

Riverland News

Thursday, February 27, 2014

Vol 32 No. 17

75 cents

Officials continue work toward developing BMAP

Plan would provide blueprint for restoring Rainbow Springs

Special to the Riverland News

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection engaged local governments, scientists, environmentalists, agricultural operators and

other stakeholders Friday in the fourth meeting to develop a restoration plan, or Basin Management Action Plan, to guide restoration of the Rainbow Springs Group and Rainbow River. Rainbow Springs

is Florida's fourth largest spring, the source of the Rainbow River and site of one of Florida's most popular state parks. The system is both an Aquatic Preserve and an Outstanding Florida Water.

Like many other spring systems in Florida, the Rainbow Springs Group suffers from nitrate pollution. Nitrate concentrations in Rainbow Springs are consistently reported above 1 milligram per liter and can approach 2 mg/l — well above Florida's springs water quality crite-

rior of 0.35 mg/l. That water quality criterion is the basis for the Department's restoration target for the spring system, adopted in May 2013. Reaching this target will require an 82 percent reduction in nitrate inputs.

See BMAP page 10

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Fashion show benefit planned Saturday

The Kiwanis Club of Dunnellon will host the "Simply Spring" fashion show at noon Saturday, March 1, at the Rainbow Springs Golf & Country Club. Fashions will be presented by Grumble's House. Tickets are \$25 per person and available from Kiwanis members.

For information, call Ellie Pollock at 465-6803.

New event to benefit Habitat for Humanity

The inaugural Strawberry and Craft Festival will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday in downtown historic Ocala. The event includes a craft show, free entertainment, a Kidzone and all things strawberry. Proceeds from the festival will benefit Habitat for Humanity Marion County.

Art in the Park slated at state park

The Friends of Rainbow Springs State Park (FORS) will host Art in the Park from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 8, and Sunday, March 9, at Rainbow Springs State Park. A portion of the proceeds benefit FORS, which uses the money for park improvements. Some artists will perform demonstrations throughout the day.

For information, call 465-8555.

AARP Driver Safety Class scheduled

An AARP Driver Safety Program 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 \$20 per person for all materials, except pen or pencil. However, if you are an AARP member, the cost is \$15. Bring your AARP card with you.

The course will be from 1 to 4 p.m. March 6 and 7 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.

Blazing a new trail



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Jose Meza, left, and Juan Meza work on installing the safety railing along the bridge connecting Citrus County and Marion County. Currently, the paved trail runs from the river north to South Bridges Road in Marion County. Roadwork was underway this week to complete the pavement from the bridge south to C.R. 39.

New bike trail leading into city nearing completion

PAT FAHERTY

For the Riverland News

The blacktop is poured on the northern section, the fresh sod is down and the new trail bridge across the Withlacoochee River is nearly complete, but the opening date has not been set.

The \$3.2 million project will connect Citrus and Marion counties and provide a link from the south to the Cross Florida Greenway.

It includes the bridge and a 3-mile paved multiuse trail that will end at County Road 39 just below Dunnellon, a short distance across U.S. 41 from the northern end of the Withlacoochee Trail.

Currently, the paved trail runs from the river north to South Bridges Road in Marion County. Roadwork was underway this week to complete the pavement from the bridge south to C.R. 39. And hikers are already enjoying the completed portion of the trail.

The trail and bridge, which follows an old railroad grade and a well-used footpath, will also be accessible from Blue Run Park (tuber's exit) on County Road 484 on the Rainbow River. The project includes two trailheads: one in Citrus and one in Marion. It



Work continues on the bridge that traverses the Withlacoochee River east of Dunnellon. A walking/biking path is being completed and will link Citrus and Marion counties.

will enable hikers, bicycle riders and other users to bypass downtown Dunnellon.

The bridge crosses the Withlacoochee River close to where it's joined by the Rainbow River. The 12-foot-wide, 280-foot-long bridge has scenic river overlooks.

It is all-new construction, decorated with metal and stonework and did not use the old railroad trestle supports. The structure was designed to be wide enough

and strong enough to support emergency vehicles.

Though construction was on hold for approximately four years, the three-span bridge has retained its unique architectural design. It has a railroad motif, selected from several possible themes at a public meeting back in 2008.

At the time, the bridge portion of the project had an estimated cost of \$1.9 million. The project

See BLAZING page 3

City seeks funding options, input

Officials giddy about trail

JEFF BRYAN

Riverland News

Cyclists will soon be able to change gears along the Withlacoochee Rails to Trails and Dunnellon officials are hoping the "silent sport" will be a boon to a business community striving for additional customers.

"It's awesome," Mayor Nathan Whitt said of the new trail. "I've been watching it closely."

But before businesses will see large contingencies of cyclists pedaling their way through town so owners can pedal their wares, officials have to solve a few problems once funding is approved by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to build a spur to Blue Run Park. That deal is close to coming to fruition, said Eddie Esch, interim city manager. DEP was seeking in-kind project for an easement the city needed to complete the Rio Vista sewer plant upgrade.

"That's pretty much for sure," Esch said of the in-kind project. "Right now we're exchanging easements."

But getting it from Blue Run Park into the city is essential, Whitt said.

First, the city must find a way to fund the trail through town. Whitt explained Esch has been making the

See CITY page 3



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: R/C CLUB STILL FLYING HIGH

Club members take their (air)craft seriously

AUGIE SALZER

For the Riverland News

Fog hangs heavy over the field after the Saturday morning meeting. Members slowly take their equipment out of the 50 plus vehicles in the parking lot, waiting for the weather to clear. As the haze dissipates, the radio-controlled plane enthusiasts are ready and eager to begin their day of fun.

Located in Dunnellon off County Road 484, the Tri-County RC Club currently has 124 members

from Marion, Citrus and Levy counties. Originally the flying club began in Inverness, but changed its name to include all three counties when it moved to Dunnellon approximately eight years ago.

The club leases 77 acres from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways and Trails, and the land can be used only for recreational purposes. The rented land, used by the Tri-County RC Club for meetings and fly-ins, is

called the Rainbow RC Airpark.

The field is an important part of the growing leisure-time activity of radio-controlled flying, according to Walt Graves, club president for the past two years.

"We do our best to keep the field looking nice," Graves said. "We need a big field like this because we (the members) have planes with a 1-foot-to-6-foot wing span, or larger, flying out here. This type of hobby is so broad that

See FLYING page 2



AUGIE SALZER/For the Riverland News

Peter Golding's electric-powered plane looks like a large eagle. The snowbird from London, England, has six years of flying experience. He recently took the plane for its inaugural flight.

Chamber preps for Boomtown Annual event April 26-27

Special to the Riverland News

The Dunnellon Area Chamber of Commerce is preparing for Boomtown Days Dunnellon 2014 and organizers are in need of sponsors, volunteers and vendors for the annual event. Boomtown Days is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27, in the Downtown Historic District.

The event recognizes Dunnellon's mining town roots with food, crafts, music, antique car show and more.

A beauty pageant to crown the Queen of the Rainbow will be held on Sunday afternoon and The Little Miss & Mr. Dunnellon pageant will be Saturday, April 26, with the Queen of the Rainbow pageant slated for Sunday, April 27.

Applications are now available at the Chamber for the Little Miss & Mr. Dunnellon Pageant. Boys and girls ages 5 to 7 are encouraged to participate in the Boomtown tradition. The first practice will be Saturday, March 1. The deadline to have applications submitted is Feb. 28.

Interested in volunteering? Organizers need your help for various positions. Don't have time to volunteer? Be a sponsor.

For information about being a Boomtown sponsor or a volunteer, call 489-2320 or email dunnellonchambercommerce@gmail.com.

FLYING

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there is something for everyone."

Only members of the Tri-County RC Club are allowed to use the field to ensure the safety of everyone. They also are required to join the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) which is an organization whose purpose is to further the growth of model aviation as a recognized sport and activity.

"Safety is our biggest concern and for insurance purposes everyone has to be a member of AMA," Graves said. "They basically are our governing body and we have our own rules and bylaws that we all have to follow. Safety is our top priority."

A condition of the club is for the new members to meet with a club instructor to review the field rules and for a flight check before they are allowed on the field.

They also have a training program to teach student pilots how to take off, land and safely perform certain flying maneuvers with their planes. The club instructor stays with the student, teaching them safety and the different techniques of flying, until they are qualified to fly solo.

Emily Newsom, a student at Dunnellon Middle School, is new to the club and has just recently become a student of flying.

"I'm having a lot of fun learning to fly," Emily said. "I try to explain to the kids at school what I do. I fly model airplanes."

Her dad, Doug Newsom, was involved with flying for many years, but stopped seven years ago and gave his many planes to a friend. Circumstances have changed and Doug has returned to the sport and has all his old planes back.

"I began again in January with my daughter," Newsom said. "She is doing really well. I'm rusty coming back, but I still enjoy it."



Emily Newsom, a student at Dunnellon Middle School, is new to the club and has just recently become a student of flying. "I'm having a lot of fun learning to fly," Emily said. "I try to explain to the kids at school what I do. I fly model airplanes."

There are six teachers in the club and Emily has the head instructor Norman Albert. At the morning meeting, Albert had just received the "crash of the month" award.

"No matter how careful we are crashes still happen," Albert said. "The award is a reminder for everyone to be careful."

The variety of planes used by the members range from small electric to very large electric power and gas- or fuel-powered. The fuel used in the planes is a combination of methanol, nitro and an oil blend.

The club also has a variety of novelty aircraft. One example of the unusual is owned by Chris Wieland, a member for 14 years. He has a plane that looks just like a lawn mower. The aircraft is 30 inches wide and 4 feet long with the landing gear attached underneath.

"Nothing flies like a 'TORO,'" Wieland joked. "You can fly a piece of

plywood if you put enough power on it."

Kevin Lee has a Blade quad copter with electric-battery and Peter

Golding's electric powered plane looks like a large eagle.

"It's the first flight for the bird," said the snowbird from London, England with six years of flying experience.

"We'll see how she does." John Kettgen, the club secretary, has been flying for many years and enjoys showing off this GWS slow stick night flyer rigged with lights with a Spektrum transmitter.

"You can turn the lights on and off right from the transmitter," Kettgen said. "It's really easy to do even when you're flying it."

It is not necessary to have large, elaborate or even expensive planes to enjoy the sport of model aviation.

"You don't have to spend a ton of money," Graves said. "Plans (to



Walt Graves

build a plane) are free off the Internet and they are easy to build."

Twelve-year-old Xavier Delacruz has been using the simply made planes for about a year. He and his dad, Luis, have about seven planes that they made from scratch.

"We are here as often as we can, usually every other weekend," Delacruz said. "Xavier has a lot of fun and he's really getting good."

To join or learn more about the Tri-County RC Club call Walt Graves at 352-795-7661 or Ralph Rogers at 352-344-4461.

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

NEWS NOTE

Tickets on sale for murder mystery

The Greater Dunnellon Historical Society will host a murder mystery dinner four nights in March.

"Death Bemoans Her" will be at 7 p.m. March 7 and 8 and March 14 and 15. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 each.

Diners will have the opportunity to question suspects about the death of Mystic Madame Magda, while attending a meeting of the Gazillionaire Girls Group.

Tickets will be available Tuesdays, March 4, if there are tickets remaining, at the Historic Depot at 12061 S. Williams St.

Organizers request that guests wanting to sit together during the performance should purchase tickets together.

For information, call 465-5005.

Civic group to host pancake breakfast

The Lake Tropicana Civic Association will host a pancake breakfast from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 22, at the civic association's clubhouse at 3380 SW 181st Court in Lake Tropicana, about 5 miles north of Dunnellon, a few miles east of the corner of U.S. 41 and State Road 40.

Tickets are \$5 per adult and \$3 per child 6 and younger. Tickets may be purchased at the event.

For information, call 208-5006 or 465-5039.

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Screen Room

6065 SW 56th Court - Lot # 081 **\$949/month**

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1988 Nobility
1056 sq ft.
2 Bedroom
2 Bath
Carpport/ (2) Sheds
Screen Room

5587 SW 59th Street - Lot # 152 **\$18,500**

This is a great home that has been freshly painted inside and out. Laminate kitchen/hallway floors, newer stainless appliances, A/C & ductwork replaced 2013.

1985 Nobility
1040sq ft.
2 Bedroom
2 Bath
Double Carport
Fla Room

6160 SW 55th Court - Lot # 072 **\$21,900**

This is a beautiful fully renovated home. This home has had every room updated includes laminate floors, Newer roof, A/C in 2013, Dble carport, and Fla Room.

1989 Nobility
1232sq ft.
2 Bedroom
2 Bath
Double Carport
2 - Sheds

5636 SW 58th Street - Lot # 315 **\$27,900**

This home has been Newly Updated through-out. Laminate Floors, Newer Windows, Newer Appliances, W/D Front Loader, large home with updated kitchen, large screen room.

1991 Nobility
960sq ft.
2 Bedroom
2 Bath
Carpport/Shed
Screen Room

5626 SW 56th Street - Lot # 356 **\$20,900**

This is a newly remodeled home from front to back. Newer kitchen cabinets, all newer sub flooring, laminate/carpet, bathrooms, and more. Everything you need—Furnished.

1990 Homes of Merit
1040sq ft.
2 Bedroom
2 Bath
Carpport/Shed
Screen Room

5661 SW 56th Place - Lot # 344 **\$27,500**

This home has lots of improvements such as Acrylic Lanai with tile floors, double pane windows, metal roof over, newer appliances, and much more.

1991 Nobility
1456sq ft.
2 Bedroom
2 Bath
Double Carport
LG Shed
Screen Room

5740 SW 57th Place - Lot # 246 **\$36,900**

This home is large with a living room, a family room, large bedrooms with handicap accessible bathroom. This home has indoor laundry and a large shed.

1990 Nobility
1456sq ft.
2 Bedroom
2 Bath
Carpport
Shed
Screen Room

5440 SW 56th Street - Lot # 260 **\$22,900**

This is a large home with over 1456sq ft. This home sits on a cul-de-sac very private. Beautiful kitchen and large indoor laundry room. Partially Furnished.

1989 Palm Harbor
1008sq ft.
2 Bedroom
2 Bath
Carpport
Shed
Screen Room

5549 SW 58th Place - Lot # 206 **\$17,500**

This home has a great view off the back porch, looks over our rolling green acres. This home has newer windows, a/c, range, and dryer. All appliances included plus freezer.

1986 Nobility
960sq ft.
2 Bedroom
2 Bath
Carpport
Shed
Screen Room

5535 SW 61st Place - Lot # 007 **\$18,000**

This is a fully remodel home with textured walls, updated bathrooms, new insulation, and the W/D, H/W Heater, A/C, and roof less than 8yrs old. Privately located on a cul-de-sac.

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now from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The Friends continue to accept gently read book donations daily at the store. For information, call the library at 438-4520.

CITY

continued from page 1

push with the Marion County Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) to help fund such an endeavor. Esch also said he's looking into a grant opportunity the Office of Greenways and Trails is offering. "We're exploring it, but we haven't moved in that direction yet," he explained, adding the city is considering using pre-fabricated bridges to cross the Rainbow River. "We're talking to the TPO for funding."

Second, if money through grants is unavailable, they need to determine what would be the most cost-effective means for the city to pay for the project since Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) funds are depleted after the prior administration approved those funds be used for Greenlight and the purchase of a house for the Community Development Coordinator.

"We're looking at liquidating of oddball properties that the city owns or has lien rights to," Esch said. "We've got some properties we've been mowing and we've never done anything to foreclose the liens. We're looking at all those as well as the house."

Third, how to effectively and safely bring the trail through town without upsetting business leaders who could be negatively affected by the trail coming through town? An initial proposal by the now-defunct East Pennsylvania Avenue Streetscaping committee suggested bringing the trail west toward the Historic District and potentially eliminating on-street parking along the south side of East Pennsylvania Avenue.

"That's going to be an issue," Whitt said about how best to accommodate getting cyclists through East Pennsylvania Avenue and into the Historic District. "There's been a lot of ideas thrown around, but nothing definitive. We need everyone's input, especially the business owners. I don't want to be the one making the final decision."

Getting the trail into town would be a boon for business, Whitt said.

Grant Chance, owner of Blue Run Bicycles, agreed.

"I see huge benefits for the businesses" on East Pennsylvania Avenue and into the Historic District, Chance said, noting he anticipates the restaurants reaping the rewards more than his business. "Sure, they might stop and pick up a couple of things from me, but based on my experience riding these trails that go through the hearts of a downtown area, it's the restaurants that see the benefits."

What concerns Chance is how the city plans to

bring the trail into town so businesses will see that influx of potential clientele.

"We're so far behind in planning," Chance added. "And where's the money going to come from?"

That's what Whitt, Esch and other Council members are trying to figure out. Marion County officials have also expressed their excitement, Whitt said, and the push for funds from county agencies has increased in the past year.

The goal of seeing the trail come into town has to be at the top of the Council's "to-do list," Whitt said, as far as he's concerned. But, he stressed, it's important for everyone to play a role with their input. "It benefits all of them."

Whitt pointed to Floral City, which abuts the trail, and the growth in the area the past five to six years.

"It's changed that town dramatically," he ex-

plained. "They've got cafes and other shops all throughout the area. It's really bustling."

The economic impact alone could be a boon for the city, too. Whitt said officials indicated the Withlacoochee Rails to Trails generates upward of \$16 million in ecotourism-related revenues on a yearly basis.

"I'm real excited," Whitt said. "It's awesome, it's amazing."

Esch said exposure for some businesses such as restaurants and Chance's business would be immediate; however, for others, it would take time.

"It's exposure, does it mean immediate results? No, not necessarily but it's exposure which could have tremendous impact"

for the long term, Esch said. "It's visitors, an influx of visitors that brings exposure to what Dunnellon is and the wonderful stuff we have here."

BLAZING

continued from page 1

hit delays, and then got back on track with a groundbreaking last November.

"The department is getting close on completion of the project, but I don't have a hard date when it will be completed," said Patrick Gillespie, spokesman for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The new trail, through a dense wetland close to the edge of the Rainbow River, has maintained much of the tree canopy, a concern when the project was initially discussed.

Late last year, Matt Mitchell, Bureau of Design and Construction chief with the Department of Environmental Protection, said they were expecting a January completion, barring unexpected delays.

Perimeter signs identify the project as the Withlacoochee State Trail. Closing the remainder of the Dunnellon Gap, the segment between the state trail and



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Jose Meza secures a bolt into a safety railing on the bridge spanning the Withlacoochee River.

the Cross Florida Greenway, has been an ongoing priority of the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation and is repre-

sented on the state plan. Contact Chronicle reporter Pat Faherty at 352-564-2924 or pfaherty@chronicleonline.com.

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Riverland News

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Feb. 27, 2014.

Riverland News

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RIVER VIEWS

RIVERLAND NEWS

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OUR VIEW

Mayor needs to apologize for outburst

Mayor Nathan Whitt unleashed a tirade of verbal jabs at his fellow colleagues as well as a parting shot at those who choose to stand in his way as he makes a push to straighten out the financial woes of Dunnellon.

Frankly, it was shocking, appalling and disgraceful. It's uncalled for and against the city's "Public Code of Conduct," which clearly states: "The professional and personal conduct of members must be above reproach and avoid even the appearance of impropriety. Members shall refrain from abusive conduct, charges or verbal attacks upon the character or motives of other members of Council boards and commissions' the staff or public."

Simply, Whitt crossed a line when he called the Council out for its stance about seeking outside applicants for the city manager's post. Their "change of heart" need not be explained; they have the right to their own viewpoints and decision-making skills.

The mayor continued to push the envelope with a second outburst aimed at the general public: "Sometimes, it's OK to be agreeable, and I think that's the big issue we're having here. I like to be agreeable, don't you? I'm sick and flat tired of the attitude that I always get here. I'm ready to move forward. I will railroad you because I'm on the way to a solution. If you're in my way toward the solution, you're the problem and you're going to get run over. We are not in here to bicker and disagree. We are in here to find consensus and then we will move forward."

Whoa! Has the train left the station? Mayor Whitt we are all in this together, but threatening, if you will, those who stand in your

way to railroad them is not only wrong, it is morally reprehensible. We can assure you, we believe this is not acting in the public interest.

We feel your frustration. The past 10 years have been tough for the city; the past 3 1/2 years have certainly been tougher.

If you have a solution to put Dunnellon on the right track — no pun intended — then we encourage you to share it. We encourage you to seek input from your fellow council members, the public, i.e., the taxpayers in this community.

Your "solution" as you call it, might not be in the best interest of those who, in the long run, are footing the bill for the past mistakes of the Council. Yes, we need to move forward, but with tirades such as your Feb. 13 outbursts, you're going to be hard-pressed to find public support, or sympathy.

In addition, you have likely alienated the same folks who, like you, want to see Dunnellon emerge from the depths of this financial quagmire and emerge for a bright future.

If you think we are here to stand in your way, then you're wholeheartedly mistaken. However, we are not here to solely push your own private "solution." This needs to be the public's solution, it needs to be the business community's solution; and it most definitely needs to have the input of the entire City Council.

Right now, your solution is private because you have failed to share it publicly. Until you do so, we are leery of your solution. Yes, we agree, that those who aren't a part of the solution are a part of the problem.

In the meantime, we hope you offer both your colleagues on the Council as well as the public a sincere, heartfelt apology.

THE OTHER GUY

Which train will be used?

I've been workin' on this column, all the live long day, just to pass the time away.

I thought I had one of the toughest jobs in Dunnellon. Sure, the frustration can set in and, like anyone else I've been known to blow my stack a time or two. We all hit those boiling points, we're human and it's easy to do so.

Even Nathan Whitt, the city's first-term mayor, lost his cool recently, launching into a tirade in which he told his colleagues and the public he's got a "solution." Though he's yet to disclose it publicly, here's hoping he does soon.

Whitt has a tough task; he's the mayor, the face of the City Council and the spokesman. He walked into a mess worse than the 1986 Chernobyl disaster, and worked toward resolving a few of the many issues the city is tasked with overcoming.

It's a lot to ask of one person, to attempt to solve problems, to find solutions. It's why he's just one of five people; five ordinary folks tasked with righting a ship sinking as quickly as the Titanic. He jumped aboard after the iceberg

was hit. Perhaps his frustration finally hit a point in which it was too much to keep quiet when he blurted out: "I will railroad you because I'm on the way to a solution. If you're in my way toward the solution, you're the problem and you're going to get run over."



Jeff Bryan
Editor

It might be a simple matter of a "Communication Breakdown." I've always viewed Whitt as a peaceful person, who likes to remain in the middle, "The Diplomat," if you will, of any and all issues.

When, and if, he does plan on railroading folks, how will he do it? Will it depend on the person? Will he provide a warning for the "People to Get Ready?"

What type of engine will he use? Will he choose the "Peace Train?" Will he do it with the "Love Train" or a "Downtown Train?"

Maybe folks need to look deep inside of them and see their "Soul Train."

Perhaps Whitt's solution would shed "Light at the End of the Tunnel," for the citizens proving Dunnellon isn't a "Broken Train," and we are indeed "The Little

Engine That Could."

Then again, maybe his frustration is because folks are taking a ride on the "Crazy Train." Folks could simply be ready to jump ship and catch the "Last Train to Clarksville."

Maybe I'm overreacting and should "Let It Be" and "Imagine" how great Dunnellon can be if I "Don't Stop Believing."

If the musician in Whitt is pondering a change in his set list, he might just want to consider a few of these tunes for when he dusts off the guitar: "Communication Breakdown," Led Zeppelin; "The Diplomat," Johnny Cash; "People Get Ready," Curtis Mayfield; "Peace Train," Cat Stevens; "Love Train," The O'Jays; "Downtown Train," Rod Stewart; "Light at the End of the Tunnel," by Don Cook and Keith Whitley; "Broken Train," Beck; "The Little Engine That Could," Burl Ives; "Last Train to Clarksville," The Monkees; "Crazy Train" by Ozzy Osbourne; "Let It Be," The Beatles; "Imagine," John Lennon; and "Don't Stop Believing," Journey.

Now, there's a good chance Whitt and everyone sees some humor in this. If not, he and a few others might want to put me on the "Midnight Train to Georgia."



THE JERSEY GIRL

Columnist hotter than J.Lo

I am hot. No, I'm not bragging, just stating facts. My body temperature always seems to be higher than everyone else's, no matter where I am. While others are freezing, I'm sweating.

It all started about eight years ago when I had a hysterectomy and, shortly after, experienced menopause. I expected it back then. I'd heard numerous stories about hot flashes, night sweats and other odd abnormalities. Only it never went away.

It can be the middle of winter and I want the windows open. My family knows when they come over for dinner they need to wear a light jacket. In fact, they probably avoid my house in the cold months.

At work, everybody is freezing while I have my fan on. I even bought one of those portable fans that attach to your purse and I ran it until it died. I arrive in the mornings and see the look of shock on co-workers faces as I step out of the car in short sleeves and sandals. When I told the girls at work I won't let my husband turn the heat up higher than 69 degrees, they thought it was inhumane. But my point is, he can put on some heavier clothes or sit under a blanket. What can I do to get cooler, except turn the heat down?

Russell and I actually had a big argument about this a few weeks ago. While he was in the

shower, I flicked the heat off. I was beginning to sweat and I really didn't see the need for the warm air. To get even with me, a few days later, I was boiling eggs and he turned the burner off. He said he didn't see the need for me to take hard boiled eggs to work. How does that even compare? I was very upset about my uncooked eggs, but I did get his point.

Have you noticed though how some people are warm all the time and other people are always cold? Like my mother, she wears a light sweater even in the summer since she's always on the cool side. In the wintertime, forget it. She can never seem to get totally warm. I bought her an electric throw last Christmas and I think that's the best gift I have ever gotten her. She stays under it most of the day. It would be hard for me and her to live together during the winter months.

Is this partly because of our body chemistry or does it have everything to do with body fat? I wasn't sure, so I checked into it and what I found was very surprising. Your body temperature can be affected by your metabolism, your blood circulation or your thyroid.

Body weight, fitness, diet, gender, age and stress can also play a factor. Every expert seems to have a different theory. I guess I could fit into any of those categories. I have plenty of body fat,

my metabolism has slowed way down and any woman who is alive and breathing has stress in her life.

Some people surveyed seemed to think 72 degrees was the optimal room temperature while others preferred 77 degrees. I still think anything above 69 is stifling.

I hate it when we have to constantly keep the heat on and cannot open the windows.

I want to purchase a new coat and I really like the trench style. Yet I know it will be a waste of money as there are five jackets in my closet that never get used. Likewise I cannot wear sweaters or even long sleeved shirts to work. So I'm very limited to what I can wear and I have numerous warm weather clothes that I should just give to my daughters.

You probably won't ever see me with a jacket on unless I'm going to be sitting outside for a while like at my granddaughter's softball games. Hey, I'm warm-blooded, not numb.

Now don't suggest I move out of Florida or anything crazy like that. I love Florida and the sunshine. I can handle the heat in the summer, because I'm usually near an air conditioner or a body of water. I expect to sweat during the summer, but not in the winter.

So believe me when I say I am hot; Jennifer Lopez has nothing on me.

I'm sure when it comes to "hotness" I can give her a run for her money.



Audrey Beem

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A modern day 'Robin Hood' tale

The leaders say those fat cat rich are living high while you poor suffer we are going to level the playing field we will tax them more, and the people cheered.

But the leaders kept the tax money to raise their salaries and pensions. The owners of the businesses looked at the increase in taxes and said we will need to raise our prices on our products — purchased by the poor — to make up this increase.

The people soon discovered they were struggling even more and complained. So the leaders said we will give you a pay increase. We will force a minimum pay of \$5 an hour, and the people cheered.

The employers said we must make up this money so we will need to raise our prices of our products, which are purchased by the poor.

The people were still struggling and complained. So the leaders needing the support of the people said we will

force an increase in the minimum wage to \$10 an hour, and the people cheered.

The other day I needed to buy two tires for a utility trailer, I looked at the old tires for the size and saw the name Carlisle Tire, made in the USA. I thought that was great, so I went to look for that brand. Lo and behold, I found them. It stated: Carlisle Tire made in China.

What happened? I will tell you what happened. A lot of Americans lost their jobs and a lot of Chinese found them, and the people cheered.

Jack Koehler,
Dunnellon

City needs to recognize gorilla in the room

The current, and past, financial problems of Dunnellon emanate from one basic problem that cannot be ignored any longer.

Dunnellon cannot afford to fund its operations on its own tax and city-generated revenue.

See **LETTERS** page 5

LETTERS

continued from page 4

Based on comparable population count, it is impossible to find any other cities in Florida that has its own police, fire, road and city operational cost that Dunnellon has because, as far as I can ascertain, there are none.

The best I come up with is Trenton, population 1,988; Ocean Ridge, population 1,827; and Dunnellon, population of 1,733.

Both Trenton and Ocean Ridge have their own police force, but minimum city and fire department costs. Here are some facts that show why Dunnellon cannot sustain itself.

- The median income for Ocean Ridge is \$63,559 for 2011. Trenton's yearly average income is \$26,089; and Dunnellon's median income is \$24,861 as reported in 2011. Ocean Ridge's median house value in 2011 was \$579,129; Trenton's median house price was \$63,400; and Dunnellon's median house value was \$87,071.

Here are some year 2007 numbers on payroll cost for each city. This is the most up to date information I could obtain and I wanted payroll information before Greenlight Communications.

- Well off financially,

Ocean Ridge had 28 full-time employees for a monthly cost of \$119,838 and six part-time employees for a monthly cost of \$1,753. Ocean Ridge has 14 full-time police officers with an annual average salary of \$60,000, plus five support staff with an annual salary of \$44,000. They have 7.14 officers per 1,000 residents compared to the state average of 2.46 per 1,000 residents.

- Ocean Ridge does fund itself off its own city-generated revenues. They pay their own way. No utility money diverted to pay for their desire to have their own police force.

- Trenton has a total of 13 full-time employees for a monthly budget of \$32,914 and seven part-time positions at \$3,751 monthly. Trenton has two full-time police officers and two part-time officers. The full-time police officers salary is \$34,876 annually. So it appears Trenton is living within it means. Trenton has 1.48 police officers per 1,000 residents.

- In 2007, Dunnellon had 37 full-time employees and a monthly payroll cost of \$114,854 plus 33 part-time positions for a monthly cost of \$13,995. The nine full-time police officers annual average salary was \$44,029. Dunnellon has 5.2 police officers

per 1,000 residents compared to the state average 2.46 per 1,000. I will not belabor the numbers any more. I have pulled my information off city-data.com, so validate it yourself.

My point is Ocean Ridge is affluent and can afford to pay what it does. Ocean Ridge is on one end of the spectrum and Trenton is on the other end of the spectrum. Trenton is not as affluent as Ocean Ridge, but appears to live within its means and pays its own way. Way out of the spectrum is Dunnellon with a large operational and personnel cost it cannot afford.

This is the 800-pound gorilla in City Hall that must be addressed. You cannot spend more money than you take in, unless you are the federal government. Then you can print your own money.

Even without the Greenlight debt, Dunnellon cannot afford its operational cost.

There is no other similar sized city in Florida that has the expenses of Dunnellon.

So the talk of revenue generation and getting more money is nice, but avoids the issue. You can have the bike trail, ecotourism, growth and all the nice solutions someday, but now the house is on fire.

Stay focused on one thing, the city is broke. The cost of government must be reduced. Utility money is the only reachable source of additional revenue and even it is not enough. How much water/sewer enterprise funds will be transferred or borrowed this year?

If the city will not pay Regions Bank the money they borrowed from them, I am losing confidence they will pay back the money borrowed from the utility funds.

When a family budget is in crisis, the first course of action is to reduce cost immediately. What business or person is going to move to Dunnellon under the present situation?

Now is not the time to talk of \$100,000 city manager salaries and getting a city growth manager. What is needed is a city shrinkage manager.

Steve Swett,
Dunnellon

Community Thrift Shop enjoyed banner year

On behalf of the Dunnellon Community Thrift Shop, I'd like to thank the good people of Dunnellon and surrounding areas for making 2013 a banner year. We had a record number of new volunteers, our sales reached a record high and we were able to donate \$19,600 back to the

community, the largest amount in our history, all this from our little shop at the corner of West Pennsylvania Avenue and Cedar Street.

It was a busy year and we certainly couldn't have done this without the thoughtful local people who brought us their gently used household goods and clothing as well as a few local organizations who donated their lost and found items. Thanks to each of you.

Also high on our list of those to thank is our hometown newspaper, the Riverland News, for printing pictures of our donations to the community showing what this group of dedicated women do.

Finally, a special thank you to our customers who came in to shop with us, or just stop by to chat with our friendly volunteers.

During 2013, we were able to give financial assistance to five individuals toward medical expenses and help fund youth groups including the Dunnellon Little League, the Boys & Girls Club and the Sheriff's Youth Ranch.

We've given money to

each of our public schools, the Marion County Literacy Council to improve reading, to four local food pantries as well as the Food for Kids program.

In addition, we donated to Dunnellon's American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life," to the police department for their "Shop with a Cop" and to the fire department for their annual Christmas dinner and party for the less fortunate.

The thrift shop has also collected and given clothing to veterans, clothing to all area public schools, Box Tops for Education to schools and eyeglasses to be refurbished and distributed.

I stepped down as president as of Jan. 1, but the organization, now 38 members strong and with new capable officers, will be continuing our good works and by the way, the Dunnellon Community Thrift Shop is entering its 40th year.

Thanks, Dunnellon, we will continue to carry on and stay true to our goal of giving back to this community.

Joann McCullough,
President, 2011-13

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Thank you,
Dr. Gonzalez

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OUT TO PASTOR

Keep it real or keep it to yourself

Normally, I'm not overly fussy with what people say as long as they are not trying to put something over on me. All it takes is one time of trying to put something over on me and I cross you off my Christmas card list.



Rev. James Snyder

When someone tries to sell me something, I am assuming that somewhere in the conversation they are trying to pull the wool over my eyes. I am allergic to wool in my eyes. When they are talking to me, I am listening for a keyword in their conversation, which is simply, "free." Whenever they mention that magical word, I know they are trying to put something over on me.

My father used to say, "Keep it real or keep it to yourself." He did not have many jewels of wisdom, but this certainly was one that has been helpful to me down through the years. I have tried to keep this in focus when talking to other people. Nothing I hate more than somebody lying to me, so turn-about is fair game. I do not want to lie to anybody myself. At least intentionally.

I am a weekend fisherman from Pennsylvania so the tendency is there and I have to watch myself all the time. I am the kind of person who loves to

exaggerate. Sometimes my exaggeration gets the best of me but then that is why God gave us wives to help curb this tendency. She has not failed me so far.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were relaxing at home watching a little bit of television. It is hard to find anything "real" on the old television set. The reality shows are everything but.

We were casually listening to a talk show who was interviewing some TV personality celebrating his 80th birthday. We were not really paying attention, you know how it is. You are watching TV, but you are talking back and forth to one another trying to catch up on the day's activities. Then this TV personality made a statement that captured both of our attentions.

"I don't believe," this personality, which shall remain nameless, said, "in the afterlife. Only foolish people believe in the afterlife."

This sparked some conversation between my wife and me. The question I had was simply this: how long does it take to get to this point of Superior Idiocy? What university awards an SI degree? If they did, I am sure they could never keep up with the production

See PASTOR page 7

Knights make donation to food pantry



AUGIE SALZER/For the Riverland News

Knights of Columbus Grand Knight Leo Daigle, left, gives a donation of supplies to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Food Pantry's Walter Fleck and Sandy Zak, co-coordinators. The soap, rice, eggs and margarine shown are only symbolic of the many items the food pantry can purchase with the \$1,000 donation from the Knights.

LENTEN-RELATED EVENTS

Holy Faith slates pancake supper

Holy Faith Episcopal Church in Blue Cove will host a pancake supper from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 4. The Men's Club will serve pancakes, sausage, applesauce, dessert and a beverage. Tickets are \$6 at the door. For information, call the church office at 489-2685.

Potato pancake supper planned

The 23rd annual potato pancake supper will be from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on Shrove Tuesday, March 4, at Peace Lutheran Church, "The Church On The Hill," is 5 miles north of Dunnellon, at 7201 U.S. 41.

Tickets may be purchased at the door, or at the Peace Lutheran booth at the Dunnellon First Saturday event March 1. Tickets are \$6 for adults; \$2.50 for children ages 5 through 12;

and children 5 and younger are free.

For information, call the church office at 489-5881, or visit www.PeaceLutheranOnline.com.

Church schedules soup-a-thon

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church will host a meatless soup-a-thon contest at 12:45 p.m. on Ash Wednesday, March 5. Entry Forms are available in the church office or by calling Jill at 489-6221 or John at 489-1611. Prizes will be awarded for the top three winners.

Tickets are \$5 each and available at the door. St. John the Baptist Catholic Church is at 7525 U.S. 41.

Church plans Ash Wednesday service

First Congregational Church will host its Ash Wednesday service at 6 p.m. March 5. The service includes communion and the imposition of

ashes. First Congregational Church is at 7171 SW State Road 200.

Lutheran church to celebrate Lent

Joy Evangelical Church will have a worship service at 6:45 p.m. on Ash Wednesday, March 5, to begin the Lenten season. The theme for Lent for the Wednesday services will be caring.

On March 5, Pastor Ed Holloway will start the theme with "Caring for the Soul;" on March 12, the theme will be "Caring for the Earth;" on March 19, Dr. David Willis will

speaking about "Caring for the Ill;" on March 26, Chaplain Herb Agee will speak about "Caring for the Dying;" on April 2, Jayne Elsperrmann, principal of West Port High School, will speak about "Caring for the Children;" and on Wednesday, April 9, the topic will be about "Caring for Each Other."

Sunday worship services are at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Joy Evangelical Lutheran Church is on Southwest State Road 200 at 83rd Place, Ocala. For information, call 352-854-4509, ext.221.

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Worship 11:00 AM
Disciple Training 5:00 PM
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Wednesday
AWANA 6:30 PM
Youth Group 6:30 PM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

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10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist

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Sunday.....8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
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Sermon.....11:00 AM
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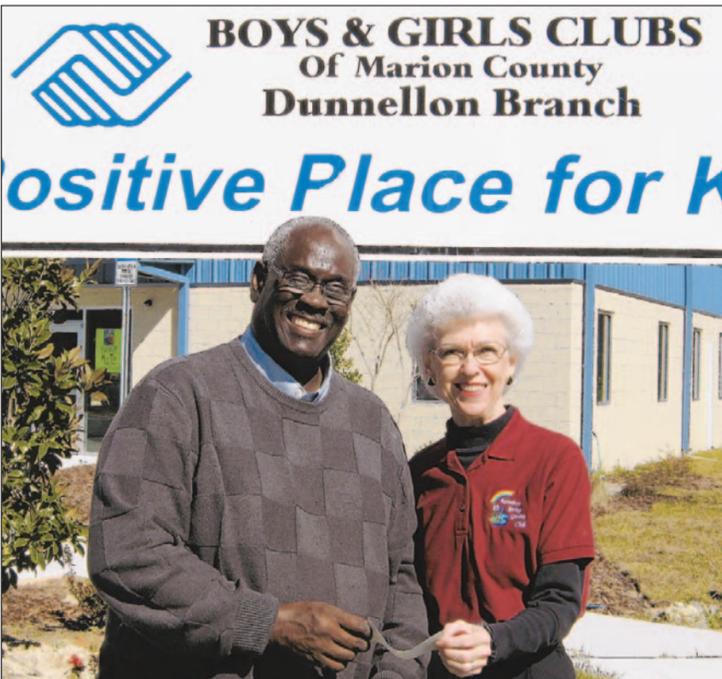


Photo by Margarethe Smith
Jewel Pontius, right, secretary of Rainbow Springs Garden Club and liaison to the Boys & Girls Club of Dunnellon, presents a check for sod to Bobby James, facility development chairman of the Boys & Girls Club of Dunnellon. The Garden Club voted to make a second donation after the successful Chinese Auction Fundraiser on Dec. 5.

PASTOR

continued from page 6

of such awards.

Just when you think you have heard the most stupid thing in the world somebody with an SI degree opens his or her mouth. One thing about this SI is that it is not gender specific. Both men and women are vulnerable to this sort of thing.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with being stupid if you keep it to yourself. When you start telling people just how stupid you really are, that is when somebody needs to object.

Right after this TV personality, whose name will remain anonymous, although he thinks he is some kind of a king, said he did not believe in the afterlife, he said something that was contradictory.

"I have it ordered," he said about as seriously as any SI person could be,

"that when I die I will be frozen until the medical field has discovered a cure or for what has killed me. Then I will be brought back to life with this medication."

My wife and I waited for the laughter. I really thought it was a joke. I did not think anybody could be that stupid. Apparently, a great deal of people are that stupid because nobody laughed at that remark.

My wife and I looked at each other and then we burst out laughing thinking it was one of those TV talk show spoofs. It turned out he was not joking. He did not believe in the afterlife, but he was making plans to come back to life after he died.

I think people with the SI syndrome have one severe dysfunction between their brain and their mouth. We know from listening that their mouth is working but what we hear from their mouth more

than suggests their brain is not working.

I do not have any problems with people being a practicing SI as long as they keep it to themselves. There are enough idiots in the world that we do not have to have people every day coming out of the SI closet.

Listening to this TV personality, I was reminded of my father's favorite saying, "Keep it real or keep it to yourself." There are many things people need to keep to themselves.

This TV personality who wanted to be frozen after he died suggested to me that the freezing had already begun with his brain. I do not know if he ate too much ice cream too fast causing a brain freeze or what. All I know is that some things should not be shared and being an idiot is one of them.

The apostle Paul made this quite clear when he wrote, "For the wages of

sin is death: but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

Only God can keep it real and thankfully He does not keep it to Himself, but shares it with those who will put their trust in Him.

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.jamesnyderministries.com.

Solution to puzzle on Page 14

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

CHURCH EVENTS

Church schedules Mission Festival

Rainbow Springs Village Church will host Missionary Toby Hull from March 7 to 9 as a guest speaker during the church's annual International Mission Festival. Hull and his wife, Kiersten, live and work in Burkina Faso, West Africa, with their four children.

The Mission Festival will begin at 6:30 pm Friday, March 7, with a get-acquainted time over "coffee and dessert." The youth will spend time with Hull on Saturday, March 8, then joining with the adults afterward at 6:30 p.m. at the church for pizza. Hull will host a "show and tell" session followed by a Q-and-A.

On Sunday, March 9, there will be a combined Sunday School at 9 a.m. in the Cove in the church, followed at 10 with Worship services in the sanctuary. Hull will teach Sunday School and

preach at the worship service.

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

For information, call the church at 489-0249 or find us on Facebook, or visit www.caringpeople.org.

Church schedules fashion Show

Community Congregational Christian Church will host its annual fashion show from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 8, in the Dewain Farris Fellowship Hall at 9220 N. Citrus Springs Blvd. Tickets are \$8 each. For information, call the church office at 489-1260.

Southern Express to perform at church

The Southern Express 18-piece Big Band will perform from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 8,

at First Congregational Church at 7171 SW State Road 200. Tickets, which are \$10 each, are available at the door or may be reserved by calling the church office at 352-237-3035 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays.

Church schedules mission trip

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church is planning a mission trip in June to visit Haiti. The small group plans to do construction work on hurricane-damaged properties.

The group is collecting new/slightly used children's clothing and school supplies to take with them for the children of Haiti. To make a donation, including monetary donations to help with shipping costs, call 489-3166 or send checks payable to St. John's to Haiti Mission 7525 S. U.S. Hwy. 41, Dunnellon FL 34432.

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Trip thru time

Rainbow Springs State Park hosted its annual Cracker Days event, which featured people whose skills echoed pioneer life in 1800's frontier Florida, from an authentic Cracker Camp where fire, soap, butter, candles and biscuits are made, trappers and traders tell stories, spinning wheels turn, to the weaver, potter, woodcarver, wood turner and corn grinder and to basket, rug and broom makers and more.

Clockwise from above left: Dade City resident Gary Kemp shows visitors how to start a fire with a spark and charred cloth during the Cracker Days event.

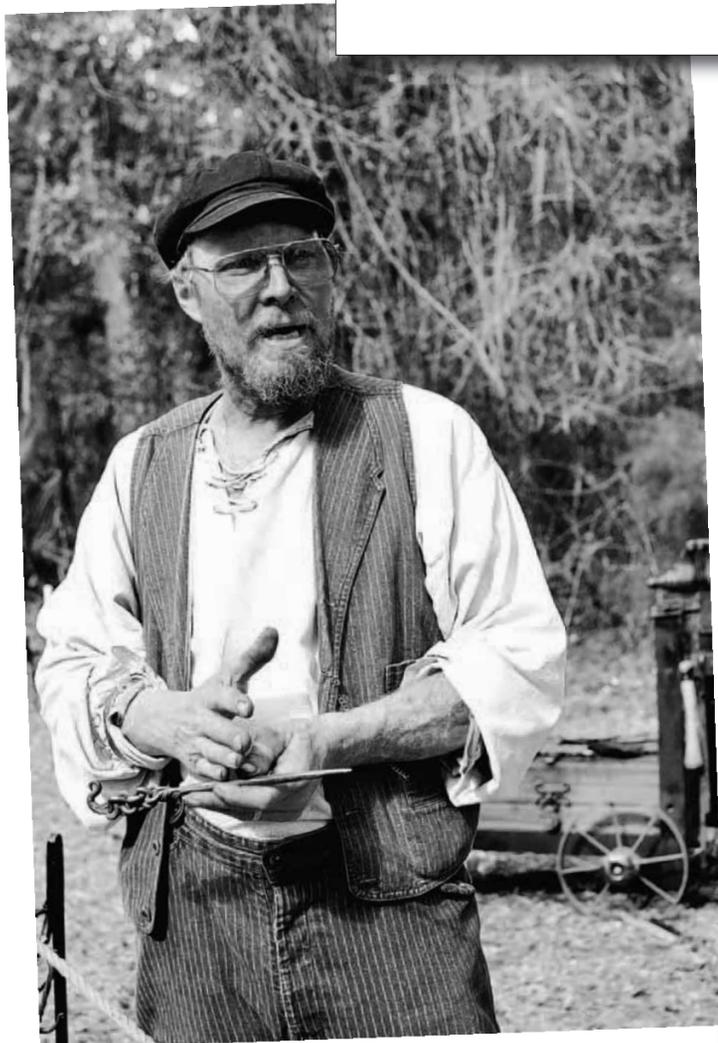
Jeannine Love from Lecanto works on a period quilt design that was popular in the 1930s.

Larry Crosby and Mary Young play mountain dulcimers for the crowd.

Don Andrus of Largo, a member of the Morse Telegraph Club, shows visitors how a pocket key was used to tap into the telegraph wire during the Civil War period so that soldiers could intercept messages from the other side.

Blacksmith Steven Estenson from The Villages explains to visitors how every town had to have a blacksmith and that as towns grew in size blacksmiths would often specialize in just one area, such as horseshoeing.

Photos by JULIE MANCINI/
For the Riverland News





Trip thru time

Rainbow Springs State Park hosted its annual Cracker Days event, which featured people whose skills echoed pioneer life in 1800's frontier Florida, from an authentic Cracker Camp where fire, soap, butter, candles and biscuits are made, trappers and traders tell stories, spinning wheels turn, to the weaver, potter, woodcarver, wood turner and corn grinder and to basket, rug and broom makers and more.

Clockwise from above left: The "dustbunny spinner" Betty-Lou Seager takes fur straight from her shedding angora and spins it into thread.

Billy Roberson, a seventh-generation native of Levy County, shows how to make casting nets, a skill he recently learned from an aging gentleman from Old Town named Jerry Butler. Roberson said he has been coming to Cracker Days for many years, but that he was not allowed to sell his work until after he retired from his job at Manatee Springs. He was also selling his pencil drawings.

After tasting freshly churned butter, 6-year-old Dylan Green of Orlando speaks with Sandra Cashes, who works at Dudley Farm Historic State Park in Newberry.

A park volunteer helps Lilly Simmons, 8, of Dunnellon make a shell necklace as she enters the park for Cracker Days.

Xenia Kemp from Dade City prepares biscuits to share with the visitors the event. Kemp and her husband Gary participate in several weekend demonstrations each year.

Photos by JULIE MANCINI/
For the Riverland News



BMAP

continued from page 1

“Rainbow Springs is a prime example of Florida’s remarkable natural beauty at risk,” said Tom Frick, director of the Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration. “The problem — excess nitrates — is known. Solving the problem requires well-planned, aggressively executed local and state investments and actions, which BMAPs are designed to achieve.”

The Rainbow Springs Group springshed — the area contributing water to the system — covers some 686 square miles in Marion, Alachua and Levy counties. Its landscape comprises rolling sand hills with pine forest, agricultural fields and growing residential areas. Sources of nitrate include septic tanks, fertilizer from agricultural and urban lands, and livestock waste. The nitrates are washed off by stormwater and seep into the underlying karst geology, which is characterized by open passages that readily transport groundwater and nitrates into the springs.

Friday’s BMAP meeting focused on nitrogen-reducing strategies, especially by the agriculture community. The Southwest Florida Water Management District discussed FARMS (Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems), its cost-share program with agricultural operators to implement best management practices (BMPs). The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services also gave a presentation about agricultural BMPs and how they are implemented and

tracked. The presentation outlined wastewater and stormwater projects the county has completed or has under development and the nitrogen reduction benefits they provide.

“The District is committed to providing continued technical assistance in the BMAP effort. Rainbow River is one of the District’s top priority water bodies and we’re focusing our ongoing restoration efforts to improve water resources in the basin,” said Veronica Craw, Manager of the Southwest Florida Water Management District Springs and Environmental Flows Section.

Reducing nitrates in the springs will help reduce the growth of algae, enhance water clarity in the Rainbow River, and improve native aquatic vegetation and habitat. Water quality improvement must coincide with restoring sufficient flow to improve the overall health of the spring and river system. The Southwest Florida Water Management District has scheduled development of a “minimum flow” for Rainbow River and Springs, which will scientifically establish the flow necessary to protect the water resources while allowing sustainable withdrawals to meet human needs.

With the support of Gov. Rick Scott, twice as much funding has been dedicated exclusively to springs protection than in any other three-year period in Florida’s history. Gov. Scott recently announced \$55 million for restoring and protecting Florida’s springs in the 2014-2015 “It’s Your Money Tax Cut Budget.”

For more information about DEP’s water quality restoration program, see www.dep.state.fl.us/water/water_sheds/bmap.htm.

DMS student wins bookmark contest



Special to the Riverland News
For the fourth consecutive year, Dunnellon Middle School has won the countywide Celebrate Literacy Week Bookmark Contest. This year’s artist is Emily Weaver, an eighth-grader, shown with DMS Media Specialist Constance Anderson. Weaver’s design, below, best depicted the literacy week theme: “Reading Accelerates Success.”



NEWS NOTES

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.

American Legion activities slated

American Legion Wall-Rives Post No. 58 will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, with dinner proceeding at 6.

The Women’s Auxiliary will meet at 4:45 p.m. Wednesday, March 5.

Cub Pack No. 469 meets from 7 to 8 p.m. Mondays.

Bingo is 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 at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, March 15. Cost is \$5 per person.

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

The Law & Order Awards Dinner will be at 5 p.m. Saturday, March 22. Reservations only; tickets are \$5 each.

The Legion will host a spaghetti dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, April 12. Tickets are \$6 per person.

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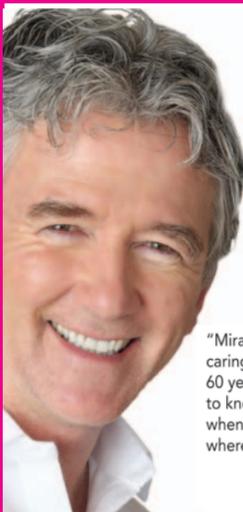
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RIVERLAND SPORTS/EDUCATION

Tiger baseball having early season ups, downs

DHS drops two, wins one after season-opening victory

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

The Dunnellon High School baseball team has had its share of ups and downs to start the season.

After notching a season-opening victory against Chiefland, the Tigers dropped two of their next three games.

Last Thursday, Dunnellon lost a close game, 5-4, to Seven Rivers. The Tigers had both the

tying and winning runs on base, but could not plate either runner to overcome the 1-run deficit.

On Feb. 19, the night before the close loss to the Warriors, Dunnellon outlasted West Port, 12-5, in which it had a close lead, 4-2, before third baseman Quinn Roosen delivered a critical two-run single to extend the Tigers' lead to 6-2.

"West Port had just scored a couple of runs and gotten the momentum," said Dunnellon

coach Chris Cole, whose team is 2-2 overall in his first season at the helm. "Then Quinn got that big hit which kind of put us back in charge of the game."

Pitching proved pivotal just as much against the Wolf Pack, Cole added.

Starting pitcher Chase Wheeler had six strikeouts, but two came in a base loaded, no out situation. "It was really impressive," Cole said about his starting hurler escaping the jam.

Cole said the team is making progress through the first four games of the season.

"We're learning how we need to play to win," he said. "We're making some steps toward that. We're going to be a team that has to throw strikes, take a walk ... our guys are starting to buy into that."

The first-year skipper said his team doesn't have a lot of big boppers, with the exception of Bo DeWitz, a 6-foot-4, 230-pound catcher, and first baseman Garrett Kudlack.

"They have some presence in

the box," Cole added, explaining most of the team's other hitters don't hit for power but have a lot of speed. "They're guys who have to handle the bat, take the extra base when they can, all of those kinds of things. That's not bad. We've just got to learn."

Dunnellon's other game, which was slated Friday against Lecanto was rained out. No makeup date has been announced. The Tigers will play at 7 p.m. Friday against Crystal River at Mike Payne Field in what will now be their district opener.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Lady Tigers softball splits pair of games

Caley Chappel and the Ocala Forest girls softball team got the better of Dunnellon High School on Monday night as the Lady Tigers lost, 8-2, for their third loss in five games.

Chappel belted two homers and drove in six runs in the victory. The junior catcher's first blast came in the bottom of the first to tie the game at 2-all, while her second homer, a three-run shot, broke open the game for Forest, which took a 7-2 lead.

On Feb. 19, the Lady Tigers toppled Lake Weir, 5-1, on the road. Sophomore Michelle Ruiz had a triple and two RBIs for Dunnellon (5-3). Gillian Heintz and Isabella Pierro both drove in one run for the Lady Tigers, while Pierro and Kasey Bernstein had two hits apiece.

Freshman Natasha Pierro recorded the win on the mound, tossing six innings and allowing one run.

The Lady Tigers' Feb. 21 contest versus Citrus was rained out. No makeup date has been announced.

Dunnellon will play at 7 p.m. Monday, March 3, at Lecanto; at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 6 at home against Forest; and at 7 p.m. Friday, March 7, at Citrus High School.

Registration slated for youth football

Boys, ages 8 to 15, are eligible to register with the Marion County Youth Football League from 9 to 3 p.m. Saturdays, March 8 and 15, at the Jerry Gantt Sports Complex at 2200 SE 36th Ave., Ocala. Registration is \$100 and includes uniforms and protective gear. For information, call coach Kiger at 352-812-1730.

United Way to host St. Paddy's Day 5K

United Way of Marion County's high school youth program will host a St. Patrick's Day 5K run/walk at 8 a.m. Saturday, March 8, starting and ending at downtown square to benefit the United Way.

Entry fee is \$20 prior to Monday, March 3, and \$25 afterward. Race forms can be downloaded at www.uwmc.org or participants can register at Active.com.

For information, call Katrina Ganzler at 352-732-9696.

Taking the next step



Four players from the Dunnellon High School football team signed their national letter of intents to compete at the collegiate level. Keiwan Jones, left, signed with Purdue University while Ke'Andre Brooks will play for Georgia Military Academy.

Photos by JULIE MANCINI/For the Riverland News

4 Tigers will continue to prowl the gridiron in college

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

For the past four years, Keiwan Jones, Ke'Andre Brooks, Laddarius Thomas and Nick Weissman have been more than teammates for the Dunnellon High School football program. They've been like family.

So it wasn't surprising when National Signing Day earlier this month was emotional for each of the respective Tiger standouts as they'll make their way into new programs with new players, new coaches and, most notably, new surroundings.

With Dunnellon coach Frank Beasley resigning his post last November, this marks the ninth straight year he watched one, or more, of his senior players inked their name to a national letter of intent. All told, during Beasley's tenure, more than 30 players have moved on to play collegiate football.

Jones' signing with Purdue marks the fifth player in the past nine years to move into the ranks of the NCAA Division I level, the most recent players to compete that high include Florida State standout Terrence Brooks and Florida's Lerentee McCray.

For Jones, the chance to compete in one of the most storied conferences in the nation was too much to pass up. Purdue, though not quite the powerhouse it once was in the Big 10, seemed like the natural fit, Jones said.

"Once I was on campus and in the stadium, I knew it's where I wanted to be," said the 6-foot-4, 270-pound defensive end who was also being actively pursued by Iowa State in the Big 12 Conference.

Jones understands he'll need to work twice as hard now as he

See STEP page 15



Laddarius Thomas, left, signed with the University of Nebraska Kearney while Nick Weissman will compete at Florida Tech next season.



PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Interim reports to be issued

Interim Reports for the third quarter will be issued Friday at Dunnellon



Delbert Smallridge
DMS
Principal

Middle School. Parents, as you know, the interim report is an important mid-quarter indicator of your child's current progress in school and we request you please discuss your child's report with them.

Wednesday, March 5, is an early release day. At 1:40 p.m., students will depart from campus. There is no after-school tutoring on early release days.

DMS is very pleased to offer free tutoring. Both morning and afternoon tutoring sessions are available. It is never too late to come to tutoring and obtain assistance. Our highly qualified teachers are here to give the assistance or clarification in all core subjects to any or all of our DMS students who want it. Thanks to the Title 1 funds Dunnellon Middle School has received, we can make tutoring available at no cost to parents.

The guidance office arranges parent/teacher meetings all year long. If you would like to meet with your child's teachers, call 465-6720. We strongly recommend your child be in attendance at any parent/teacher meeting to enable everyone to give their input as we work together to ensure our children's success.

The DMS basketball teams will play today at Belleview Middle School. The girls' game begins at 4:30 p.m. and the boys' game starts at 5:30.

Friday is the deadline for DMS students to enter their futuristic

See INTERIM page 15

DHS ATHLETES OF THE WEEK • PRESENTED BY DUNNELLON PODIATRY CENTER

Bo Dewitz, baseball

The junior had a great week last week, both on the mound at the plate as he led the Tigers to a 2-2 mark in their first four games.

Offensively, he went 4-for-10 with two walks, while pitching three innings, allowing one earned run.



Bo Dewitz

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Malynda Em, girls tennis

"She's always working hard and has a positive attitude during practices and matches," said Dunnellon girls coach Robin Wise about Em, who plays No. 3 singles and No. 2 doubles for the Lady Tigers this season.



Malynda Em

EDUCATION NEWS

Parents: Apply for Pre-K, VPK programs

Applications of interest are now being accepted for the Pre-K/VPK (Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten) program operated by the Title One office of Marion County Public Schools. This full-day program takes place during the normal 2014-15 school year and is not related to summertime VPK programs.

To be eligible, children must be 4 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2014, and live within the attendance zone of their participating school. Applications are available at participating schools, the Title One office at 306 NW 7th Ave. in Ocala and online.

This program is widely popular but has limited seating. Admission is based on a random selection of applications submitted or postmarked by the 5 p.m. Friday, March 7.

Parents or guardians of students accepted into the regular school-year program will be notified via telephone call starting March 12, 2014. Those not selected will be placed on a waiting list in random order and notified in a letter from the Title One office.

Title One Pre-K / VPK applications may be returned four ways:

- in person at the Title One office at 306 NW 7th Ave. in Ocala;
- mailed to the Title One office at 306 NW 7th Ave, Ocala, FL, 34475;
- faxed to the Title One office at 352-620-7604; or
- completed online.

Regular school-year Pre-K/VPK will be offered in 23 classrooms at 19 public elementary schools including: Anthony, Belleview, Belleview-Santos, College Park, East Marion, Emerald Shores, Evergreen, Fessenden, Fort McCoy, Greenway, Marion Oaks, Oakcrest, Reddick-Collier, Romeo, South Ocala, Sparr, Stanton-Weirsdale, Sunrise and Wyomina Park. Transportation is provided for those students accepted into the program and meeting eligibility requirements.

For information, call 352-671-4171.

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Appleton Museum to host family day

The Appleton Museum will be open Saturday and admission is free for family day. Chris Kahl will perform at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Also on that day, artist Michelle Stitzle will be in attendance and showing youths how to make bottle cap magnets.



Jane Ashman Romeo
Principal

P.E. news
At Romeo, students have physical education once a week with a highly qualified P.E. instructor. They have recess every day, and they have physical education with their homeroom teacher on two other days. Students need to wear tennis shoes every day for their own comfort and safety. Heels, boots, dress shoes and sandals do not supply the traction, support or protection that tennis shoes provide. Please help your child to remember to wear tennis

shoes or pack a pair in their backpack.

Young Reader's award book bowl

There are 15 books chosen every year by librarians in the state as the best of the best. Those 15 books are called the Sunshine State Young Reader books. Children are encouraged to read them and Marion County Public Schools holds a Sunshine State Book Bowl.

Five students from each school get together with other schools to answer questions about the books. We have an awesome team this year. The team includes Ashleigh Palmer, Jarhett Bradham, Preston Mills, Calista Neal and Jacqueline Lemanski. They will compete against five other schools at the preliminary rounds May 13. If we are one of the top two schools at the preliminar-

ies, we will advance to the finals May 15.

'Terrific Kids'

VPK: Jermaine Weathers. **Kindergarten:** Ray Kessinger, Christian McNelly, Jason Pursell, Lydia Tank and Kelsy Torres. **First Grade:** Gabriel Garcia, Josiah Keen, Abigail Palomo, AJ Sanchez, Jordan Strick-

land and Olivia Tucci. **Second Grade:** Amelia Clifton, Emma Fitch, Mariah Jones, Eveline Lugo, Robert Aidan Palmer and Guadalupe Santiesteban. **Third Grade:** James Dixon, Vivian Francia-Moncada, Diana Marquina, TJ Watts and Amir Wiggins. **Fourth Grade:** Sully Anderson, Jaicel Flores,

Destiny Gonzalez, Victoria Peterson and Jazmine Stapleton. **Fifth Grade:** Sabastian Chapman, Jacqueline Lemanski, Kevin Lopez, Erick Romero-Lopez, Taylor Steward, Haley Talmadge, Dustin Thompson, Brandon Torres, Nick Trujillo-Munoz and Maggie Williams.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Local performers set to headline music festival

The 25th Will McLean Music Festival will feature Jon Semmes and the Florida Friends, Scott and Michele Dalziel and Mark Smith, clawhammer banjo virtuoso, all from Dunnellon. All told, more than 50 acoustic singer/songwriters will perform at the event March 7 to 9 at the Sertoma Youth Ranch in Brooksville.

Weekend admission tickets in advance are \$35 and are \$40 at the gate. Individual day rates are \$20 for Friday; \$25 for Saturday; and \$15 for Sunday. Children 12 and younger are free. Camping is paid at the gate.

For information, visit www.willmclean.com or

Fundraiser slated for pregnancy center

Joe Castillo, a contestant on "America's Got Talent," will perform at 7 p.m. April 4 at the Marion Technical Institute (MTI) at 1614 SE Fort King St., Ocala. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Family Hope Pregnancy Center at 20892 Second Ave., Dunnellon. For ticket information, visit www.familyhopedunnellon.org or call 465-3321.

Kiwanis Club meets weekly

The Kiwanis Club of Dunnellon meets at Carmela's Restaurant at 8 a.m. Wednesdays for its weekly meetings and breakfast. However, on the third Wednesday

monthly, the club meets 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.

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

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wgdunnellon> or email waltersylvester@yahoo.com.

Group to distribute toiletries, clothing

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

Free toiletries, such as dish and laundry detergent as well as shampoo, lotion, deodorant and toothpaste, and clothing will be distributed from 9 a.m. to noon the first Saturday monthly at New Second Bethel Missionary Baptist Church at 1940 W. Henry Blair Lane. For information, call Geri Davis 489-6332 or Susan Lebrun 465-8660.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 7

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE

MONDAY, 2:00 P.M.

TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD, CALL Toll Free 1-877-676-1403

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 8 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

CHARGE IT!

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CANCELLATIONS

Advertisements may be cancelled as soon as results are obtained. You will be billed only for the dates the ad actually appears in the paper. Deadlines for cancellations are the same as the deadlines for placing ads, except for specials.

Be aware: Publication of any classified advertisement does not constitute endorsement by the Riverland News. We make every effort to screen out advertising that may not be legitimate. However, since we can not guarantee the legitimacy of our advertisers, you are advised to be careful of misleading ads and take caution when giving out personal information.

Riverland News

ERRORS

Be sure to check your advertisement the first day it appears. We will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Adjustments are made only for the portion of the ad that is in error.

Today's New Ads

DUNELLON
★ MOVING SALE ★
Saturday, March 1st
9am-1pm
Rainbow Springs
19925 SW 96th Place
Sofa, entertainment center, sleeper sofa, 2 cement garden benches & MORE.
Priced to Sell.

DUNELLON
18943 SW 108th Loop
MONSTER YARD SALE!!! Friday, Saturday and Sunday 8:30-3:30 follow signs from Winn-Dixie to Rio Vista. Way too much to list! for more info call: 3522741752

Today's New Ads

White PVC Table w/ 4chairs \$150. obo 2 Seater lawn Chairs still in the case \$50. (352) 209-4311- iv msg.

Announcements

Look
GRAND OPENING MONDAY MARCH 3 BEAUTIFUL YOU WHOLE BODY CENTRE
Come experience the wonderful benefits of Whole Body Vibration. Effectively treats: Arthritis, Insomnia, Multiple Sclerosis, sore muscles, etc.

Look
GRAND OPENING MONDAY MARCH 3 BEAUTIFUL YOU WHOLE BODY CENTRE
Come experience the wonderful benefits of Whole Body Vibration. Effectively treats: Arthritis, Insomnia, Multiple Sclerosis, sore muscles, etc.

ALSO NEW FIT BODY LIGHT SLIMMING PACKAGES!!!
20 minute sessions and you're guaranteed to lose that stubborn fat in any area! No needles, surgery, or down time!
We all have that little pocket, bulge or spare tire we can't seem to lose no matter how hard we exercise.
THIS DOES THAT. (Warming LED/red light therapy.)

Look

GRAND OPENING MONDAY MARCH 3 BEAUTIFUL YOU WHOLE BODY CENTRE
Come experience the wonderful benefits of Whole Body Vibration. Effectively treats: Arthritis, Insomnia, Multiple Sclerosis, sore muscles, etc.

ALSO NEW FIT BODY LIGHT SLIMMING PACKAGES!!!
20 minute sessions and you're guaranteed to lose that stubborn fat in any area! No needles, surgery, or down time!
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Outdoor Furniture

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Furniture

BRAND NEW Queen Size Pillow Top Mattress Set \$150. Still in Original Plastic. (352) 484-4772

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Garden/Lawn Supplies

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RIDING LAWN MOWER John Deer 42" riding lawn mower. 17hp \$500 352 613 5522

Garage/Yard Sales

DUNELLON
★MOVING SALE★
Saturday, March 1st
9am-1pm
Rainbow Springs
19925 SW 96th Place
Sofa, entertainment center, sleeper sofa, 2 cement garden benches & MORE.
Priced to Sell.

Garage/Yard Sales

DUNELLON
18943 SW 108th Loop
MONSTER YARD SALE!!! Friday, Saturday and Sunday 8:30-3:30 follow signs from Winn-Dixie to Rio Vista. Way too much to list! for more info call: 3522741752

DUNELLON
River Retreat
Friday, Saturday 8a-3p
Collectibles, fishing items, tools, furniture, miscellaneous
22590 SW 117 St.

Dunnellon
Saturday 8am-?? D & I Auto
3430 W Dunnellon Road

INGLIS ANNUAL PARK WIDE YARD SALE
Saturday, March 1st, 9:00 AM - ?
Village Pines Campground
7 Miles North of Inglis on US 19.
352-447-2777

Sporting Goods

GUN SHOW
MARCH 1-2 SAT. 9-5 & SUN. 10-5
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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.

Mobile Homes For Rent

BRING YOUR FISHING POLE!

INVERNESS, FL

55+ park on lake w/5 piers, clubhouse and much more! Rent incl. grass cutting and your water
★ 1 bedroom, 1 bath @ \$395
Pets considered and section 8 is accepted. Call 800-747-4283 For Details!

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New Log Home* on 10+ acres only \$89,900 3 Bed, 2 bath log home with direct river access. Convenient to downtown Jacksonville. Excellent financing. Call now 877-525-3033, x.19
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2 beds. Pool home on almost a half acre. Newer roof, a/c, flooring, etc. in last 1-7 years. Owner-finance considered w/20k down. Regular sale. \$89,900.
21376 SW Plantation, Dunnellon. Mike McGuire, Arthur Kowitz Realty, 386-871-4901.

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Notices to Creditors/Administration

463-0306 RIV
Rivard, Robert E. 2014CP206 Notice to Creditors PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File Number: 2014CP-206

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of **ROBERT E. RIVARD**, deceased, whose date of death was January 4, 2014, File Number 2014CP-206, is pending in the Circuit Court for Marion County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is P.O. Box 1030, Ocala, Florida 34478-1030. The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE TIME OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is February 27, 2014.

Personal Representative:
/s/ ROBERT E. RIVARD, JR.
1902 130th Avenue, Mora, Minnesota 55051

Attorney for Personal Representative:
BRETT & REYNOLDS, P.A. /s/Joel O. Parker, Esq. Florida Bar No. 0070201
8810 S.W. Highway 200, Suite 122, Ocala, Florida 34481
February 27 & March 06, 2014.

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Principal Ken McAteer addresses Dunnellon players, including Ke'Andre Brooks and Keiwan Jones, on national signing day. Laddirus Thomas and Nick Weissman, not pictured, also signed their national letter of intent.

STEP

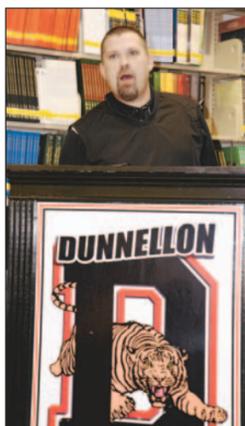
continued from page 11

did in high school, but he's eager to get started. He'll just have to wait until mid-June when he reports to campus to get a jump-start on academics as well as familiarize himself with his new surroundings.

"I really want to make a name for myself in the school, the conference and the nation," he said. "I want to be remembered as one of the best. But I know to do that, I'm going to have to put in the work and the effort, both in the classroom and on the field."

Ke'Andre Brooks made his commitment with Georgia Military Academy, a junior college, to work on both his academics and overall skills. He said the recruiting process was lengthy, but he had plenty of support and advice from his brother, Terrence, who had plenty of experience during his senior season before deciding upon Florida State.

"It's a chance to start right away," said Brooks, who also played on the defensive line throughout his prep career, adding he liked how inviting the campus and the coaching staff was during a visit to the school. "I won't be far



Frank Beasley addresses players, family and friends during national signing day.

away from home either."

Thomas made the commitment to join the University of Nebraska Kearney, a perennial NCAA Division II powerhouse, that hasn't quite lived up to its standards the past few seasons. Thomas, who played both receiver and defensive back for the Tigers the past two seasons, said he'll likely play in the secondary for the Lopers, who haven't finished with a winning season since joining the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association in 2012.

Thomas explained he's been in touch with several other signees, who have discussed the importance of returning

the program to the success it enjoyed prior to joining the MIAA, which is home to Northwest Missouri State University, this past year's NCAA Division II National Champions.

"We've discussed what we can do to be a part of turning the program around and really making an impact along the way and setting the tone for the players who come in behind us," Thomas said. "When it's all said and done, we want to be able to have that ring and now we've laid a great foundation for the players behind us."

Weissman, a key cog on the Tiger offensive line the past three seasons, signed with relatively unknown Florida Tech in Melbourne, a university which is competing at the NCAA Division II level. Last year was its inaugural season and Weissman is eager to be a key building block for the program's future.

"I liked the atmosphere there, the academics, the coaching staff is young, so they're all real hungry to really make a mark in the program," Weissman said. "They want to win now and I think with the foundation they had set the first year, we can certainly do that in the next couple of seasons."

INTERIM

continued from page 11

drawing of what a healthy school breakfast will look like in 2014. This contest is in recognition of the National School Breakfast Week, which will run from March 3 to March 7. Come on DMS students, grab a contest form and let's win this for Dunnellon Middle School. Completed forms are to be submitted to Cindy Guile, café manager.

The DMS basketball teams will play today at Fort King Middle School. The girls' game begins at 4:30 p.m. and the boys' game starts at 5:30. This will be the final regular season game for each team as they will gear up to play March 8 in the county Tournament at West Port High School.

The 2013-14 DMS Yearbook pre-sale cost of \$30 will be available until Friday, March 21. After March 21, the cost of a yearbook will increase to \$35. There will be a limited number of extra yearbooks that will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis in May. Make sure you order your copy soon and save \$5 at the same time.

This is a repeat to parents of sixth-grade students. If your child received a recommendation letter on Nov. 8, 2013, and Dec. 20, 2013, for a follow-up with an eye doctor, pediatrician or dietician with his/her health screening, please return the parental reply.

If your child has already been seen for a medical evaluation, just mark the reply section found at the bottom of the school screening result form and return it to the DMS Clinic. This follow-up is part of your child's permanent health record. If you have questions regarding your child's health record, call the DMS

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TODAY

- 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. — Chorus practice.
- 3:40 to 4:45 p.m. — Girls' Bible study.
- 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. — Girls and boys basketball at Bellevue Middle School.
- DMS FFA at Southeastern Youth Fair — Swine weigh-in.

FRIDAY

- DMS FFA at Southeastern Youth Fair — Swine showmanship and show.

SATURDAY

- DMS FFA at Southeastern Youth Fair — Swine sale.

MONDAY, MARCH 3

- 3:40 to 4:45 p.m. — Tiger Fit Club.
- 3:40 to 5 p.m. — Girls and boys basketball practice.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

- 7:30 a.m. — DMS FFA, livestock judging practice.
- 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. — Chorus practice.
- 3:40 to 4:45 p.m. — Brain Bowl practice.
- 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. — Girls and boys basketball at Fort King Middle School.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

- 1:40 p.m. — Early release day.

nurse at 465-6795.

Box Tops for Education

Thank you for your Box Top for Education donations as Dunnellon Middle School nears its goal of \$500, with our current total at \$477. Just a wee bit more and we will do it. Drop off these little treasures at

either the front desk of Building No. 1 or the discipline/attendance office at Building No. 10.

You can also mail them to Dunnellon Middle School, Attn: Box Tops for Education Coordinator, 21005 Chestnut Street, Dunnellon, FL 34431.

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FREE WINE FRIDAYS w/dinner purchase

Seniors get 20% OFF on Mondays
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KIDS EAT FREE (10 & under) From Kid's Menu One per one adult dinner purchase.

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DINNER & SHOW
March 18th at 5pm

Billy "ELVIS" Lindsey will perform live.
Dinner at 5pm. Show starts 6pm - 9pm
Tickets \$20 pp. Available at Gruffs

Limited Seating.
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Voting Ends Feb. 27

cutest couple

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www.westmarionmessenger.com/valentines

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- Accommodations & Dinner for Two at Plantation on Crystal River
- Jewelry from Specialty Gems & Jim Green Jewelers
- \$100 for Ike's/Neon Leon's

Riverland News

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DOUBLE CAB LT
STK #CT14097
MSRP \$32,240



New 2014 Chevy **CRUZE LS**
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\$750 Dealer Discount
\$500 Rebate
\$500 Loyalty
\$750 USAA
\$2,500 Cash or Trade Equity

You Pay **\$14,255**

Drive For Only **\$139** Per Mo. Lease



New 2014 Chevy **SONIC SEDAN**
STK #C14168 • MSRP \$18,150

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\$1,000 Rebate
\$500 Loyalty
\$750 USAA
\$2,500 Cash or Trade Equity

You Pay **\$13,050**

Drive For Only **\$122** Per Mo. Lease

\$1,497⁴⁰ ..Supplier Discount
\$1,400.....Rebate
\$1,500.....Loyalty
\$750.....USAA
\$2,500 Cash or Trade Equity

You Pay **\$24,592⁶⁰**

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\$500 Rebate
\$500 Loyalty
\$750 USAA
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You Pay **\$20,280**

Drive For Only **\$210** Per Mo. Lease



New 2014 Chevy **MALIBU LS**
STK #C14205 • MSRP \$23,335

\$500 Dealer Discount
\$1,750 Rebate
\$500 Loyalty
\$750 USAA
\$2,500 Cash or Trade Equity

You Pay **\$18,355**

Drive For Only **\$214** Per Mo. Lease



New 2014 Chevy **CAMARO 2LS**
STK #C14094 • MSRP \$26,235

\$700 Dealer Discount
\$500 Rebate
\$500 Loyalty
\$750 USAA
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You Pay **\$21,385**

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PIT-STOP PROGRAM INCLUDED!
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New 2014 Chevy **IMPALA LT**
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You Pay **\$26,825**

Drive For Only **\$280** Per Mo. Lease



New 2014 Chevy **TRAVERSE LT**
STK #C14112 • MSRP \$35,535

\$1,200 Dealer Discount
\$1,000 Rebate
\$500 Loyalty
\$750 USAA
\$2,500 Cash or Trade Equity

You Pay **\$29,585**

Drive For Only **\$324** Per Mo. Lease



New 2014 Chevy **TAHOE LS**
STK #CT14041 • MSRP \$45,115

\$2,500 Dealer Discount
\$1,500 Rebate
\$2,000 Loyalty
\$750 USAA
\$2,500 Cash or Trade Equity

You Pay **\$35,865**

Drive For Only **\$453** Per Mo. Lease



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