-4809.

Community Chorale to host concert

The Community Chorale will host a tribute to veterans and the American flag at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 10, at the Dunnellon Presbyterian Church, 20641 Chestnut St.

For information, call Judy at 489-2682.

Thrift Shop to host Fashion Show

The Dunnellon Community Thrift Shop will host its annual Fashion show at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6, at the Rainbow River Club at 12450 San Jose Blvd.

A donation of \$5 at the door is requested. Beverages, finger sandwiches and desserts will be available after the show. For information or to purchase tickets, call 489-2122.

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

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1998 SUZUKI GSX-R750 J516R7DAXW2102476 Oct. 31, 2013

467-1107 RIV 11/9 sale
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Cool pickin's at The Patch



Photos by JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Youths patiently wait their turn for a hayride Saturday at The Pickin' Patch. The u-pick 'em patch, which also offered hayrides, a small corn maze and other activities, closed Sunday for the season.



ABOVE: Mason Cocher makes his way through rows of pumpkins Saturday at The Pickin' Patch. BELOW: Kaden Bethel, 5, from Marion Oaks, leaps from the top of the hay fort at The Pickin' Patch as other youths look on.



ABOVE: Ambreal Frye, second from left, and Te'mirah Walker walk along the trails Saturday in between rows of pumpkins at the Pickin' Patch as they and other members of their Daisy Troop 3604 visited the u-pick 'em patch during the closing weekend. The cool temperatures made for an enjoyable visit. MIDDLE: Two-year-old Joseph Usberghi pulls a wagon as he and his family made the trek from Ocala to visit The Pickin' Patch. BELOW: Visitors to The Pickin' Patch make their way along a trail in search of the perfect pumpkin.



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