

Riverland News

Thursday, March 13, 2014

Vol 32 No. 19

75 cents

Regions nixes talks with city, again



Mike Markham

Attorney tells Council to hold off on assigning promissory notes

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

Regions Bank has once again called off negotiations, notifying the city and its special legal counsel, Mike Markham, of its intentions as

the financial firm moves forward with its lawsuit against the city for defaulting on the \$7.3 million in funding issued in November 2010 for the upstart telecommunications system.

This isn't the first time Re-

gions' attorneys have broken off talks with the city, last stepping away from the table in late October 2013, shortly before the city failed to make good on a \$1.7 million bond payment in November. The principal amount outstanding

of the bonds as of Nov. 1 was approximately \$6.7 million. As part of the agreement struck in 2010 between the city and the bank, the then-City Council pledged the city's share of excise taxes. During Fiscal Year 2014, the city is expected

to receive slightly more than \$700,000 in revenue.

The renewed discussions came at the request of Gov. Rick Scott's office after the city filed a state of financial emergency with the first-term governor. The city's filing in November was consistent with

See REGIONS page 3

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Author to speak at public library

The Dunnellon Public Library will host noted author Rosalie Riegle from 1 to 4 p.m. Friday at the Dunnellon Public Library. Riegle will talk about how to create an oral history and read selections from her two recent books.

The event is free and open to the public. For information, call 438-2520.

Boys & Girls Club to open for Spring Break

The Boys & Girls Club of Dunnellon will host registrations for returning and new members, ages 6 to 18, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays through March 19, at its new location at 2007 SW 110 St. There will be two special Open Houses, the first from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, March 20, and the second from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, March 21. On Monday, March 24, the new club will open to members for a special Spring Break Camp. For information, visit Facebook, Boys & Girls Club Dunnellon or go to bgcofmarion.com.

Annie Johnson Center slates food drive

The Annie W. Johnson Service Center will host a food drive from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 22 at three different locations: The Annie W. Johnson Thrift Store, 20643 W. Pennsylvania Ave.; Cadence Bank, 11392 N. Williams St.; and Rainbow Springs Realty Office, 8625 SW 200 Circle. For information, call 489-8021.

Knights schedule St. Pat's dinner/dance

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor a St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance on March 15 in the parish hall of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church at 7525 U.S. 41.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner served at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person. For ticket reservations or information, call 489-6221.

Back in the saddle



AUGIE SALZER/For the Riverland News

Sandy Grenz, left, instructor at Happy Acres Ranch has been working with Dunnellon residents Linda Porter, Ginny Barr and Judy Capone as the three women have hopped back in the saddle to learn how to ride. Their "training partner" is Joe Sr. Porter, an accomplished rider, quit riding after being diagnosed with a rare and debilitating illness, which has left her struggling with balance and a sore back. But a few months ago, Porter was talking to Barr and Capone at a craft show at church and the two were telling her how much fun they were having on the horses and talked her into trying to ride.

Women follow dream, take up horse riding lessons

AUGIE SALZER
For the Riverland News

Three Dunnellon women have decided not to let age or illness keep them from fulfilling their life-long dream of horseback riding.

Judy Capone remembers having a pony when she was younger, but could never get him under control.

"I've always loved horses," Capone said. "I've wanted to learn to ride for a long time, but it just didn't happen."

Capone's husband has been very sick since August and is now in a nursing home. Also her 70th birthday was fast approaching and she didn't know what to do.

Then one day while eating in one of Dunnellon's restaurants she overheard a man talking to the waitress about his ranch and all his horses.

"I went over to talk to him and he gave me his card," Capone said. "It was Jim Moore, the owner of Happy Acres Ranch, and I knew then it was meant to be."

The time to make her dream come true had arrived. She started taking horseback rid-

"I've always loved horses. I've wanted to learn to ride for a long time, but it just didn't happen."

Judy Capone
about why she finally, at almost 70, took up horse riding lessons.

ing lessons as a birthday present to herself.

The second lady, Ginny Barr, 67, has also dreamed of being able to ride a horse for as long as she could remember. Loving everything about horses, she was reading the inspirational stories about life in the saddle from the book "Horse Sense." Her husband, knowing of his wife's dream, came home at this time with information about taking a vacation at a dude ranch in Colorado.

"There I was, reading 'Horse Sense' and Tom (her husband) brought home the brochure on the dude ranch," Barr remembered with a smile. "It was something I've always wanted to do. It all came together. It was meant to be."

Having very limited riding

experience, Barr decided to take some riding lessons before going on her dream vacation and she also picked the Happy Acres Ranch.

Linda Porter, 61, is the third lady in the group. She is an accomplished rider and had her own horse on a small farm she owned in Tallahassee. She moved to Dunnellon in 2000 to be with her family.

"About four years ago, my horse died of old age after a long and happy life," Porter said. "I decided then that I wouldn't own another horse, because of all the expenses involved."

In 2006, she also came down with a rare and debilitating illness which has left her

See SADDLE page 15

Council offers top job to Esch

Contract must be finalized, approved

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

With no opposition standing in his way, there was little doubt

Eddie Esch would be promoted to full-time city manager.

The lone challenge he faced was nearly an hour-long question-and-answer session with Vice Mayor Dennis Evans, whose colleagues opted not to ask any questions of the current interim manager.

Before firing off questions, Evans made it clear to his fellow council members and the public he wasn't against Esch being promoted, he strictly wanted to follow typical protocol of hiring a city manager. He wanted Esch's answers on public record.

"If we have to go back and check those if we ever need to," Evans explained, noting he went to google.com and searched for typical questions for city manager candidates. "It's just a part of the process."

Evans asked Esch questions ranging from his experience in the private world to his thought about personal property rights to his management style.

Esch told the Council he initially wanted to be a veterinarian, having spent time in

See ESCH page 21



6 84578 20035 4

Chamber seeks 'dealers' for Casino Night

Las Vegas-style event slated for March 29

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

Kenny Rogers famously crooned, you never count your money when you're sittin' at the table, there'll be time enough for countin' when the dealin's done.

But for those eager to enjoy the Dunnellon Area Chamber of Commerce's upcoming Casino Night at American Legion Post No. 58, they need more dealers

for the Las Vegas-style games.

"It's better to have too many that way people can take breaks," said Beverly Leisure about the event planned from 6 to 10 p.m. March 29. "We can give them free chips to allow them to play, so that way they can work in shifts so no one has to sit there all night."

Hosting another Casino Night came about through multiple conversations with

board members, said Viola Soffe, president of the Chamber Board of Directors. The inaugural event in July was a success folks have been asking for months about when the next Casino Night would be, she added.

"That's all (the board) talks about, how much fun they had, how much excitement the other people experienced," Soffe explained. "We've had a lot of folks tell us, See CASINO page 2



Riverland News file photo

Carl Boos served as guest dealer at one of the many Black Jack tables during the Chamber of Commerce's inaugural Casino Night in July at American Legion Post No. 58. The Chamber is in need of volunteer dealers for its March 29 event.

Chamber preps for annual Boomtown Days festival

Event is 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 spon-

sors, volunteers and vendors for the annual event. Boomtown Days is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27, in the Downtown Historic District.

A beauty pageant to crown the Queen of the Rainbow will be held on Sunday after-

noon 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. Dun-

nellon Pageant. Boys and girls ages 5 to 7 are encouraged to participate in the Boomtown tradition. The first practice will be Saturday. The deadline to have applications submitted is today.

Interested in volunteer-

ing? 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.

CASINO

continued from page 1

'Gee, I wish you'd do another, I enjoyed that one so much.'

With Boomtown Days less than two months away, organizers felt now was the time to plan the second Casino Night and use it as a launching pad to promote Boomtown Days Dunnellon as well as the inaugural "Boomtown Casino." The "Boomtown Casino" is scheduled for Friday, April 26, at Gruffs Tap & Grille. Boomtown Days will be Saturday and Sunday, April 27 and 28.

The tentative plan, Soffe said, will be to introduce the Boomtown Mayor and the Boomtown Sheriff at the "Boomtown Casino." The Boomtown Sheriff will be part of the two-day festival in which the "sheriff" will arrest those after a warrant is issued by the public at a nominal fee, Soffe said. Once arrested and transported to the Boomtown Jail, those incarcerated will have to post bail.

"We're still working



Riverland News file photo
Dennis Emery, right, gives Jeanette McWilliams a tutorial about how to play craps and how bets are placed prior to the Las Vegas-style games at the Chamber-sponsored Casino Night in July at American Legion Post No. 58.

out details of everything for it," Soffe said about Boomtown Days' events, "but we've got a lot of great ideas."

Volunteers are badly needed for everything, she said. "We have hardly any dealers for Casino Night," she explained, noting Donna Baker, a professional

dealer will offer a brief tutorial for those wishing to volunteer. Currently, four people have volunteered to help deal the night of the event, but more are needed so more games such as Texas Hold 'Em, black jack, roulette and craps can be offered.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door, and include light snacks, refreshments and \$25,000 in playing chips.

For information about volunteering for Casino Night or Boomtown Days, or to purchase tickets, call 489-2320.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Woman's Club plans brunch Sunday

The Woman's Club of Dunnellon will host a benefit St. Patrick's Day Sunday Brunch on Sunday at its club house at 11756 Cedar St. There will be two sittings; the first at 11 a.m. and the second at 12:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person, and are limited to 50 people at each seating.

For tickets or information, call Treva Matthews at 489-4512.

Garden Club to meet Thursday, March 27

The Rainbow Springs Garden Club will meet at 1 p.m. Thursday, March 27, at the American Legion Hall, 10730 U.S. 41, north of Walmart. George Aldrich of Plants-n-Things will be the guest speaker, sharing his popular program about bromeliads and ferns.

Rainbow Springs Garden Club is open to the public. Annual membership, September through May, is \$10. Visitor's fee is \$5, applicable toward annual membership. Refreshments will be available and Grow and Share plants will be sold.

For information, call Alice Kennedy at 465-3002.

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.

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 and to RSVP by the previous Tuesday weekly.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Agency participating in fundraiser

The Annie W. Johnson Service Center of Dunnellon, a United Way organization, will participate in the \$1 million giveaway "Helping End Hunger in America" effort by the Feinstein Foundation.

Founded in 1991 by Alan Shawn Feinstein, the Feinstein Foundation (www.feinsteinfoundation.org) is dedicated to the alleviation of hunger.

Donors can help the needy in Citrus and Marion County by donating to Annie Johnson Service Center, especially during March and April when the Feinstein Foundation will be adding money to all donations. All money and food collected stays in Citrus and Marion counties.

For information, call the Annie Johnson Service Center at 489-8021.

American Legion activities slated

American Legion Wall-Rives Post No. 58 will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, with dinner proceeding at 6.

The Women's Auxiliary will meet at 4:45 p.m. Wednesday, April 2.

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.

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

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

Penno VFW Post plans events

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

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

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

For information, call 465-4864.

Solution to puzzle on Page 15

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

REGIONS

continued from page 1

Florida Statute 219.503(5). In the request, written by Eddie Esch, interim city manager, the city sought the governor's permission to file for bankruptcy. According to a spokeswoman with the governor's office, it's the first time a municipality has asked for the governor to approve bankruptcy provisions. However, Gov. Scott's office has told city officials it would prefer to deny Dunnellon's request to file for bankruptcy.

The governor's office had up to 45 days to review the requests as well as associated documentation to go along with it. As of Tuesday, neither the governor's office, nor the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee (JLAC) had completed its investigation.

Markham explained filing a state of emergency requires the governor's office to review the situation within 45 days of notification. The city, if it wanted to, could not file bankruptcy without the governor's authorization. Markham told the City Council once paperwork was filed, the gov-

ernor's office would likely send a team of people to audit the situation. "The Chief Inspector General continues to review the situation," a spokesman with Gov. Scott's office said, noting there is no timeline, at this time, to complete the review.

The state of emergency came at a time when the city's initial deal to sell its financially beleaguered fiber-to-the-home program to Wideband Networks for \$3.85 million fell apart. Shortly after the deal with Wideband collapsed, officials secured a \$1.3 million deal with Florida Cable to purchase the system as well as take over city's lease for its head-end equipment with All-American Leasing. That deal closed Dec. 23, but in January the City Council learned Florida Cable never funded the sale of the system as it had agreed to when City Attorney Virginia Cassidy turned over all documentation for the now-defunct Greenlight Communications.

In February, the city and Florida Cable struck a new deal in which the privately owned telecommunications company would sign two promissory notes: one for

\$1 million and the second for \$300,000. Both notes could have then been assigned to any entity the city chose. However, the Council delayed assigning those notes at its Feb. 13 workshop.

According to Esch, Markham has advised the Council not to sign those notes in the meantime because of new information pertaining to Florida Cable. Esch told the Riverland News, Markham learned Fifth Third Bank had field liens against Florida Cable for a loan it had acquired but didn't divulge to the city during talks to purchase the system.

The city has yet to file a lawsuit against Florida Cable for breach of contract, but did approve such a measure in late January when the Council learned about the lack of funds being acquired from the proposed sale of the city's telecommunications system.

The principal amount

outstanding of the bonds as of Nov. 1 is approximately \$6.7 million. As part of agreement struck in 2010 between the city and the bank, the then-City Council pledged the city's share of excise taxes. During Fiscal Year 2014, the city

In response to the cancelled talks, the City Council approved hiring Michael Markham of in hopes it could rekindle discussions with Regions Bank and its attorneys J. Jeffrey Deery and Lionel E. Rubio, who represent Winderwheel, Haines, Ward & Woodman.

Markham explained filing a state of emergency requires the governor's office to review the situation within 45 days of notification. The city cannot, if it wanted to, could not file bankruptcy without the governor's authorization. Markham told the City Council once paperwork was filed, the governor's office would likely send a team of people to audit the situation.

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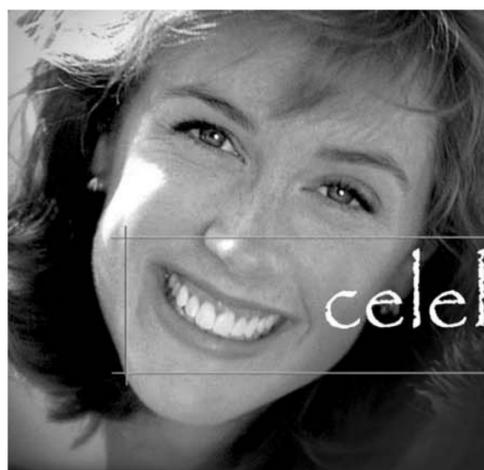
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RIVER VIEWS

RIVERLAND NEWS

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OTHER VIEWS

It's time to stop kicking the water bottle

Will Weatherford may have a House, but Charlie Dean says he's got two-thirds of a movement.

Rep. Weatherford, the speaker of Florida's lower chamber, told the News Service of Florida in February that while he's aware of the push in the state Senate to reform water policy, "when it comes to water ... the long-term, 20-year plans will likely come in the next session."

Instead, Weatherford said, the House would focus its energies on a concurrent Senate effort backed by Stuart Sen. Joe Negron — chair of the Senate's appropriations committee — seeking to clean up Lake Okechobee and damage caused downstream by discharges from the swelled landmark.

That's not soon enough for Sen. Dean and a group of senators who have filed broad springs legislation, or for environmental advocates who say Florida's waters are only sessions from spoilation.

Dean, speaking to the *Chronicle* editorial board last week, said he began meeting last year with four fellow senators — David Simmons, Wilton Simpson, Bill Montford and Alan Hays — to discuss a long-term plan "for the future of water," to be inclusive enough to satisfy the demands of

stakeholders ranging from environmentalists to business interests and tourists. Over the course of the intervening year, he said, a plethora of policymakers and officials were brought into the conversation and allies were made not just in the governor's office, but in his chair.

On Feb. 28, Dean and Montford introduced the fruit of that year-long effort to reshape water policy and project Florida's springs, SB 1576.

The bill takes some of the bold steps environmentalists have called for the Legislature to take for years, but have watched it balk at, including identification and removal or repair of leaking septic systems — funded mostly or entirely by the state — and establishment and enforcement of quality-based minimum flows and levels for springs.

Most important, though, it would do something at a time when legislative leaders think there's still time to do nothing.

Dean doesn't think Weatherford's opposition to water policy reform will have much effect on his bills, because "if you take the governor and the five other senators, that's two-thirds of a movement."

We hope two-thirds is enough.

— *Citrus County Chronicle*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

City's help for Boys & Girls Club appreciated

I am a volunteer for the Boys & Girls Club in Dunnellon. The city of Dunnellon officials have been getting a lot of criticism.

In contrast, I would like to thank them for the help they have given the club in order that the children of Dunnellon have a beautiful new facility available for spring break and into the future.

Susan Hay,
Dunnellon

RS resident proposes trading places

How did the "schoolyard bullies from the north intimidating their neighbors" enter into the point you were trying to make?

I feel sure you are referring to the lawsuit regarding the surcharge on our water/sewer bills and exorbitant rates. Let's trade places for a moment.

Suppose those bullies from the north had purchased the "bullies from the south" utility system then tacked on a 25 percent surcharge "just because we can" and doubled and, in some cases tripled and quadrupled, your water rates. How do you think you would feel then?

Those northern bullies did try to work with you, but were rebuffed by the former administration. Do you realize

how much those northern bullies support the city?

Joan K. Duggins,
Dunnellon

Mayor, Council need to address problems

Editor's Note: The letter writer asked that this letter sent to Mayor Nathan Whitt be published in the *Riverland News*.

Mayor Whitt,

In a recent council meeting, it would be advised to explain where the people's \$1.3 million is. To sit there like you have not a worry in the world, shows you and your buddy, Eddie Esch, are hiding information from all of Dunnellon.

Be it clear, I want Florida Cable to succeed, but also to pay the city the nickel they owe for a system that should have never been sold.

Furthermore, your friend over in Blue Cove and his letter in *Riverland News* was a dig at Rainbow Springs. This will be the last one coming from the Council and the person who wrote it.

Be aware, it is a lot greener over here than the decay. That's all over the city you run. Quality of life over there has to be pretty bleak, especially when the mayor and council get paid taxpayers' money and refuse to

See **LETTERS** page 5

THE JERSEY GIRL

An ode to late-night hosts

I'm betting there isn't an adult alive who hasn't seen "The Tonight Show" at one time or another. It's an American staple that's been around for more than 50 years. It's as American as hot dogs and apple pie.

According to Who2.com, there have been only six permanent hosts since its inception in 1953. The first was Steve Allen who started the show in New York doing live comedy sketches with his guest stars. He went part time in 1956, but it wasn't until the next year he actually stepped down. Here's a bit of trivia for you, Allen's announcer, Gene Rayburn, later hosted the "Match Game."

In the summer of 1957, Jack Parr took over the reins. Parr turned the emphasis to talk and interviews. His five-year run ended in 1962.

When people think of "The Tonight Show," they think of Johnny Carson, who was the longest running and most popular host along with his sidekick, Ed McMahon, and

bandleader, Doc Severinsen. He entertained people for 30 years with his comedy monologues, first from New York and then from California. His finale May 22, 1992, included a serenade by guest Bette Midler and is remembered as one of television's great farewells.

When Carson retired, there was much discussion as to who would be his successor. The show was eventually handed over to Jay Leno, who served as host for 17 years. He left in 2009, not on his own accord, then came back a year later to host for another four years.

The show was given to Conan O'Brien, during Leno's unwanted absence, who decided to change things up a bit, with help from partner Andy Richter. Unfortunately, due to low ratings, O'Brien held the gig for seven months, at which time Leno was put back in charge.

But Leno's second stint was to be short lived, as without much warning, NBC decided they would replace him with a

younger host. If Leno knows the reason for his "firing," he's not saying but he does make it quite clear, once again, it wasn't his choice.

Leno was successful for most of his 20 years, but he was never as beloved as Carson, and his monologues were always careful, as if he didn't want to offend anyone.

Jimmy Fallon, 39, started off his run on "The Tonight Show," in mid-February. He brought the show back to New York after 42 years. The show drew the most viewers to the late-night staple since 1993.

Jimmy's first show included an appearance from Will Smith, a rooftop performance by U2 and a seemingly never-ending string of celebrity cameos to include Robert De Niro, Mariah Carey, Tina Fey, Mike Tyson and Lady Gaga.

Fallon kept the momentum up during his first week with first lady Michelle Obama stopping by for a visit and then ended the week on a high with a little help from Justin Timberlake.

Timberlake is known as one

See **JERSEY** page 5



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

City's help for Boys & Girls Club appreciated

I am a volunteer for the Boys & Girls Club in Dunnellon. The city of Dunnellon officials have been getting a lot of criticism.

In contrast, I would like to thank them for the help they have given the club in order that the children of Dunnellon have a beautiful new facility available for spring break and into the future.

Susan Hay,
Dunnellon

RS resident proposes trading places

How did the "schoolyard bullies from the north intimidating their neighbors" enter into the point you were trying to make?

I feel sure you are referring to the lawsuit regarding the surcharge on our water/sewer bills and exorbitant rates. Let's trade places for a moment.

Suppose those bullies from the north had purchased the "bullies from the south" utility system then tacked on a 25 percent surcharge "just because we can" and doubled and, in some cases tripled and quadrupled, your water rates. How do you think you would feel then?

Those northern bullies did try to work with you, but were rebuffed by the former administration. Do you realize

how much those northern bullies support the city?

Joan K. Duggins,
Dunnellon

Mayor, Council need to address problems

Editor's Note: The letter writer asked that this letter sent to Mayor Nathan Whitt be published in the *Riverland News*.

Mayor Whitt,

In a recent council meeting, it would be advised to explain where the people's \$1.3 million is. To sit there like you have not a worry in the world, shows you and your buddy, Eddie Esch, are hiding information from all of Dunnellon.

Be it clear, I want Florida Cable to succeed, but also to pay the city the nickel they owe for a system that should have never been sold.

Furthermore, your friend over in Blue Cove and his letter in *Riverland News* was a dig at Rainbow Springs. This will be the last one coming from the Council and the person who wrote it.

Be aware, it is a lot greener over here than the decay. That's all over the city you run. Quality of life over there has to be pretty bleak, especially when the mayor and council get paid taxpayers' money and refuse to

See **LETTERS** page 5

THINGS IN TOWN

Writer an animal lover, too

I'm proud to say I love all animals — big ones, small ones and all sizes in between. My friends and family all know about my obsession with animals, especially the soft and furry ones, and my wanting to touch them.

The feeling of their soft fur, the innocence in their eyes and the trusting nature of some of the domestic dogs, cats and horses is really great.

During the years, I have been fortunate to own several dogs and find they can be very loyal and protective. My last dog was a stray and after 13 years of companionship, his passing was very difficult. I can't go through the pain again, so I don't currently own or care for an animal.

I still enjoy being around animals and their ability to calm and relax me. There is nothing that can soothe a troubled mind better than petting a dog or cat.

There are many memories of the different species that I've been able to see and touch up close. Feeding a giraffe and being able to hug its neck as he stretched to get food from the others behind me on the Busch Gardens tour was good.

Then, in 1980, as a reporter, I volunteered to ride a 2-year-old Charlet bull to promote a rodeo fundraiser. The 1,000-pound beast was not too happy

with this "greenhorn" and easily threw me off his back in an estimated three seconds after he left the chute. I have the pictures and a sore back to prove it.

About eight years ago, I had many opportunities to see and touch tigers and lions at an endangered animal rescue sanctuary. Of course, the animals were in very large cages, but I was still able to pet them when they came to the wire part of the enclosure. They were able to lick my hand and I could pet them, but had to be careful not to put my fingers into the cage.

The owners of the shelter knew how much I enjoyed interacting with their animals. When they took care of a 3-month-old white tiger cub in their house, they allowed me to visit him. The cub was adorable and as playful as a kitten, only much bigger and stronger. I also have pictures of me playing with the cuddly guy and a small scar to always remember the rare experience.

With the unusual, I also had the fun of playing with and petting horses, bunnies, cows and cats. The snake, iguanas and the big turtle I took out of the roadway are not soft and furry, but I've enjoyed them too.

The domestic animals are easier to find than the more exotic, but they are all wonder-

ful and beautiful in their own way.

Dogs, and sometimes horses, are usually everywhere. They can be found at any activity in Historic Dunnellon, walking down the road with their owners or at friends' homes.

At Jazz Up or the Victorian Holiday, for example, owners generally bring their furry friends and there is opportunity everywhere to pet a dog and, on occasion, a horse. Upon spotting a dog, I will ask the person at the end of the leash if I may pet their puppy and the answer is always "yes."

People only take friendly animals out in public and they are happy to let someone like me play with their pups. My husband patiently waits for me to finish scratching behind the ears of the latest mutt, then we continue on enjoying the festivities until I spot another dog.

Many of my friends have pets that I'm able to play with when I visit. I look forward to the time together with the people, too. Really.

I always have dog treats at my house for the passing canine and I get fresh carrots for the visit to my friend Elaine's house and her big Gypsy Vanner horse.

Oh. Did I say that I really loved all animals?

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



Audrey Beem

LETTERS

continued from page 4

look around that city and see the decay. Exactly what are you doing for Dunnellon to bring business here? Better yet, fill the holes in some of the plazas?

I pray too, by the way, you lose the next election. I pray the people in Dunnellon see all of you for what you are, thieves.

What a shame such a nice town and nobody cares to confront the people doing them wrong. I'm far from stupid Mr. Whitt.

I will be at the meeting and not making any speech to you or the council. My speech is right here. Please do share it with everyone, be a man. Also the residency box checked is "City Utility Customer outside corporate limits," because I am.

That would be Greenlight Dunnellon Communications not Florida Cable. The Council's greed doomed a good thing, I happen to support Greenlight Dunnellon and always have.

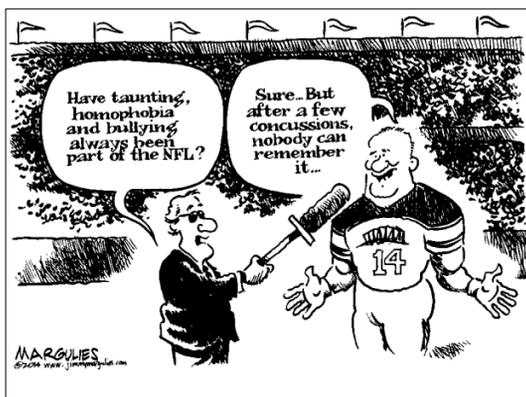
**Mark Lehmann,
Dunnellon**

If residents are bullies, they're not doing well

I usually do not respond to letters only expressing opinion in the Riverland News as opinions are like noses, everyone has one. Good opinions are backed up with facts and analyzed data.

As one of the "bullies of the north" recently alluded to in a letter, I guess that makes me a Norseman or Viking. Isn't a bully the more powerful person who takes the lunch money from the less powerful person because they can? The bully city is taking my lunch money away every month via my surcharged expensive water bill, because they can.

I certainly do not



agree with every viewpoint the Riverland News editorials express, but they are opinions, not hard fact.

I do strongly believe the Riverland News is vital and important to the southwest Marion area surrounding Dunnellon. Where else would I get my news about events, good and bad, in the community? I personally would never have known about the nonsense going on in Dunnellon without the Riverland News.

I have attended many council meetings since January 2012 and the Riverland News was always there reporting events. I believe the Riverland News has been quite restrained in critiquing the city, via editorials, given the vast amount of poor actions by the city.

I also opine that the editor is extremely fair and professional in publishing opposing views. I will flatly state that the news reporting of events and factual happening is accurately reported in the news section of the Riverland News, based on meetings I have been present at.

One thing all people on any side of any issue can agree on and that is that the newspaper is unfair to their side.

Jeff Bryan, the editor, works hard, wears many hats well and is a true professional, in my opinion.

My take on the partic-

ular issue of hiring a permanent city manager is why now and why the hurry? Why is the city, for the first time, hiring from within with no outside applicants. Hiring from within means you hire the one applicant who could even apply. I think the whole episode was unnecessary.

Now as usual, with little or no comprehensive analysis of the merits of the decision, the city manager will be selected by acclamation, as in the past. That is the issue the voting citizens should be questioning and worrying about, not an editorial viewpoint.

The real issue before the city residents is lack of focus. The city is defaulting on loans, taking millions out of the enterprise funds, has the Greenlight sale fiasco going on, continuing to make bad decisions, and is still avoiding financial reality.

The response to this from the local citizens is no response and letters critical of the messenger of the bad news. Actually the letters to the editor section is pretty skimpy — another indicator of the apathy that helped put the city in its current situation. Sometimes I think Dunnellon invented and applied, "the don't ask, don't tell, don't care policy" to city governing rules.

I do not know what facts are in evidence

for someone labeling your neighbors to the north, who have kept your bankrupt city going with their utility money as bullies. If we are bullies, we are not very good at it. We are at the mercy of a badly managed, overspending city of 1,733 people.

Eric the Red would be ashamed of us as bullies to the north, who are not very intimidating, and even Bluto would be ashamed of us as bullies.

Keep up the good work Riverland News and know you are in the proverbial cannot win position as a neutral observer and reporter of facts. I do know you are right when I agree with you, but other times you are just misguided and wrong.

The truth shall set us free, but water will not be free, especially if you are a Norseman from Rainbow Springs.

**Steve Swett,
Dunnellon**

JERSEY

continued from page 4

of Fallon's best comedic partners. When he came out for his interview the audience cheered wildly, then the pair grabbed microphones and launched into the latest version of their popular music segment, which they made popular on "Saturday Night Live."

The closest any woman has ever come to occupying the coveted late-night seat was when Joan Rivers was named the "permanent guest host" on The Tonight Show in 1983, filling in for Carson. This official designation came only after she'd covered for him dozens of times.

Although I've never been a Jay Leno fan and I'm too young to appreciate the Johnny Carson era, I have to admit I'm

looking forward to catching a few of Fallon's shows. When I was younger and could stay awake I preferred Arsenio Hall's humor. So I'm looking forward to the musically-inclined comedian's livelier, fresh appeal.

Can the show ever matter as much as it did back in the '70's? Probably not.

Fallon is a very likable guy, but he's no Carson. I doubt you could find many people who didn't think Carson was just about the greatest guy anywhere.

As for the show, in 1962 the entertainment choices at 11:30 p.m. were "The Tonight Show" or an old movie. In 2014, Fallon may be one of a hundred entertainment choices.

But let's wish him the best anyway. He's definitely a nice guy. So here's ... Jimmy.



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Michael Higgins, D.O.



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Spring has almost sprung



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Sarah Clements of Citrus Springs wraps herself in a towel after cooling off in the crisp waters of the Rainbow River at City Beach as temperatures in the area have climbed into the 80s off and on throughout the past week.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

'Meet the Author' slated April 3

The Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library will present "Meet the Author," featuring Betty Jean Steinshouer's portrayal of Florida authors, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Marjory Stone-man Douglas, at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 3, at the Dunnellon Public Library. The event is free and open to the public. For information, call 438-2520.

Community Chorale rehearsing for concert

The Dunnellon Community Chorale is beginning rehearsals on a new program slated for 3 p.m. Sunday, May 4, at First United Methodist Church, and is looking for singers for all parts. This is a great program with familiar songs from Broadway to television. All sopranos, altos, tenors and basses are encouraged to partici-

pate in this community-based group. Rehearsals are 2:30 p.m. Mondays at the Dunnellon Presbyterian Church at the corner of Ohio and Chestnut streets.

Habitat for Humanity seeks volunteers

Habitat for Humanity of Marion County is looking for volunteers to help in construction, fundraising and the Re-Store. For information about volunteering with Habitat for Humanity of Marion County Inc., visit habitatocala.org/ volunteer or call Brittney Fish, volunteer coordinator, at 352-351-4663.

Agency in need of volunteers

The Annie W. Johnson Service Center and the Annie W. Johnson Thrift Store are in need of volunteers, who should have an understanding and a passion for the causes supported by the agency. For information, call 489-8021.

Friends of the Library bookstore open

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

Books-On-Tape, history, politics, westerns, magazines and more. Daily sales are ongoing with books for as little as 10 cents. Store hours are 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. An all-volunteer staff operates The Friends Bookstore, with all proceeds benefiting the Dunnellon Public Library. For information, call the library at 438-4520.

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CHURCH NOTES

Lutheran church to celebrate Lent

Joy Evangelical Church will celebrate the Lenten season with themed Wednesday services.

On March 19, Dr. David Willis will speak 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 the church office at 352-854-4509, ext.221.

Church slates Lenten series

"Painting the Stars: Science, Religion and an Evolving Faith" is the topic of this year's Lenten Series at First Congregational Church, which will be at noon Wednesdays through April 9, in the Enrichment Center at 7171 SW State Road 200, Wednesday's. Following the discussion, a light lunch will be served.

Church to host Saturday Supper

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

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

For information, call 489-1260.

Church schedules concert series

Dunnellon Presbyterian Church will host its annual concert series on the following days. Concerts are free and open to the public. All love offerings received are gifted to the performers. Dunnellon Presbyterian Church is at 20641 Chestnut St.

3 p.m. Sunday, March 16, The U.F. saxophone quartet, Collision, will perform a variety of traditional to jazz arrangements. The students are Gerard Weber, Jordan Jones, Michael Shine and Gregory Snider and are under the direction of Dr. Jonathan Helton.

3 p.m. Sunday, April 27 — The Central Florida Master Choir will present its spring concert, "Bernstein, Beatles and Beyond," under the direction of Dr. Hal McSwain, accompanied by GayLyn Capitano, with guest harpist Victoria Lynn Schultz.

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.

Church soup-a-thon success



Photos by JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News
ABOVE: Jim Curran, left, enjoys a bowl of hot soup, while Deacon Eric Makoid points to a soup he was "wowed by" March 5 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church's third annual meatless soup-a-thon.

BELOW: The top three soup recipes and the chefs behind the culinary delights, from left, are: Joseph Kusiak, third, sweet potato soup; Leo Daigle, second, shrimp bisque; and Alicia Seavey, first, seafood soup.



OUT TO PASTOR
To be PC or not to be PC, that is the confusion

I have long ago given up trying to keep up with the Joneses, and not just because they have moved away. I have a hard enough time trying to keep up with myself, let alone trying to figure out what somebody else is doing so I can top them at it.



Rev. James Snyder

One aspect of trying to keep up with the Joneses is being on top of what is referred to as being Politically Correct. As far as I know, I do not have a political bone in my body. I do have a bone to pick with some politicians, but that is another story.

Everybody is so afraid they are going to break some PC rule and offend somebody. Most people today are so easily offended that it is virtually impossible not to offend somebody. I do not want to intentionally offend anybody and I try my best not to. However, for the life of me, I am not able to keep up with all of this political correct-

ness that seems to be domineering in our country today. Because, as soon as you figure it out somebody changes the rules and another word or phrase has been deemed not politically correct.

What was politically correct yesterday may be politically incorrect today. If you get your days mixed up and confused, you are not going to know what is politically correct. I think a book should be published every year listing all the things that are politically correct and politically incorrect.

Nobody is allowed to change any, at least for a year. Then, when they come to change it there has to be a national election to vote the political correctness in.

Some people believe it to be un-American to use phrases that are politically incorrect. I for one, have a hard time keeping a list of all of these

See PASTOR page 9

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A DIRECTORY OF AREA CHURCHES

Catholic Community of St. John the Baptist
Father Jean H. Desir, Pastor
MASSES
Saturday Reconciliation...3:30 PM
Saturday Vigil.....4:30 PM
Sunday.....8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
Sunday - Spanish.....Noon
Mon. Thru Fri.....8:00 AM
Holy Days.....8:00 AM and 7:00 PM
7525 S. Highway 41, Dunnellon
352-489-3166
www.stjohncc.com

Romeo Baptist Church
Pastor R.D. Hess
(352) 489-1788
Sunday
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Worship 11:00 AM
Disciple Training 5:00 PM
(Nursery & Children's Church Provided)
Wednesday
AWANA 6:30 PM
Youth Group 6:30 PM
Bible Study 7:00 PM
8 1/2 Miles North of Dunnellon Off of Highway 41, Left at Church Sign on SW 5th Place

DUNNELLON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
21501 W. Highway 40
Rev. Eddie Fulford, Pastor
Sunday
Communion
Worship Service 8:00 AM
Praise Worship 9:30 AM
Traditional Worship 11:00 AM
Nursery At All Services
Sunday School 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM
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Adult Bible Discussion 12:00 Noon
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352-237-3035
uccocala.org
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Episcopal Church of the Advent
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352-465-7272
Sunday
8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
Tuesday
9:00 A.M. Morning Prayer, Mass, and Healing
Weekday Groups:
Tues. 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack 508
2nd Sat 8am Fellowship Breakfast at IHOP
adventepiscopal.net

Peace Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
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Sunday Worship Service 10:00 A.M.
Wednesday Bible Study 10:00 A.M.
Wednesday potluck & Bible Study 6:30 PM
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Sermon.....11:00 AM
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For More Information

Dunnellon Elementary pursues \$5,000 grant

School competing in 'People's Choice' category for prize

Special to the Riverland News

Dunnellon Elementary School has entered a \$200,000 national education contest hoping for a chance at one of the 15 prizes that will be awarded to recognize the best

in K-12 innovation. In addition to completing an online application for the third annual Follett Challenge, Dunnellon Elementary also submitted a short video to promote its innovative programs that teach students the

21st century skills they need to be prepared for life.

Ten of the prizes, valued at \$5,000 each, to be given away are from the "People's Choice" category and will solely be based on how many votes applicants have re-

ceived for their videos from the public. Video voting is now underway and the public can watch Dunnellon Elementary's video at www.FollettChallenge.com under the "View Entries" tab.

After registering, users can cast one vote per day through April 4, when voting ends. Not only are the public's

votes significant in the video voting portion of the contest, but they also will play a role in the overall rubric as 30 percent of each school's final score is based on the number of votes generated for their video.

"We hope our community

See GRANT page 11

NEWS NOTES

Lady Tigers drop close game to Citrus

The Dunnellon High School softball team dropped a nail-biter, 4-3, on Friday to Citrus High School.

Courtney Heinritz led the Lady Tigers (7-4 overall, 2-2 District 5A-6), going 2-for-4 at the plate and scoring a pair of runs. Sophomore Kasey Bernstein was 1-for-3 with an RBI and a run scored. Michelle Ruiz had Dunnellon's other hit.

Dunnellon was leading 3-1 entering the bottom of the sixth before the Hurricanes, who are atop the District 5A-6 standings, scored three times to take a 4-3 lead before closing out the Lady Tigers on the top of the seventh.

Dunnellon played at home Tuesday against Belleview as well as Wednesday at North Marion. Results for both games were not available at press time. The Lady Tigers will play at 7 p.m. today at Lecanto High School.

Woman's Club offers scholarship

The Dunnellon Woman's Club will sponsor a college scholarship for young women graduating high school this year, and have plans to further their education. Those who plan on attending a trade school or any other type of continued education are also eligible to apply. Information and applications can be obtained from Helen Smith at the Dunnellon High School or Treva Matthews at Dunnellon Christian Academy.

Applications must be received by April 15 and will be awarded in May.

For information about the scholarship program, call Treva Matthews at 489-4512 or Joanne Schemery at 465-7161.

DES selling Yankee Candles online

Once again, Dunnellon Elementary School will sell Yankee Candles online. The order is sent directly to you and the profit check is sent directly to the school at the end of each month. For information, visit www.yankeeandlefundraising.com and type in customer No. 990018587.

This will take you to the site and the DES page. The funds raised from this sale will be used to help purchase technology for the school.

Fair successes



Members of the Dunnellon 4H group, from left, are Aubrie Heirs, Madilyn Sereda, Avery Duley, Sophie Caranitti, David Paulen and Logan White. All six members recently competed in the annual Southeastern Youth Fair at the Marion County Livestock Pavilion.

Dunnellon 4H Club members earn accolades at SEYF

Special to the Riverland News

The Dunnellon 4H Club had a busy week at the Southeastern Youth Fair, which came to a conclusion March 1.

The members had market animals in the Swine and Steer Show to animals in the rabbit, chicken and goat shows. Let's not forget the Garden Show, Animal Fever, Conservation Trays, Photography, Club Exhibit, BBQ contest, Fashion Revue and Home Arts.

In the Swine Show, since this was a club project, all 29 members took part in raising the hog beginning in November.

Members took turns feeding and exercising the hog to doing demonstrations on the various aspects of the hog project. They signed up for weekends and winter break feedings, giving members more time with the project.

The results are as followed. Trent Townsend participated in the Steer Show, earning a blue ribbon. He placed sixth in his class; fifth in Showmanship and won second in record book.

During the Hog Show, Sydney White showed the club hog and received a blue ribbon, while Madilyn Sereda did the Swine Skill-A-Thon. This is a contest designed to see how much the members have learned. It is a written test on the different areas of the swine industry, including record book information. Avery Duley earned the spot for the Showmanship contest. This is where members are judged on how they show and present the hog in the show ring.

Kylee Follett did the record book for the club, a mandatory requirement for every hog entry. She won second place in this event.

David Paulen and Rylie Nonnemacher did the auction part, where they walk in the arena and sell the hog. T.J. Peterson did an outstanding job in his first year showing. He placed fifth in his class, earning a blue ribbon and seventh in showmanship. Matthew Livingston also had a great show, earning a blue ribbon. These two boys had to do all areas of the hog project themselves.

In the Rabbit Show, the 4H Club had five members showing.

Kailey Barr and Ishanna Maharaj won Best of Breed with their American Fuzzy Lop and Jersey Wooley. Barr earned second in the poster contest and third in showmanship. Sophia Caranitti, Ava Reick and Kylee Follett also earned ribbons for their rabbits.

Three members participated in the Chicken Show.

Madilyn Sereda won Reserve Class Champ with one of her chickens. Logan White earned third place in record book and third in showmanship. Ishanna Maharaj earned a third-place finish in showmanship.

In the Goat Show, Ava Rieck earned a blue ribbon, placing eighth in her class. She also won fifth in showmanship, her first year in the goat contest.

This year, we had a new member enter in the BBQ Contest. T.J. Peterson, 8, came in third in the poultry division. In this contest, members must BBQ by themselves, set

See FAIR page 14

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Children can buy Mother's Day cake

The Publix Bakery will make delicious heart-shaped cakes for

your child to decorate at school to bring home for Mother's Day. The cost of each

cake is \$8 and this is a great fundraiser for our school. Students will be bringing home order forms, which will be due back to the school March 20, the last day before spring break.

Spring pictures

Spring pictures dates will be March 19 and 20. Call the school to see what day your child is scheduled to get their picture taken. Choose your boutique background, new for 2014. Picture envelopes were sent home with each student Feb. 28.

Game night

The community is welcome to attend the inaugural Make-and-Take Game Night from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 20, in the cafeteria. The event is being sponsored by the PTO.

Families are welcome to come out and make a fun, family friendly game on us! Come and spend some family time building an educational game that can help students learn important math and language skills.

Various grade level game activities will be available for all children. Refreshments will be served.

For information, call 465-6700.

Save Club to launch 'Kick Some Butts!' campaign



Delbert Smallridge
DMS
Principal

The Dunnellon Middle School campus will "Kick Some Butts!" on Wednesday, March 19, as the SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) Club members will share the message about being Tobacco Free.

The SAVE Club will encourage our school and

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

local communities to go Tobacco Free with the campaign slogan of "Even though we don't believe in violence, we believe in being Tobacco Free, so come on and Kick 'butts.'" We want to say thank you to our SAVE Club for their

caring and sharing of this healthy message.

There will be no School Friday, March 21, for a teacher work-day and a no-school day for students. Spring Break follows Monday, March 24, through Friday, March 28.

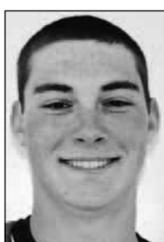
The annual parent survey is available on the Marion County School District website. Parents may visit www.marion.k12.fl.us and click on the Uncle Sam "Parent Survey" option along the left side. Users can then view the entire survey in English or Spanish. Surveys are

See KICK page 11

DHS ATHLETES OF THE WEEK • PRESENTED BY DAVID J. RATCHFORD BOOKKEEPING & TAX SERVICE

Garrett Kudlack, baseball

The junior right-handed hitting first baseman posted an .800 batting average during the past week for the Tigers. Overall, Kudlack went 4-for-5 with a double, an RBI and one stolen base. He also pitched two innings of relief, not allowing an earned run.



Garrett Kudlack

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Dunnellon, FL 34431-2025 Cell Phone: 352-220-7585

E-mail: beancount29@bellsouth.net

Kelly Howard, softball

Through 12 games this season, the junior is hitting .361, which is second on the team, while recording 13 hits, scoring 12 runs and driving in a team-best 12 runs. In addition, she has four doubles and one triple this season for the Lady Tigers.



Kelly Howard

DHS baseball drops pair of contest, including district tilt

Riverland News

Despite a pair of solid pitching performances, Dunnellon High School's baseball team couldn't find its rhythm as the Tigers dropped two contests last week, including a 5-0 setback Friday night at home to Citrus High School

in a District 5A-6 clash. Dunnellon was held to three hits against the Hurricanes, two of which were collected by Garrett Kudlack, a right-handed hitting first baseman. Pitcher Donte Wells took the loss on the mound for the Tigers, tossing three innings and allowing three runs, one

of which was earned. Teammates Ryan Mills and Justin Hamm threw two innings apiece with Hamm not allowing a hit or run in his relief appearance. He also recorded Dunnellon's lone strikeout against Citrus.

On Wednesday, March 5, the Tigers (3-4 overall, 1-1 District

5A-6) dropped a nail-bitter, 4-2, to Ocala Vanguard. Kudlack padded Dunnellon's eight-hit attack with a pair of hits, including a double, a stolen base and an RBI. He also delivered on the mound, throwing two innings while not allowing an earned run. He struck out one and walked one.

Matthew Livermore also had two hits for Dunnellon, including a stolen base in the loss to the Knights.

Dunnellon played Tuesday at North Marion. Results were not available at press time. The Tigers will play at 6 p.m. today at Palatka and at 6:30 p.m. Friday at Lecanto.

Seminole surprise



Former Florida State football standout Terrence Brooks made a surprise visit March 3 to Dunnellon Middle School during lunch and signed some autographs. He was interviewed by Jacob Hicks, an eighth-grade student/athlete and Seminole Fan. Brooks' grandmother, Sara, is a paraprofessional at Dunnellon Middle School.

GRANT

continued from page 10

will support us by viewing our video and voting for our submission," said Carol Hall, assistant principal. "Participating in the Follett Challenge recognizes our educators for the great job they are doing with the limited resources they have and, should we win, reward them with resources to do more.

"It also will give our educators here a platform to share their innovation with other schools across the country and throughout the world."

With a total prize value of \$200,000 in products and services from Follett - a global education solutions leader - the overall winner will earn a \$60,000 prize, plus a celebration at the school, while each of the other three semifinalists will earn \$30,000 prizes.

The 10 "People's Choice" awards are worth \$5,000 each in products and services and will be announced April 14 along with the semifinalists.

This year's Follett Challenge will honor semifinalist winners in four categories: elementary, middle, high school

and magnet/parochial/K12 schools.

The judges will seek applications that illustrate critical thinking, communication, creativity and collaboration between students and among teachers and other members of the school staff.

Last year's grand-prize winners were Maplewood Richmond Heights School District in St. Louis, Mo., and Henry M. Gunn High School in Palo Alto, Calif. The 2014 grand-prize winner will be announced May 16.

For more about the Follett Challenge, visit www.FollettChallenge.com.

KICK

continued from page 10

also available on the Parent Portal website. Survey deadline is April 7. Parents your response helps the district and local schools increase parent involvement to better serve students, parents, and community. Please take a couple of minutes and complete the parent survey.

With FCAT scheduled in April, students are encouraged to visit the FCAT Explorer website at www.fcatexplorer.com. The FCAT Explorer website is free and a great way to practice for the FCAT. Parents, visiting FCAT Explorer can also enjoy a great "Be There" experience, as together you and your child challenge each other's knowledge on the website!

Student sign-on directions for the FCAT Explorer are:

Sign-in: full last name and first letter of first name.

Password: 42, first four letters of the last name and the month and day of birth. Be sure to include "0." Example: Student is: Johnny Smith, born Sept. 10, 1995. Sign-in: smithj. Password: 42smit0910.

Free tutoring continues at Dunnellon Middle School, as our status as a Title 1 school provides the funds to enable us to offer tutoring to our students. It is not too late if you would like your student to join either the morning or afternoon session. Please have your student take advantage of this additional assistance

Schedule of events TODAY

- Buddy Pictures.
- 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. — Chorus practice.
- 3:40 to 4:45 p.m. — Girls' Bible study.
- MONDAY, MARCH 17**
- 3:40 to 4:45 p.m. — Tiger Fit Club.
- TUESDAY, MARCH 18**
- 3:40 to 4:45 p.m. — Brain Bowl practice.
- 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. — Chorus practice.
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19**
- "Kick Some Butts" Tobacco Free campaign sponsored by DMS SAVE.

in their core subjects. For a parent consent form, call 465-6720.

The DMS Yearbook pre-sale is winding down. The 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 ordered and these will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis in May. Save \$5 and ensure you receive your copy of the 2013-13 DMS Tiger Yearbook.

Parents of sixth-grade students who will become seventh-grade students in August - your student is required by the state to have the following shot prior to attending school: Tdap shot (tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough). If you have any questions regarding your child's health record, call Carol Bartolet, R.N., at 465-6795.

We would also like to remind parents of sixth-grade students who received a recommendation letter 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.

For information or questions, call Bartolet at 465-6795.

Attendance matters

As we get closer to FCAT and the end of the year, it is more important than ever to come to school every day, participate in class discussions, do classroom work and homework. Prepare yourself for your future: come to school every day.

Box Tops for Education

Please continue to drop off your Box Tops for Education to Dunnellon Middle School as we grow closer and closer to the goal of \$500. We are almost there thanks to your generosity with box tops. Drop off your box tops at either the front desk of Building No. 1 or the discipline/attendance office of Building No. 10.

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

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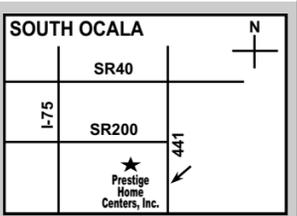
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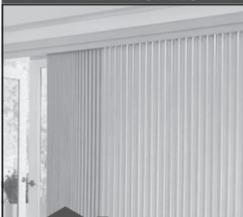
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52" W x 48" H \$93 Inst.

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Back in the swing

Dunnellon Little League is back in action for 2014, as the league kicked off its year March 1 with its annual parade and Opening Day Ceremonies.

Clockwise from above left:

Members of the Muck Dogs wave to family members during the parade, prior to Opening Day festivities at the Dunnellon Little League facilities.

Part of Opening Day festivities included player portraits as well as team photos.

Players for Ace Paint wave to spectators along East Pennsylvania Avenue on Saturday during the event.

Leanne Sonneberger, who plays for the Reds in the Minor Softball division, makes her way behind the plate for the first pitch of the season.

Theron Hotaling keeps his son, Steve, 7, warm as they bundle up together prior to the national anthem.

Photos by JEFF BRYAN/
Riverland News





Back in the swing

Dunnellon Little League is back in action for 2014, as the league kicked off its annual March 1 with its annual parade and Opening Day Ceremonies.

Clockwise from above left:

Five-year-olds Jake Fluty, left, and Ryleigh Hotaling spend time working on their artistic skills while waiting for the start of pre-game festivities at the Dunnellon Little League facilities.

Colt West, 4, attempts to zip up his bat bag prior to his first T-Ball game.

Amari Johnson, foreground, and his brother, Tyrelle Darling, run along the first base line as they wait for the start of games.

Two-year-old Lane Fessenden carries a bag of goodies while braving the early morning temperatures at the fields.

Miranda Larkin sings the "Star-Spangled Banner."

Photos by JEFF BRYAN/
Riverland News



Rainbow Springs State Park in need of volunteers

Special to the Riverland News

Rainbow Springs State Park is currently seeking volunteers interested in a high-paced volunteer position that will assist visitors and the park.

Volunteer gardeners are responsible for growing and maintaining butterfly host and nectar plants in a beautiful garden and wooded area. If you

are passionate about nature and gardening, this could be the varied and fulfilling volunteer experience that you're looking for.

To be a gardener, you should enjoy working outdoors. You should have good practical skills. You should also have creativity and an eye for detail. The hours for working in the garden are flexible to meet

your schedule. If you enjoy working with others, Wednesday and Saturday mornings are established times for volunteering. Other times throughout the week are open for individual work.

As a volunteer gardener your tasks could include: raising plants from seeds or cuttings, learning about native butterfly host and nectar plants in

Florida, digging, planting and weeding flower beds and borders, pruning shrubs, checking the health of plants and nurturing their growth, applying compost to plants and maintaining moisture levels, using battery operated equipment such as hedge trimmers and string trimmers, maintaining high levels of presentation in our lovely gardens, cleaning and main-

taining tools and equipment, working with others to improve our gardens in creative ways and speaking with guests to the gardens about the garden.

If you think you would like to start training to become a volunteer in the butterfly garden or other various positions, contact Monay Markey at Monay.Markey@dep.state.fl.us or call 465-8539.

American Legion hosts veterans



Special to the Riverland News

American Legion Post No. 58 hosted veterans and staff from Quiet Oaks and Haven House Assisted Living Centers to a delicious supper on March 5 prepared by Legion Cook Wilson Tynal. Following opening prayer by Legion Chaplain Eugene Thomas, the veterans were introduced and thanked for their service to our country. Each veteran was presented a miniature U.S. flag and hand exerciser provided by Larry White, past state commander.

FAIR

continued from page 10

up their tables, have recipes on hand and have a tasty sample.

Animal Fever Contest is a favorite at the SEYF.

Ishanna Maharaj earned Best of Show with her Spider-man Pig; Ava Rieck won second place with her Mosaic Pig. Other members earning blue and red ribbons were Matthew Livingston, Madilyn Sereda, TJ Peterson, Avery Duely, Kirin Maharaj, Logan White, Sydney White and Michael Livingston.

The 4H Club also had two members participate in the Watch Me Grow division, Evan Rieck and Reilly Heaton had the cutest chickens!

In the Home Arts and Photography Show, Dunnellon 4H had more than 60 entries earning all kinds of ribbons. Megan Sereda won Best of Category for her vase with the following students earning blue and red ribbons: Billie Athadie, Jennifer Rouleau, Sydney White, Trent Townsend, David Paulen, Avery Duley, Chris Warren, Zack Warren, Madilyn Sereda, Kailey Barr, Sydney White, Sophie Carattini, Hailey Rush, Bradley Rush, Kylee Follett, TJ Peterson, Ava Reick, Logan White, Ishanna Maharaj, Kirin Maharaj, Matthew Livingston, Michael Livingston and Rylie Nonnemacher.

In the Garden Show, the 4H Club had more than 30 entries. Aubrie

Heirs won first place; Sophie Carattini and David Paulen placed second. The other members all earned a blue or red ribbon for their entries.

In the Conservation Trays Contest, Logan White won first place and Sydney White came in third. This is where they do a small-scale farm or agricultural area.

In the Watch Me Grow Area, Evan Rieck, Aubrie Duley and Reilly Heaton with their art projects earned a participation ribbon.

Dunnellon had three girls enter the Fashion Revue. Madilyn Sereda won first in Fashion and Sydney White earned a Blue. Hailey Rush won first in the Modeling Division and third in Fashion.

Dunnellon 4H Club also won third Place in the Club Exhibit. This year's theme was "Building Blocks to Success." Dunnellon 4H Club had working pictures of what they do in 4H. They also dedicated it to Rylie Nonnemacher, a senior who had been with the club since it started eight years ago.

The leaders of the club and the parents are so proud how well the members worked on their projects. They spent lots of hours and learned a lot about what a farmer goes through in the farming business.

Members will now take on their next club project. They will be starting the Seminole Garden Project, where they will be given a plan and seeds to plant a 26-foot-by-28-foot vegetable garden.

CERT training sessions scheduled

Special to the Riverland News

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training will be offered from 1 to 3 p.m. July 9 to Sept. 13 and 5 to 7 p.m. Oct. 9 to Nov. 13 at the Marion County Sheriff's Office at 692 NW 30th Ave., Ocala. The six-week course training prepares participants to take care of themselves during a disaster. This course will offer training on disaster preparedness, fire

safety, disaster medical operations and more.

Once trained, participants have the opportunity to join their local neighborhood team that will assist first responders during a disaster. CERT Teams assist by assessing their community and providing basic medical treatment to those in need and report all the information to Emergency Management.

The CERT Program is offered by the Marion County Sheriff's Office,

Bureau of Emergency Management and is free to all who are interested.

For information or for an application, call Emergency Management at 352-369-8100 or email MarionCERT@marionso.com.

The Dunnellon CERT team meets at 3 p.m. the third Wednesday monthly at the Marion County Sheriff's conference room on U.S. 41. All interested local residents are welcome to attend.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Norm's Clean Cuts accepting toys, food

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

For information, call 465-3666.

Group to distribute toiletries, clothing

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

Free toiletries, such as dish and laundry detergent as well as shampoo, lotion, deodorant and toothpaste, and clothing will be distributed from 9 a.m. to noon the first Saturday monthly at New Second Bethel Missionary Baptist Church at 1940 W.

Henry Blair Lane. The church is behind Dunnellon Mulch and Stone.

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

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

TOPS welcomes members, visitors

TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) Chapter 375 Rainbow Lakes welcomes new members and visitors. TOPS meets at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays at the Rainbow

Lakes Community Center 4030 SW Deepwater Court, Rainbow Lakes. Take U.S. 41 to Rainbow Lakes Boulevard, 4.5 miles to the Community Center. For information, call 465-5807.

Watch-clock collectors meet monthly in Ocala

The Chapter 156 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC) meet at 8 a.m. the fourth Sunday monthly except December at VFW Post 4781 at 9401 SE 110 St., Ocala. The facility is off State Road 200, behind Sims Furniture and next to MRMC Medical Park at TimberRidge approximately 8/10 of a mile

east of County Road 484.

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

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

S. Dunnellon Civic Association meets

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

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

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BRIDGE SCORES

Rainbow Springs Country Club Bridge Results from March 4:

Winners: 1. Betsy Davis, 5,440; 2. Bob Kamps, 5,380; 3. Shirley MacDonald, 5,140; 4. Brian Norris, 4,950. No slams.

Results from Feb. 25:

Winners: 1. Shirley MacDonald, 5,910; 2. Luise Pellett, 4,740; 3. Debby Rodriguez, 4,590; 4. Ruth Brucker, 4,480. **Slams:** Bill Smead and Shirley MacDonald, 6S made 7.

Results from Feb. 18:

Winners: 1. Shirley Busca, 5,480; 2. Bob Kamps, 5,180; 3. Brian Norris, 4,890; 4. Gary Rosenberg, 4,550. **Slams:** Brian Norris and Shirley Busca, 6H made 7, and Bill Smead and Bob Kamps, 6NT.

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Out on the river



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

A family enjoys a warm, sunny day fishing from their pontoon boat on the Rainbow River. With higher temperatures, water-based recreational activities will be on the rise in the coming weeks.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

River Watch Program seeks volunteers

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

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

aspects pertaining to water patrols.

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

Police collecting used cell phones

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

Volunteers sought to help neighbors in need

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

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

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

For information, call Donna Shaffer at 854-5200.

SADDLE

continued from page 1

struggling with balance and a sore back.

A few months ago she was talking to Barr and Capone at a craft show at church and the two were telling her how much fun they were having on the horses and talked her into trying to ride.

"I didn't think I could ride again," Porter said. "I went to one of Barr's lessons and was so impressed with Sandy (Grenz, the trainer). I wish I had her as a trainer when I was younger. She is so patient and she makes it fun for me to ride again."

Grenz is the horse trainer and instructor at the Happy Acres Ranch where she specializes in teaching and training dressage.

"I always stress safety first when training," Grenz said. "I love teaching because it gives me a sense of accomplishment."

The horses used to teach the riders are calm, older, experienced and well trained. They are all well groomed and healthy.

"We set up the riding lesson for the teens to enjoy, but the seniors seem to be more interested," owner Moore said. "As long as they enjoy it, then they will come back."

The ladies are enjoying their time riding and continue to return for the lessons and trail rides. Porter has spent the last few months "re-

freshing my skills", Barr still feels "like a beginner" and Capone's New Year's resolution is to be happy every day and riding is "the one thing I make sure I have time for every week".

Also they all agree

that there is some kind of horse magic around.

"There is something about being on a horse, in the barn with them and just being around horses that makes you happy," Porter said. "That is the horse magic."

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

Puzzle answers on Page 3

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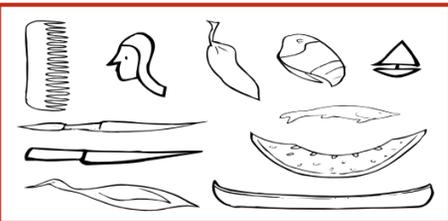
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HIDDEN PICTURE



Find these hidden items in the big picture.



Riddle

Q: What starts with a "d," ends with a "d" and has a "d" in the middle that makes you turn your car around?

Answer: A dead end.



El escondite al revés

This game is played a lot like hide and seek but backwards, which is what the Spanish name means. The person that is "it" goes and hides, and everyone else has to find the person that is "it." When you find the person, you hide with them quietly. The last person to find "it" is the new "it." You can also have the first person to find "it" be the new "it." In the United States, this game is called Sardines because you are packed into the hiding place like a can of sardines.

Central America

Where in the World?

Hispanics are people whose families came over from Spain in southwestern Europe. Latinos come from South America, Central America or the Caribbean. While many Latinos are also Hispanic, some are not.

South America

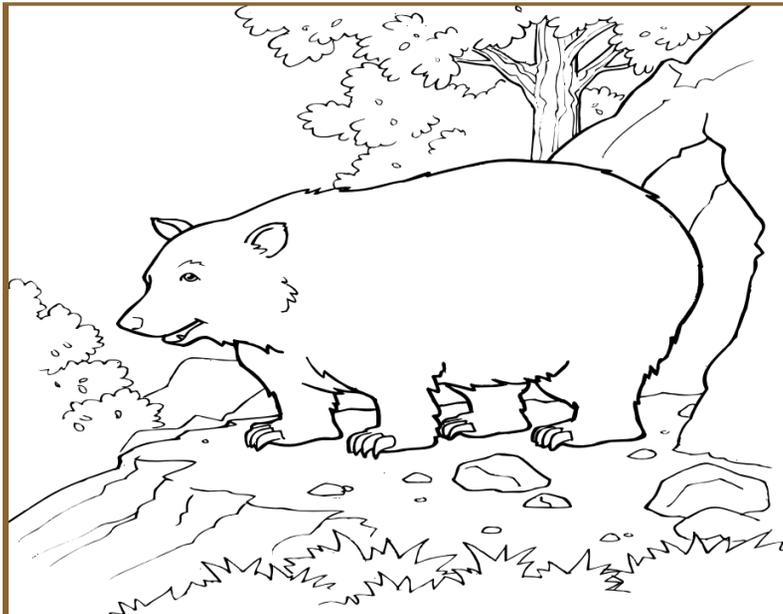


EL DORADO—THE CITY OF GOLD

El Dorado is the name of the mythical city of gold that many Spanish explorers spent time looking for from shortly after Columbus' discovery of the New World in 1492 until almost 200 years later. The story of the city of gold came from a tribal chief in South America who covered himself with gold dust for a ceremony to become the tribe's leader. The reports of the golden chief grew into stories of a golden city known as El Dorado.

Spanish explorers, known as *conquistadores*, explored much of Central and South America looking for El Dorado. In their searches, they mapped large portions of the Americas and found their way to the Pacific Ocean, which had never been seen from the east. The Spanish who came to find El Dorado spread their Spanish culture throughout these areas and defeated many of the native tribes.

The explorers were always convinced that they were close to El Dorado. As they kept exploring, they began to run out of room for El Dorado to hide. Finally, they had explored Central and South America and failed to find it. At this point, the Spanish controlled a large amount of the American continents and had explored a great section of the Western Hemisphere, including parts of the Pacific Ocean. This need to explore was driven in part by the myth of El Dorado.



COLOR THE PICTURE The capital of Spain is Madrid. The symbol of Madrid is a brown bear standing against a fruit tree. There are very few bears left in Spain today, though, and the last ones may be extinct soon. This most famous brown bear can be found in the Puerta del Sol in Madrid.

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The late Annie Williams Johnson worked without fanfare and Quietly changed lives

NANCY KENNEDY
For the Riverland News

Some people talk about doing great things. Others, simply and without fanfare, do them.

The late Annie Williams Johnson was one of those who quietly changed the lives of those around her and continues to do so, nearly 14 years after her death in 2000.

The Dunnellon-based outreach center with her name on the sign out front has fed and served thousands of people since she started it back in the late 1970s.

She told the *Chronicle* in 1999 after being selected as an Eckerd 100 Woman for her efforts to assist the elderly, "I wanted any name on the building but mine." She was out-voted.

"In 1976, she was feeding seniors from the community in her home," said Christine Avina, client coordinator at the Annie W. Johnson service center. "More and more people started showing up at her door and it got to be too much, so she moved her program here."

"Here" refers to the old Second Bethel Baptist Church in Dunnellon, built in 1888.

The church building, located around the block from her home, had fallen into disrepair and was no longer used for Sunday services. Johnson saw potential for its use and, with financial assistance from the Marion/Citrus Mental Health Group, the building was deeded over in 1986.

After spearheading a community effort to restore, remodel and renew the former house of worship, Johnson turned it into a place where seniors could come every day, receive a meal and



Annie Johnson grew up in Dunnellon, attending school before desegregation. She went on to get her master's degree from Columbia University and came back to the area to teach for the next 33 years, being one of the first black educators of the post-segregation era in the Citrus County School System. It was her desire to help feed those in need and to encourage them to socialize, however, that has left a lasting impression, with the Annie W. Johnson Senior and Family Service Center continuing to provide services to the community nearly a decade and a half after her death.

socialize with each other.

Johnson told the *Ocala Star Banner* in 1991 that in the early days during the winter, the wind would whistle through the walls and volunteers had to chop ice out of the toilets.

But that didn't stop Johnson from her mission to feed people.

Annie Johnson spent most of her life in Dunnellon. The oldest of three children born to Joe and Olivia Pelham Williams, she attended school at the all-black "Hard Rock" school that was held at the church and high school Booker T. Washington School in Inverness. She went on to attend Florida Normal College in St. Augustine and Columbia University in New York where she earned a

master's degree in education.

Johnson returned to her hometown and taught kindergarten and elementary students for 33 years, and was among the first black teachers in Citrus County to teach in a white school after desegregation.

She retired from teaching in 1976, but not from public service. All along, whenever someone came to her door, she would invite them in for a sandwich or a plate of whatever she had cooking on the stove. And for those who couldn't come to her, she and her friends, such as the late Ernestine Thomas, would go to them, bringing baskets of food to the homebound all over town.

Once she retired, Johnson

was able to feed more people who were drawn by her hospitality. When the numbers grew larger than her little house could hold, she opened the Annie W. Johnson Senior Service Center.

Prior to that, Johnson began teaching adults to read as something to do to stay busy. As the reading class grew, people started bringing their lunches and staying to socialize. Johnson saw that people were hungry for more than food, that they were lonely and thrived when they came together. "She was not big about being in the spotlight," Christine Avina said. "She had a job to do."

In the beginning, funding for the center came from donations and fundraisers. Then came

the "This 'n That" thrift store that was located on U.S. 41 just south of the Citrus/Marion county line. Four years ago, the thrift store moved to Pennsylvania Avenue.

Around the time the Annie Johnson Senior Services Center opened in the church building, Johnson turned to Citrus County government for funding, and the county counted the center among its congregating sites until last year when funding for the Dunnellon center was cut.

In 1990, the center became an agency of both Citrus and Marion County United Way.

The center named for the late Annie Johnson has evolved over the

years. It began as a place for seniors to socialize and share a daily meal together. Avina said about 2007 or 2008 the name was changed to the Annie W. Johnson Senior and Family Service Center because their outreach had grown to include younger people and families.

Today it's called the Annie W. Johnson Service Center and is primarily a United Way agency that helps people with their utility bills.

The center still has a food pantry, Annie's Special Care, which is funded through donations.

Annie Williams Johnson grew up believing no one should ever be hungry or alone. She was one of the charter members of Citrus United Basket in 1977.

She shared what she had with others and depended on her Christian faith and the generosity of others to meet the needs of the people who came to the center.

Her accomplishments and honors include: 1991 Citrus County Citizen of the Year; Service Above Self Award from the Dunnellon Area Chamber of Commerce and the Service to Mankind Award from the Dunnellon Ser-toma Club.

In 1999, she was selected as an Eckerd 100 Woman for her volunteer service to her community. The NAACP in Atlanta also recognized her good works.

"I enjoy what I have done," Johnson told the *Chronicle* in 1999. "I have been wonderfully blessed."

Contact *Chronicle* reporter Nancy Kennedy at 352-564-2927 or nkennedy@chronicleonline.com.

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Farm livin'

Dunnellon FFA and 4H members had a strong showing once again at the annual Southeastern Youth Fair, which wrapped up Saturday, March 1, with the Swine Sale at the Marion County Livestock Pavilion.

Clockwise from above left:

Jim Livingston assists his son, Matthew, with a tie as Matthew prepared to show his hog during the Swine Showmanship competition.

Christina Follett helps prepare her daughter, Kylee, a member of the Dunnellon 4H Chapter, for the Swine Showmanship.

Weston Payne of Dunnellon scratches the ear of Mal-lard, who belonged to Payne's cousin, TJ Peterson.

Photos by JEFF BRYAN/
Riverland News

Jody Weber pulls on the reigns of her steer, Moe, on Feb. 24 during the Steer Show. Moe's best friend was Larry and brother was Curly.

Savanna Walker pulls on the reigns of her steer, Buddy, during the Steer Show.

Photos courtesy of WonderPics/Miss Ellie



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20077 SW 110 St. Dunnellon, FL 34432
Excepting \$15 yearly Membership signups ages 6-18
*AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
*SPRING BREAK CAMP
*SUMMER CAMP
*Snack transportation concession
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Leadership Clubs. download application www.bgccofmarion.com contact tlackson@bgccofmarion.com for info

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Dunnellon Sat 3/15 8am
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For more info re: Yard & Shop/Tool Sale 352-637-7805 or 352-302-8612 Fund Raiser/Bake Sale for Team Christine 352-257-1597 (we will be selling Team Christine 2014 team tee-shirts, soda, hot dogs, baked goods)

YARD SALE

DUNNELLO SATURDAY ONLY 3/15 9am to 1pm Proceeds Benefit Family Hope Pregnancy Center BIG SALE!
lots of baby/kids items! MUCH MORE @ALLSTATE Office on Powell Road

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March 15, 16, 9am to 3pm
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BROOKSVILLE HSC CLUB
Sat. Mar. 15th 9a-5p Sun. Mar. 16th 9a-4p
HERNANDO COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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Notices to Creditors/Administration

475-0313 RIV
Phillips, Marie 2014-CP-0293 Notice to Creditors
PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MARION COUNTY FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No.: 2014-CP-0293 Division: Judge Robbins

IN RE: ESTATE OF MARIE PHILLIPS Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of MARIE PHILLIPS, deceased, whose date of death was December 15, 2013, is pending in the Circuit Court for Marion County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 110 NW 1st Avenue, Ocala, FL 34475. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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 first publication of this Notice is March 6, 2014

Personal Representative: /s/ Michele Giarmo 1431 85th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11228

Attorney for Personal Representative: /s/ LORENZO RAMUNNO, Florida Bar No. 765813, RAMUNNO LAW FIRM PA 7500 SW 61st Avenue, Suite 100, Ocala, FL 34476 Telephone: (352) 854-5570 Fax: (352) 854-9267 E-Mail: ramunnolaw@gmail.com Secondary E-Mail: ramunnolaw34476@gmail.com www.ramunnolawfirm.com March 6 & 13, 2014.

478-0320 RIV

Lugo, Eva P. 2014CP283 Notice to Creditors
PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File Number: 2014CP283

IN RE: ESTATE OF EVA P. LUGO, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of EVA P. LUGO, deceased, whose date of death was March 18, 2013, File Number 2014CP283, 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 March 13, 2014.

Personal Representative: /s/ EVA J. RIVERA 10842 S.W. 79th Avenue, Ocala, Florida 34476

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 March 13 & 20, 2014.

Lien Notices

476-0313 RIV
3/31 sole
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Public Sale:
D & D TOWING OF Ocala gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicle(s) at 4125 NE Jacksonville Rd., Ocala, FL 34479-2427, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes.
D & D TOWING OF Ocala reserves the

Lien Notices

right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.
Sale date: 3 Mar 2014 @ 9 AM 1995 FORD VIN # 1FJW35H85EA01633 March 13, 2014.

Lien Notices

these vehicles on 03/26/2014 09:00 am at 1901 NW MARTIN LUTHER KING JR AVE, Ocala, FL 34475-5007, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. BIG JOE'S TOWING SERVICE INC reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids. KMHND46035U121041 2005 HYUNDAI March 13, 2014.

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ESCH
continued from page 1

high school interning at a local veterinarian's office, even performing routine surgeries at the age of 16. But, he explained, his parent's surprising divorce forced him to return home to help his mother out.

"It crashed quite early," he said of his dream. "I immediately fell into working world and got married early on."

His first job was for a company making rubber boots, where he advanced through the ranks quickly, moving R&D department and testing new products. "I'm fully self-learned," he said. "I have the imitative to move up."

He eventually become a pilot, flying freight before his career was mistakenly put on hold because of a false "diabetes diagnosis." "I thought my flying career was done," he said.

Esch explained he was working for a friend who owned a small irrigation company, but was given ownership of it where he grew the company's earnings to a staggering \$1.7 million in the first year. "I got bonded at a time most people weren't thinking about it," he explained, noting he did quite a bit of contract work developing landscaping at Disney World's Epcot Center. "I was able to get projects that others couldn't reach. I've been a very successful businessman. The only thing I can say I haven't been successful at, until the past nine years, have been marital issues. I have a tendency to work too hard, spend too much time working late and not devoting time to the family that I should have."

His mother had relocated to Ocala, so Esch sold his business to move to continue to assist her when she needed it. Once in Marion County, Esch said he worked at several places, including Brady Construction, Golden Ocala and On Top of the World. He said while at On Top of the World, he wrote all of the land development codes for the community and wrote all of the bidding processes.

"They were all vetted by an attorney," he said, which came back with few red marks. "I found models that were working. I've always been touted as person who thinks outside of the box. Sometimes I have trouble staying inside the box."

Esch told the Council the lone reason for moving onto other positions was economic downsizing.

Evans asked Esch how long he planned on staying in the employment of the city.

Esch was quick to point out that it was somewhat of a trick question, since the city manager was a contract-based position and he could be let go at any time.

"Honestly, in considering applying for this position, that was the one fear I had," he explained. "I came to this job to retire. I came to this city to retire. I've suffered through economic downfalls that have caused me to lose jobs."

When asked about his management style, Esch said he prefers to play the role of a coach opposed to that of a commander, though, he admitted there are times playing commander are necessary.

"I make every effort to start out as a coach," he said. "I really enjoy mentoring and coaching people who are under me and around me."

Having good people around a manager, Esch said, is essential. He pointed out how key City Clerk Dawn Bowne and numerous years of experience are an asset not only to the city, but the city manager.

Evans asked how Esch could potentially improve relationships with Rainbow Springs residents. "Do you have any recommendation to address some of those issues after a final judgment is handed down by the court?"

Esch responded he believes the staff and current Council have made a lot of head way. "Only half of them are mad at us now," he joked, before taking on a more serious tone. He pointed out Joan Duggins, as someone who "no one has been harder or diligent keeping the city in line or pointing out flaws than Mrs.

Duggins. I don't believe she wasn't much of a fan of mine in the beginning."

Evans asked how Esch would handle the citizens of Dunnellon as well as non-residents who very involved in government affairs, especially involving environmental issues.

"I haven't been driven real hard by anyone in any particular direction," Esch said. "I would take a very neutral position. I have no political aspirations. I would take the role of what is in the best interest of the city. The basis of this city is ecotourism, but destroying that basis of existence would obviously be bad for the city."

Esch told the Council "no one believes in property rights" more than he does, but with that, compromise is essential for all parties involved.

"Ultimately, it will be Council's final decision," Esch said.

Mayor Nathan Whitt and the rest of the Council applauded Evans for the questions, praising Esch for his thoroughness on the answers.

"It's my gut feeling he was best person for the job," the first-term mayor said.

Esch admitted he was apprehensive about the questions as to whether there were underlying motives or reasons for it. "I appreciate the support," Esch told the Council. "I look forward to working with each of you and the citizens."

Esch told the Council he's come to love Dunnellon and regrets not living in the city.

"The opportunities here are abounding and countless," he said about Dunnellon's future.

Esch's promotion won't be finalized until the Council approves to the terms of his contract. The City Council will likely approve his contract at its April 7 City Council meeting. There will be a Council workshop at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 2.

In other action, the Council:

- Approved an agreement with Duke Energy for an easement across the

parking lot so the power company can install an underground transmission line. Initially, a map provided to the City Council at its March 5 workshop showed a pad-mounted transformer being installed above ground. However, Esch told the Council the new map does not show it and that officials with Duke Energy agreed to remove it from its plans, though the company never intended on installing one.

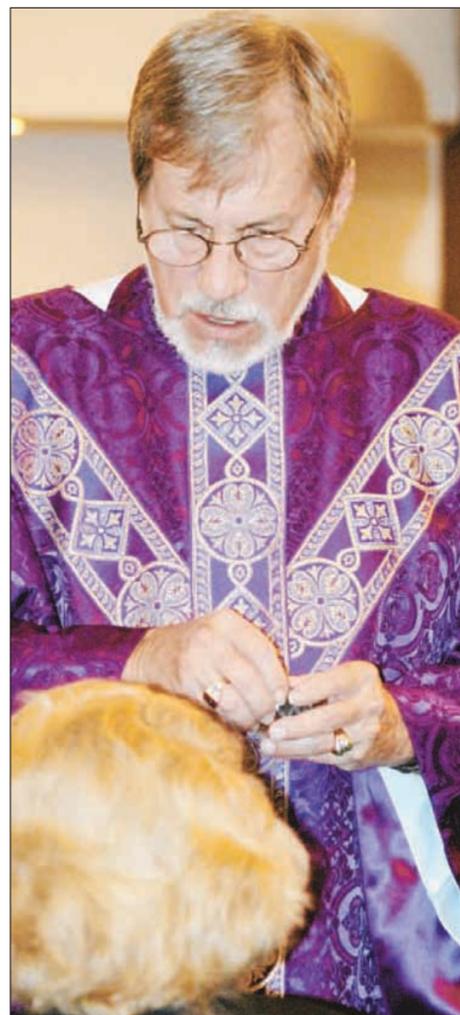
• Approved an amendment to an agreement for a Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) small community wastewater facilities grant, which will allow for the city to take the Rio Vista Wastewater Treatment Facility offline and connect it with the Rainbow Springs Wastewater Treatment Facility plant. "We've been given the opportunity to amend that budget as we get close to bid time," Esch told the Council, noting the reason for the amendment was for the route the project will now go was not initially considered. However, with the ability to access state-owned land, thanks in large part to the in-kind project with the bicycle extension, the city was able to go the shorter route.

Esch stressed DEP will fund the amount for the accepted bid; if the project expenses go higher the state agency will not provide additional funds. "They'll entertain change orders as supplemental, but once we lock into that (bid) amount, any change order had to go through an approval process."

Esch said he doesn't foresee any changes during the process. "The numbers should fly," Esch said, noting Louis Bryant with Kimley-Horne & Associates reassured him the numbers are high based on the latest cost estimates for asphalt and piping. "We can always give back, it's always harder to ask for more. We cannot just go back and say we goofed up on this."

For more news from the Monday City Council meeting, see the March 20 edition of the Riverland News.

Ash Wednesday



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News
Parishioners from Holy Faith Episcopal Church gathered Wednesday evening for an Ash Wednesday service at the church in Blue Cove. In the Christian faith, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is a season of penance, reflection and fasting, which prepares believers for Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. Many churches use the ashes from blessed palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday.



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\$27,975



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Stk # FT608A

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CERTIFIED 2013 NISSAN TITAN SV

CERTIFIED 2014 NISSAN VERSA NOTE SV



Stk # PFT660

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Stk # P6341

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Stk # F959A

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