

Riverland News

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Vol 32 No. 22

75 cents

Sheriff: Man, 27, traveled to meet minor for sex



Dyane R. Ramkelawan

Ocala resident faces two charges

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

A 27-year-old Ocala man found with a partially dressed 15-year-old girl parked in the rear of the Rainbow Lakes Estates

Community Center parking lot faces two charges, according to a Marion County Sheriff's Office arrest report.

Dyane R. Ramkelawan was charged with traveling to meet a child after use of a

computer to lure the child, and possession of marijuana, less than 20 grams.

According to the report, a deputy was on routine patrol at 11 p.m. Friday when he spotted Ramkelawan's Ford Explorer parked at the community center.

The officer approached

the vehicle where he observed the female wearing no shirt or bra while Ramkelawan was lying next to her fully clothed.

The report stated the deputy smelled a strong odor of burnt marijuana coming from the vehicle. The officer asked the girl to

dress and have them both exit the vehicle. The deputy then asked both subjects what they were doing to which Ramkelawan responded, "they were about to have sex."

He also told law enforcement officials there was a See **SHERIFF** page 20

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Police investigate one-car wreck

The Dunnellon Police Department is investigating a one-car wreck early Friday morning that sent two people to the hospital.

The crash occurred about 2:30 p.m. Friday when the vehicle badly damaged a utility pole in front of the old Dinkins Feed Store.

Police are continuing their investigation. Charges might be pending, officials said.

Woman's Club plans events

The Woman's Club of Dunnellon will meet at noon Thursday, April 10, at the clubhouse at 11756 Cedar St. There will be a salad bar luncheon.

Judy Wilson, the guest speaker, will talk about the Rape Crisis and Domestic Violence Center of Marion County.

In addition, the Woman's Club of Dunnellon will host its fifth annual Fashion Show at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 12, at the First Baptist Church of Dunnellon Fellowship Hall at the corner of Powell Road and Cedar Street.

Tickets are \$20 each and include lunch. Proceeds benefit local charities.

For information regarding tickets, call Carole at 352-270-8485 or Lorraine at 352-746-2957.

Chamber gears up for Boomtown Days

The Dunnellon Area Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with local businesses, will host Boomtown Days Dunnellon on Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27.

Entries are needed for the Boomtown Mayor contest. There will be the annual Queen of the Rainbow pageant, food, crafts, music and more.

In addition, there will be a Boomtown Casino Night at Gruff's Tap and Grille at 6 p.m. Friday, April 25.

Sponsors and volunteers are still needed for the annual festival.

For information, call 489-2320.

Stitch in time



Photos by AUGIE SALZER/For the Riverland News

Women from left, Kathy Shetzler, Shelby Miller and Carol Ihnken work on their quilts at their sewing machines. The women are a part of the Dunnellon Riverland Baptist Church quilting group, who are making quilts, which will be given to babies, children and adolescent cancer patients at Shands Hospital in Gainesville.

Group makes quilts for young cancer patients at Shands

AUGIE SALZER
For the Riverland News

Several ladies are gathered in a room quietly sharing, stitching, handling brightly colored swatches of material and working over the hum of the sewing machines all in an effort to give some comfort to young children suffering through cancer treatments.

The Dunnellon Riverland Baptist Church quilting group is currently making quilts, which will be given to babies, children and adolescent cancer patients at Shands Hospital in Gainesville.

"We plan to take the first batch of about 20 blankets to the hospital in May," said Linda Hall, one of the many quilters. "We put some love in each quilt and make it something special for them to keep."

About 12 women decided to start the "Shands Quilt Project" after the pastor's wife, Christy Carringer, had a similar experience a few years ago while she attended the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa.

"She felt such a comfort when she received a blanket while at Moffitt," Hall said. "She was our inspiration when it struck her so strongly that there was such a need for something like this."

The ladies are planning to make two sizes of quilts for the children: a 36-by-42-inch for the smaller children and babies and



Linda Hall looks over a few of the quilts to be taken to Shands Hospital. Hall said the group is looking for donations of 100 percent woven cotton fabrics in bright, cheery colors and thread so they can continue their project.

a 46-by-60-inch for the adolescent patients.

"The quilts will be something to cover themselves and keep them warm," quilter Jeanette Talbert said. "We just want to share the talents that God gave us."

The group gathers from 9 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays at the church to make the quilts. First, each one picks out a pattern, they coordinate the material and colors to match and then cut out the fabric on a self-sealing mat with a razor-sharp rotary cutter.

The next step is to assemble equal sized squares, sew them in rows and then sew all the rows together. The back of the quilt is usually a different color of mate-

rial that is chosen to coordinate and compliment the pattern on the front of the work.

"Quilting is an easy project to do and a lot of fun," Hall said. "The joke about quilters is that we take perfectly good material, cut it up just so we can sew it all back together again."

Some of women bring in their light-weight sewing machines to sew the squares together and put on the finishing touches while others finish their quilts completely by hand.

Harriett Lantz, 92, uses a pattern that resembles an old-fashioned southern belle gown, bonnet and parasol on each

See **STITCH** page 20

Bank, city reach accord

Regions drops suit against city

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

The city of Dunnellon and Regions Bank have struck an accord over the city's failure to meet financial obligations surrounding the \$7.3 million

in bonds it secured in November 2010.



Eddie Esch



Mike Markham

The deal, approved unanimously Monday by the City Council, calls for the city to pay Regions a total \$3,468,750 million, including an initial \$200,000 payment which was due Tuesday. The city is then scheduled to make annual payments of \$175,000 for the next 18 years. The city, if it wishes, can pay off the total early. If the city were to pay off the debt before 2032, Regions Bank would give a 5 percent discount.

The settlement puts an end to the lawsuit Regions Bank filed last November after the city failed to make a \$1.6 bond payment as well as the state of emergency officials filed with Gov. Rick Scott's office. Overall, the city owed Regions Bank a total collective principal

See **ACCORD** page 17

MORE INSIDE

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- Deal with bank doesn't solve overall woes./Page 4

Pipeline fuels environmentalists' concerns

Folks ask government to show need for proposal

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

Environmentalists, among others, challenged the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, to show the need for a proposed 460-mile pipeline, which would run through three states or denounce its support of the project planned by Sabal Trail Transmission LLC.

Sabal Trail Transmission LLC, a joint venture of Juno Beach-based Next Era Energy Corp., which owns

Florida Power & Light, the state's largest electrical utility, and Spectra Energy in Houston, are in the preliminary stages of developing the proposed pipeline, which would include building about 26 miles of pipeline through western Marion County, near Dunnellon. The proposed route would bring the underground pipeline through the recharge basin for Rainbow Springs and a portion of the Silver Springs recharge basin as well as wetlands, lands set aside

for conservation purposes and wildlife habitats.

"How did they decide to put it in Dunnellon, of all the sensitive places in Florida?" questioned Whitey Markel of the Suwannee St. Johns Sierra Club.

The proposed pipeline would be capable of delivering up to 1.1 billion cubic feet of natural gas a day from central Alabama to FPL's plant in South Florida.

"I'd like to see some justification, some need for See **PIPELINE** page 19



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Janet Barrow, a longtime resident of Dunnellon, said her property would be affected by the proposed natural gas line.



Sheriff: Man attempts to flee

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

A 27-year-old Dunnellon man faces a litany of charges, including fleeing or attempting to elude law enforcement officer, according to a Marion County Sheriff's Office arrest report.

The report stated Sean William Sturges was seen driving a truck around 6:45 p.m. March 19 along County Road 484 near the Marion Oaks community. The truck had an Alabama tag connected to a Mercedes Benz. The tag had expired in 2007. In addition, Sturges was known by law enforcement officials from prior contact and authorities knew Sturges had a revoked license.

The report stated deputies attempted a traffic stop, but Sturges raced away at speeds topping 90 miles per hour. Sturges drove "through several unmarked roads and through a mud hole." After going through the mud hole, one of the law enforcement officer's vehicles gave out; however, the second vehicle in the chase, a K-9 unit, was able to continue his pursuit of Sturges.

According to the report, the K-9 unit tracked Sturges' vehicle to the 10200 block of Southwest 157th Lane before locating the suspect in a wooded area near a house owned by Sturges' mother.

Post Miranda, the report stated, Sturges told authorities he fled because he did not have a driver's license and every time he's pulled

over, "he goes to jail." Additionally, he told authorities he thought he was going to jail no matter what.

According to the report, Sturges advised law enforcement personnel the truck was his and he had yet to register it because he's trying to sell it. He added he has had the truck for more than nine months. He told authorities he tried to flee and elude authorities because he's "afraid to go back to prison."

The report stated while several officers were attempting to locate him in the woods, another deputy found several boxes of ammunition in the truck. Sturges told authorities the ammunition was his. Officers then asked if Sturges knew, due to being a convicted felon, he could not possess ammunition. Sturges said he only knew he could not have any firearms.

Sturges was also charged with possession of ammunition by a convicted felon; driving while license suspended, revoked, canceled or disqualified (a third or subsequent offense); failure to register a motor vehicle;

and resisting an officer without violence. His bond was set at more than \$25,000.

In addition to the charges Sturges is facing, his stepfather, Rick Van Pelt, was charged with resisting arrest without violence in the incident, according to a Marion County Sheriff's Office arrest report.

The report stated when authorities arrived in the 10200 block of Southwest 157th Lane, Van Pelt was standing outside to the rear of a nearby mobile home. Van Pelt did not comply with orders to come out from behind the trailer or show his hands.

According to the report, Van Pelt argued he wasn't doing anything and placed his hands in his pocket. Authorities grabbed Van Pelt and placed him in handcuffs to secure him and prevent him from further hindering their ability to track Sturges.

The report stated Van Pelt told officers he did not know who the truck belonged to and he didn't see who was in it. He added he saw the vehicle come into the yard and he went inside to get a beer and didn't see anything else.

Van Pelt's bond was set at \$1,000.



Sean Sturges

Returning vet honored



Special to the Riverland News
John Taylor, left, American Legion Post No. 58 commander, presents a "Welcome Home Certificate" to Spc. Stanley S. Shaw, center, with the U.S. Army Unit 2 CR and his K-9, Sgt. Branco 1, along with an honorary membership to Post No. 58. The event was Friday at the Hernando VFW Post. Also welcomed was Spc. Christian McIntyre, right.

NEWS NOTES

Fundraiser slated for pregnancy center

Joe Castillo, a contestant on "America's Got Talent," will perform at 7 p.m. Friday at the Marion Technical Institute (MTI) at 1614 SE Fort King St., Ocala.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Family Hope Pregnancy Center at 20892 Second Ave., Dunnellon.

For ticket information, visit www.familyhopedunnellon.org or call 465-3321.

Legion schedules spaghetti dinner

American Legion No. 58 Wall Rives Post will host a spaghetti dinner with meatballs from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, April 12. Cost is \$6 per person. The event is open to the entire greater Dunnellon community.

The menu consists of spaghetti, meatballs, garlic bread, salad, dessert and coffee.

Solution to puzzle on Page 17

5	4	1	9	6	2	8	3	7
7	9	8	3	5	1	6	4	2
6	3	2	7	4	8	5	9	1
9	5	7	1	8	3	4	2	6
3	2	6	4	9	7	1	8	5
1	8	4	5	2	6	9	7	3
4	7	9	6	3	5	2	1	8
8	6	3	2	1	4	7	5	9
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Florida Cable now bank's problem

City can pursue legal avenues of non-assignable claims

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

Florida Cable is no longer the city of Dunnellon's problem.

The privately owned telecommunications system, which purchased the city's financially beleaguered fiber to the home program in December, will now have to deal with Regions Bank after it reached a deal with the city over its debt obligations.

"With respect to Florida Cable, it becomes the bank's problem," said Mike Markham, special legal counsel to the city. "They are going to do what they are going to do with Florida Cable."

But it also means whatever settlement Regions Bank reaches with Florida Cable, those funds are strictly Regions', Markham explained. In addition, Markham told the Council the city would recoup any losses from the lease agreement with Florida Cable as well as any additional costs incurred for ongoing operation of the system. However, Eddie Esch, interim city manager, told the Council two weeks ago, the city is no longer incurring expenses related to the now privately owned telecommunications system.

Councilwoman Penny Fleeger asked what will happen with Florida Cable and the system.

"I don't know what's going to become of the system," Markham said. "If Florida Cable doesn't step up and do what they're supposed to do, Regions will likely sue them."

"I don't think Regions appreciates shutting down the system. But how much time do you give Florida Cable? They've been given more than enough time in my view. I think Regions' goal is to keep the system running. They will be driving that ship."

But it might not mean the end of litigation for the city.

Per the agreement with Regions, the city has the right to pursue legal recourse through non-assignable claims received from third parties.

"I'm telling you, you owe to it to yourselves to investigate it further," Markham said about potential non-assignable claims. "My advice to you is to do it as quickly as you can. The bank will likely agree with whatever our analysis is."

That caused concern for Vice Mayor Dennis Evans.

"So the bank is in position to drive city of Dunnellon to make claims against individuals or entities as a cause of the problem?" Evans questioned. "And if that's the case, if they're going to be a driving force, does the Council have opportunity on each one of those things?"

Markham explained the city would be able to advise the bank on what its plan is and talk through it.

Markham gave one hypothetical situation which would cause the city to trigger legal action. "If somebody misadvised you in 2010, you would hold that claim right now, you have the claim on that," he explained, adding malpractice claims would be the city's right to pursue."

Added Evans: "It sounds like a high potential for a lot more lawsuits."

But officials would not tip their hands at whom they might be targeting in potential claims.

"Frankly my focus has been on Regions, not any other party," Markham said.

City Attorney Virginia Cassidy told the Council she and Esch did look at potential suits on a cursory level a while back. "I don't anticipate it being necessarily lawsuits," she explained. "Most of the potential claims are insured by insurance or by bond."

She did urge the City Council to look at potential non-assignable claims on a contingency basis.

"It has to be brought up to your attention," Cassidy said. "We are talking about individuals here, and we have to be cognizant of that fact. We would have to be sensitive that these are individuals involved."

Evans appeared uneasy at the notion of pursuing individuals.

"I feel we're at the mercy of our lawyers," he said.

If the city were to pursue any legal action against individuals, officials would be required to split any monetary awards with Regions Bank on a 50/50 basis, after attorney's fees were covered. Markham said the city wouldn't need to worry about paying legal fees up front for a lawyer to pursue claims.

"You'll have attorneys begging you to do it if you've got a good claim," Markham said.

Powerchair presentation



Special to the Riverland News
American Legion Post No. 58 Legionnaires, from left, Bob Anderson, John Taylor and Eric Persons visited Harbour House Assisted Living Center on March 28 and presented a power wheelchair to Isaih Dixon, retired veteran resident. Dixon, below, a native of Dunnellon, served in the U.S. Army as a military scout from 1955 to 1979.



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Baptist church to host Easter Egg Hunt

First Baptist Church of Dunnellon will host a communitywide Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 19, at its church at 20831 Powell Road. The event is free and open to the public. For information, call 489-2730.

Garden club plans monthly meeting

The Rainbow Springs Garden Club will meet at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 24, at the American Legion Hall, 10730 U.S. 41.

Sandra Marraffino with her PowerPoint presentation about "Birds & Butterflies

along the Rainbow River" will be the guest speaker.

Annual membership, from September to May, is \$10. Visitor fee is \$5 applicable toward annual membership.

For information, call Alice Kennedy at 465-3002.

Nonprofit group plans yard sale

Christians In Action (CIA) will host a yard sale from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 26, at New Second Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. For information, call Geri Davis 489-6332 or Susan Lebrun 465-8660.

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OUR VOICE

Deal with bank doesn't solve overall woes

News of the settlement between the city of Dunnellon and Regions Bank is certainly a reason to let out a sigh of relief, if only for the purpose of knowing one lawsuit is now behind us.

We're still awaiting Judge Steven Rogers' rulings regarding the pact between the city and Conservation Land Group LLC over the fate of the Rainbow River Ranch development as well as the class-action lawsuit filed by Rainbow Springs and their recent request to have the 25-percent surcharge eliminated. It's been more than two months since the circuit court judge heard both cases, and in case folks are wondering, he has up to a year to rule on both cases.

In the meantime, the accord between the city and Regions only provides a short-term fix to a long-term problem city officials have ignored for far too long: reliable revenue sources.

However, we can be assured of few things regarding the newly signed deal between the city and Regions Bank.

There will be more fallout.

There will be no accountability whatsoever from the folks who put us in this position in the first place.

In the coming months, the City Council will decide the fate of a proposed fire assessment fee to help offset budget shortfalls. Folks, the problem is we've been down this road of coming up with alternative revenue sources, only to watch as they've failed.

First, we tried red-light cameras. That fizzled.

Second, we tried Greenlight Communica-

tions. That didn't just fizzle. It exploded and has left the City Council and other officials trying to put together the broken pieces.

There are several reasons pushing for a fire assessment fee is a terrible idea.

First, the City Council balked at the chance to put this on the ballot as a referendum and let voters have their say in either the primary in August or the general election in November.

Secondly, no matter how you phrase it, this is a tax. Officials aren't calling it a tax. Asking property owners, whether residential or commercial, to pay more is unrealistic and unfair. The City Council has often claimed it does not wish to place the failure of Greenlight on the shoulders of its already taxed residents and business owners. This is doing exactly that.

Third, Mayor Nathan Whitt and, recently, Eddie Esch, interim city manager, have both said they have plans for the city's vibrant future. Whitt has yet to share his plans, but he's let it be known what he'll do to those in the way of his plans.

Esch told the City Council at its most recent workshop, officials aren't ready to unveil their plans publicly.

Folks, we need to know. We have a right to know what the "plan(s)" are. The plan(s) need public support and backing. We need to have those plans out in the open, so everyone can see them, offer an opinion or input and begin to move forward.

We deserve to know there's a brighter future ahead and how exactly we're going to get there since we lack the necessary funding to get us there.

THE OTHER GUY

Spring fever is upon us

My head hurts, literally. It feels like a jackhammer continually pounds away at it.

I know it is spring again, the sinuses are back in full force. If there is one thing I have missed about Kansas the past 14 winters I have lived in Florida, it is the guarantee allergy woes would disappear for at least four months. Living in Florida, that's not so much the case.

But with this spring, it means warmer weather and the multitude of treks outside. My children and I hate being cooped up inside, we enjoy our trips to the parks, beaches. Simply put, we enjoy being outside.

This past winter has been, by far, the worst I can recall since I moved to Florida in August 2000. I cannot believe it's been so long since I loaded what I could into my now defunct Dodge Neon and made a two-day drive from Northeast Kansas to Central Florida.

I can still recall my parents, watching in silence, as I

packed my car ever so deftly. My mother chided me the night of my 26th birthday when I brushed off my father, who had offered his assistance in loading the few belongings I could wedge into my car.

There have been very few instances in which my mother has taken me to task verbally. She pulled me aside as my father moped around the house, tinkering with a few gadgets in the garage. Mothers are funny in that they

don't mince words when necessary. "You're going to let your father help you," she said in a matter-of-fact tone.

Being the stubborn, independent middle child I am, I told her I could handle it. She grabbed my arm, then her eyes turned a fiery red, and she said again, "you will let your father help you." She made her point. I asked my father if he could help me carrying what few boxes remained in my room as we finished the task at hand.

But I digress.

I'm certainly not a "perfect" father, nor am I a Disney Dad who likes to have all of the fun while their mother is forced to play the role of the mean parent. I believe in disciplining my children, making sure their homework is done in a timely manner.

However, if there is one area I can be proud to say I played a role in, it's making sure my kids loving playing outside; doing what children do best when they are outside, getting dirty, experiencing bumps, bruises and scraped knees.

Needless to say, the boys have taken that mantra on full force, arriving at home with more bumps, bruises and scrapes in places I do not recall obtaining them as a youth. Jackson, who's learned to jump off a swing, ripped his shirt after getting caught in the chains. He landed with a hard thud at the daycare, but boasted he flew like "Superman." I didn't bother to mention he landed with a thud.

I was forced into a contest with both of the boys to see who

See OTHER page 5



Jeff Bryan
Editor

WHICH IS WORSE?



A REPRESENTATIVE WHO DOESN'T KNOW HOW OLD THE CONSTITUTION IS...



OR SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T CARE WHAT IT MEANS?

THE JERSEY GIRL

Calling all fools, pranksters

Dear readers, this is my final column for the Riverland News.

April Fools!
 Don't you hate being tricked that way? Or are you a fan? I for one do not care to be fooled, joked, made fun of or pranked. But many people love it. I once worked with a girl who played practical jokes on a daily basis. You'd open a drawer and something would jump out or she'd tape your phone receiver down so you couldn't answer it. I was not amused.



Audrey Beem

April 1, sometimes called All Fools' Day, is one of the most lighthearted days of the year. It's not a national holiday, but is widely recognized and celebrated in various countries as a day when people play practical jokes and hoaxes on each other. Yet nobody is really sure how this particular day became synonymous with pranks. Many theories have been put forward but, unfortunately, none of them is very compelling. So the origin of April Fools remains as much a mystery as it was back in 1708.

According to infoplease.com, in 1582 Pope Gregory XIII ordered a new calendar to replace the old Julian calendar. The new calendar called for New Year's Day to be celebrated Jan. 1. Many people either refused to accept the new date or did not learn about it, and continued to celebrate New Year's Day in April.

Other people began to make fun of these traditionalists, sending them on "fool's errands" or trying to trick them into believing something false. Eventually the practice

spread throughout Europe. By the 18th century, written references became numerous.

Another explanation of the origin of April Fools' Day was provided by Joseph Boskin, a professor at Boston University. He explained that the practice began during the reign of Roman emperor Constantine, when a group of court jesters and fools told the emperor they could do a better job of running the empire. Constantine, amused, allowed a jester, Kugel, to be king for one day. Kugel passed an edict calling for absurdity on that day, and the custom became an annual event.

Most people love a good joke. It's certainly a fun day and my grandson's favorite holiday. My husband loves telling me outrageous tales. I guess as long as the joke isn't tinged with malice, it's OK. For this one day, forms of behavior that are normally not allowed, such as lying deception and pranks, become acceptable.

Museumofhoaxes.com lists some of the top April Fools' Day hoaxes of all time.

In 1957, the BBC pulled a prank, known as the Swiss Spaghetti Harvest prank, where it broadcast a fake video of Swiss farmers picking freshly-grown spaghetti. They were later flooded with requests to purchase a spaghetti plant, forcing them to declare the video as a prank the next day.

On April 1, 1992, National Public Radio's "Talk of the Nation" revealed that Richard Nixon, in a surprise move, was running for president again. His new campaign slogan was, "I didn't do any-

thing wrong, and I won't do it again." Listeners flooded the show with calls expressing shock and outrage. Only during the second half of the show did the host reveal that the announcement was a practical joke. Nixon's voice was impersonated by comedian Rich Little.

In 1998, Burger King published a full page advertisement in USA Today announcing the introduction of a "Left-Handed Whopper" specially designed for the 32 million left-handed Americans. The new whopper included the same ingredients as the original, but all the condiments were rotated 180 degrees for the benefit of its left-handed customers.

The following day Burger King issued a follow-up release revealing that although the Left-Handed Whopper was a hoax, thousands of customers had gone into restaurants to request the new sandwich.

People's fascination with pranks is evident with the popularity of television programs such as "Candid Camera," "Punk'd" and Betty White's new show, "Off Their Rockers," which depicts seniors staging the outrageous acts.

It's hard to forget Justin Timberlake crying on "Punk'd" when Ashton Kutcher and his team pretended to be government agents and seized all his property because of unpaid income taxes. Watching Beyonce in agony because she ruined a charity event for children was rather cruel.

But although absurd, mean and sometimes cringeworthy, pranks of any kind can also be quite hilarious. Hope nobody pulled one over on you on this past April Fools Day.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Either it's time to move on, or just move

I have to admit I was shocked that Regions Bank agreed to take at least a \$3.4 million loss and gave the city of Dunnellon such a generous settlement of their outstanding \$6.7 million Greenlight loan.

The question is why? My guess is that was substantial political pressure from the governor's office on Regions to avoid opening the floodgates of municipal bankruptcy requests.

So far, I am disappointed with the financial oversight and actions of the governor's office.

Getting 29 cents back from every dollar owed is a terrible deal for Regions Bank. Perhaps, the former Dunnellon city attorney negotiated the deal for Regions. This is just another example of our declining American cultural and moral standards.

Dunnellon is now on the same level of integrity and trustworthiness as the person who lives a high life style financed by credit cards and refuses to pay his legal debt.

Dunnellon is on the same moral plane as the person who buys an expensive new car they cannot afford, quits making payments because they have squandered their money on booze, strip clubs and fancy restaurants.

At least in the above examples I just cited the people would have at least some benefit from their unpaid debt. What does Dunnellon have to show for more than \$12 million spent on Greenlight?

The terrible situation Dunnellon is in was unnecessary, avoidable and inexcusable. The people who will pay for the loss will be the shareholders and customers of Regions Bank.

As of now it appears, there will be absolutely no accountability by anyone for the actions that got Dunnellon in deadbeat status. Perhaps Regions will fire the banker who was naive enough to trust Dunnellon to repay their lawful loan debt. What a mistake — he trusted Dunnellon.

Of course, in addition to the nonpayment of the loan to Regions

See LETTERS page 5

LETTERS

continued from page 4

there is the more than \$4 million taken from the water/sewer enterprise reserve funds. That is a lot of money wasted for no reason except incompetence, at the very least, or it may be something even more alarming. Who knows what really went on?

In the long run, Dunnellon utility customers will pay more to bail out the city than Regions lost. At least Regions Bank went into a loan agreement with Dunnellon willingly.

Rainbow Springs was sucked into the vortex of Dunnellon incompetence involuntarily. The city gave the hot potato of the Greenlight sale to Regions Bank.

If I were one of the few Florida Cable customers, I would look for another cable company. I am sure Regions is counting on getting the \$1 million from Florida Cable. Maybe they can get 29 cents on the dollar.

Perhaps Dunnellon is giving financial advice to Florida Cable. It is ironic that Dunnellon was upset and threatening legal action because Florida Cable would not honor their legal debt obligations. Dunnellon was right, it is wrong to break your legal contract and not pay money owed. It is truly like an O'Henry short story.

Now there will much talk of forgetting the past and it is time to move on.

Perhaps it is time to just move.

**Steve Swett,
Dunnellon**

Woman's Club says thanks for support

With a great deal of excitement, the president and the Board of Directors for the Woman's Club of Dunnellon anticipate the culmination of its last fundraiser for the season, and, at their meeting in May will announce the recipients of their fundraising labors since last September when the current year began.

In the past, each meeting was designated to raise funds for a certain charity. The donations could be either material, in the form of cake mixes and decorations for a birthday party in the case of a women's shelter or juice or other refreshments in the case of the Boys & Girls Club; or monetary, based on donations from that meeting.

We were often visited by various speakers who told us about their organizations and what they were doing for the community. We found the amount of the donation varied, considerable in some instances, and decided that it might be more equitable if the total amount was divided up at the end of the year. That is about to happen.

Before we make those announcements, it

seems fitting that the Woman's Club should give recognition to those who have helped to make our efforts so successful.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Jeff Bryan and the rest of the staff at the Riverland News for telling our story to its readers.

Belk's of Ocala has provided clothes and commentary for several of our Fashion Shows including the one we scheduled for April 12. First Baptist Church which has provided space and the use of their kitchen facilities as well as members of their youth group, who will serve as waiters and waitresses.

Local merchants have consistently been willing to donate gift certificates to be used as door prizes, or baskets of goodies for raffle prizes. We sincerely appreciate your participation in all our activities.

Finally, to our models and, of course, all our members who faithfully support us with ticket sales, hours of preparation and after every event is over and done with, more hours of cleanup chores, after everyone else has gone home. Thank you, thank you, thank you and bless each and every one of you. We are about to find out just how good a job we have done.

**Woman's Club of Dunnellon
Board of Directors
Joanne Schemery,
president
Joan Lindell,
publicity**

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.

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.

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 participate in this community-based group. Rehearsals are 2:30 p.m. Mondays at the Dunnellon Presbyte-

rian Church, in the Historical District, corner of Ohio and Chestnut streets.

Civic group to host flea market April 11 and 12

The Lake Tropicana Civic Association will host its annual Spring Flea Market from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 11 and 12, at the Lake Tropicana Clubhouse, 3380 SW 181 Court. Vendor rent is \$5 per table, per day inside, and \$4 per space, per day outside.

For information or to reserve your space, call Karen at 208-5006 or Linda at 465-6322.

OTHER

continued from page 4

could jump the farthest, only to learn I cannot move my bottom out of the seats as gracefully as I did when I was their age. To the victor goes the spoils, the kids got ice cream and I got to clean off their hands and faces.

Even Emma loves the playgrounds, and especially the slides. Forget the little kiddie swings and equipment, she follows her brothers around without fear and hesitation. She's eased my doubts thus far with her disdain for other boys.

During a recent weekend trek to area parks, she came barreling down the slide when one poor boy decided to get in her path. She dropped a leg on the poor kid that even Hulk Hogan would have been

proud of. I'm sure it won't be the last boy she'll have crying.

Emma is full of spunk and sass, showing another boy who kept pushing her from behind what will happen when she's had enough. The third time proved the charm when the young boy pushed her and laughed, when she wheeled around and slapped him. I held back the laughter only to see the little guy's dad laughing hysterically, before telling his son:

"That's why boys have to be nice to girls." I apologized, but the dad understood when he replied: "He got what was coming to him."

It might not be summer yet, but the kids and I plan to make the most of our free time in the coming months, visiting as many parks, beaches and, yes, even a few campgrounds for some old-fashion outdoors fun.

Now, only if I can solve my allergies while we do it.

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OFFICIAL NOTICE

Lacoochee Area Redevelopment Corporation (LARC) is seeking proposals to complete Phase II of the New Lacoochee Community Center. This project consists of completing the gym floor, basketball goals, stage, audio visual equipment, permitting and other project related items. The 16,000 S.F. facility is located at:

38724 Mudcat Grant Blvd.,
Lacoochee, FL. 33537

Necessary Documents pertaining to the project can be obtained by contacting:

Cindy Rizer
352-567-5133 ext. 6301
crizer@wrec.net

A mandatory one time meeting will be held on site on:

Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 2:00 P.M.

OUT TO PASTOR

Where have the men in white hats gone?

When I was growing up you could always tell who the good men were by the white hats they wore. Bad men always wore black hats. That made it rather convenient for those of us who were watching so we knew who would be winning at the end.



Rev. James Snyder

When you were in trouble all you had to do was look for someone wearing a white hat.

Not only did the good men wear white hats but also they were able to solve every crime within a 60-minute period. How they did it, is anybody's guess.

Today, nobody wears hats, which has introduced a rather confusing element into our society. You can never tell the bad men from the good men. I know the hat does not make the man but it would sure help to identify the bad man from the good man.

I could name them all off. The Lone Ranger, Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, and John Wayne and the list could go on and on. All of these men wore white hats and they all took care of the bad guys in their own way. You could be sure, at the end the good man always won. There was a certain sense of satisfaction knowing that all those bad men paid for their deeds and justice prevailed.

Of course, today we could never do this. There is something called "profiling." And people use this term as though it was a negative thing. "Oh, be careful so you don't profile that person."

Gene Autry always profiled his men and in the end, justice prevailed.

I look at it this way. If it walks like a duck, looks like a duck and quacks like a duck, the chances are pretty high I am looking at a duck. However, in our crazy world of uncertainty it is against the political correctness of our day for me to say this.

According to today's standards, I must look at that "thing" and not judge it by its appearance. "Why, don't you know, dear brother, you might offend it and give it some kind of an insecurity complex?" How do I know but that duck in front of me will be offended by me calling it a duck? It is the epitome of insensitivity for me to assume that I have the right to call a duck a duck. Who knows, that particular

duck might think it is a dog. After all, a quack is not that far from a bark.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, confusion reigns.

During the last year, I have spent a little bit of time flying from here to there. And the security at these airports defies the intelligence God gave a termite. Going through the line I have to take off my belt, remove my shoes (which come very close to a stink bomb), empty all the pens out of my pocket and submit myself to a body search. Now, they have some kind of electronic gizmo that enables them to see through my clothes. In 10th grade, I dreamed of such a gadget and I am a little

See PASTOR page 8

CHURCH NEWS

Photos, stories wanted of Holy Faith

Parishioners of Holy Faith Episcopal Church in Blue Cove will celebrate its 50th anniversary Sept. 20 and 21.

As part of the celebration, the 50th Anniversary Committee is working to compile a history of the church in the community. All past and present members of the church, friends, neighbors and families can help by searching their memories and scrapbooks for stories and photos related to Holy Faith.

Photos would be promptly copied and returned. The goal by September 2014 is to share the past and continuing relationship of Holy Faith with the Dunnellon community.

Committee members will be happy to do at-home interviews. Interviews can be arranged by calling 489-2685.

Church schedules mission trip

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church is plan-

ning 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 to host gospel choir concert

First Bethel Missionary Baptist Church will host the CF Inspirational Gospel Choir of Ocala at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at its church at 11849 N Williams St. For information, call Ruth Edwards at 489-1774.

Catholic church slates Taizé service

Taizé is an ecumenical song and silent participatory prayer service designed to achieve a contemplative state through music, song and silence. Using just a few words, the chants express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind. As the words are sung over many times, this reality gradually penetrates the whole being.

Taizé prayer originated in the small village of Taizé, which lies in the southern part of Burgundy, France, by a monk named Roger Louis Schutz-Marsauche. Since its founding, the practice has spread worldwide. Its peaceful, contemplative nature has drawn millions from all over the world to practice this kind of worship.

Experience the peace

of God's presence at a Taize' Service at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 7525 U.S. 41. There is no charge.

Women's Bible study slated monthly

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

Church hosts bingo weekly

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

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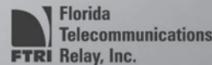
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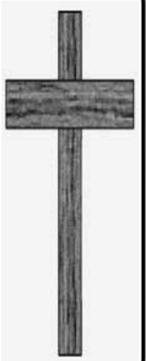
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Matthew 18:20



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PASTOR

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provoked it has taken them so long to perfect this.

Two years ago, I traveled from Orlando to Manila, Philippines, through Japan and back again to Orlando. The trip was fine until I tried to re-enter the United States and upon a luggage search, they discovered I had one of those old-fashioned double blade razors. It was something of an antique that my grandfather gave me 35 years ago. I had been using it to shave ever since. After all these years of shaving with it, it took the intelligence of some security officer to discover this was a highly dangerous weapon. Consequently, I was not allowed to enter the country with it.

I must admit that in 35 years of shaving with it, I had shed a little bit of blood. I never guessed in a million years I was in possession of a highly dangerous, illegal weapon. The officer who discovered it did not recognize it. When I told him it was a razor used for shaving, he looked at me suspiciously and then said, "Yeah, sure it is, Buster." No amount of explanation could convince him that it was part of my toiletries and he insisted that he confiscate it for the protection of everybody in the United States.

It was a close shave, but they finally allowed me to enter the United States upon the surrender of this highly sophisticated weapon. Only that security officer knows how close this country came to annihilation from an antique man's shaver.

Of course, looks can be deceiving. People who looked like some-

one you could trust have perpetrated the biggest frauds in our country. Bernie Madoff comes to mind. Sometimes what you think you are getting you are not really getting.

There is a spiritual application here. Some people may look religious on the outside but God knows what is on the inside.

"But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for (the LORD seeth) not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7 KJV).

You can fool everybody in the world, but you cannot fool God. He wears a white hat and always has the last word.

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship in Ocala. Call him at 352-687-4240 or email jamesnyder2@att.net.

Order of the Eastern Star installs officers



Special to the Riverland News

The installation of officers for 2014-15 of Dunnellon Chapter No. 235 Order of the Eastern Star was March 8 at the Dunnellon Masonic Lodge. Pictured, from left, are: Ann Morin, electa; Joan Lindell, adah; Susan Jones, treasurer; Susan Bingham, worthy matron; Alfred Bingham, worthy patron; Carol Allen, association matron; Barry Allen, association patron; Jeannie Tridle, marshal; and Jan Rowe, secretary; back row, Sally Lemma, organist; Ken Rowe, chaplain; Esther Gaisford, association conductress; Carol Poole, conductress; and Julie Bolton, warder. Not pictured are: Holly Fisk, Ruth; Cathy Monsees, electa; Tabatha Herndon, Martha; and Christina Pierce, warder.

MISSIONS CONFERENCE 2014

April 4, 5, and 6



Join us as we find the answers.

Friday, 4/4 6:45 pm
John Holloway - Florida Baptist Convention

Saturday, 4/5
Service 6:45 pm with
Pete Menendez - Marion Baptist Association

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Service 8:30 am - 12:00 pm
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OBITUARIES

NEWS NOTE



Olin 'Pete' Dobbs, 84

Olin (Pete) Dobbs, 84, of Dunnellon, Fla., passed away March 27, 2014. Olin was born in Gibbs, Mo., June 6, 1929.

Olin is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Annabelle of Dunnellon; children, Kathy (Ray) Sanders of Harrison, Ohio and Patty (Dennie) Adams of Bradenton; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and other family and friends. Olin is preceded in death by his parents, William A. Dobbs and Luella Stewart, two brothers and two sisters.

He achieved his associates' degree, was a veteran of the Marine Corps, and worked as a Postal Carrier for the U.S. Post Office of Quincy, Ill. He was an active member of First United Methodist Church of Dunnellon, National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors, Rainbow Rivers Club, Honorary Member of Dunnellon Chamber of Commerce, Master Gardener of Citrus County Chapter and for the past 20 years he worked with Citrus County Fair in the Horticultural Building. Olin (Pete) will be greatly missed by many.

The funeral service was Monday at First United Methodist Church, the Rev. Eddie Fulford officiating. Visitation was 2 p.m. Monday, at First United Methodist Church. Internment was at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell. Funeral arrangements are being carefully handled by Roberts Funeral Home of Dunnellon. For those

who wish to make donations in memory of Olin, First United Methodist Church Library or First United Methodist Church Prayer Garden would be appreciated by family.

Victoria E. 'Vicky' Nolte, 77

Victoria E. (Vicky) Nolte, 77, of Dunnellon, Fla., passed away peacefully Thursday, March 27, 2014, at The Health Center at Brentwood in Lecanto under the care of Hospice of Citrus County. She was born Jan. 10, 1937, in New York City to the late Pascual Pinzon and Natalia Asencio. Mrs. Nolte was of the Baptist faith and a member of Rainbow Lakes Baptist Church. She came to this area from New York 40 years ago. She was a retired Realtor/Broker/Owner of Nolte-Pflueger Real Estate in Dunnellon as well as a land developer of several sub-divisions in Levy County.



Victoria E. 'Vicky' Nolte

Vicky was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, Nelson (Nick) Pinzon in 2000 and Alfred Gonzalez in 1968. She is survived by her husband of 36 years, Joe B. Nolte of Dunnellon; son, Richard (Stacey) Brady of Centereach, N.Y.; sister, Eva (Jack) Brumfield of Citrus Springs; two grandsons, Matthew Brady and Sean Patrick Brady of Centereach, N.Y.; three step-sons, Joseph (Carrie) Nolte and James (Susan) Nolte of Washington State and Jonathan (Christine) Nolte of Montana; five step-grandchildren as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and extended family who will miss her dearly.

At the request of the

deceased, there will be no services at this time. There will be a memorial service at Rainbow Lakes Baptist Church at a later date. Cremation will take place under the direction of Fero Funeral Home of Beverly Hills. In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial donation to Hospice of Citrus County of the Nature Coast, P.O. Box 641270, Beverly Hills, FL 34464-1270.

A memorial service Saturday, April 5, 2014 at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Rainbow Lakes Estates, 19756 S.W. Beach Blvd., Dunnellon, FL 34431, Pastor David Goodroe, officiating.

Arrangements entrusted to Fero Funeral Home www.ferofuneralhome.com.



John Clifford Sease, 73

John Clifford Sease, of Saluda, N.C., passed away Saturday, March 29, 2014, at the Elizabeth House following a lengthy illness. John was born Jan. 25, 1941, in Savannah, Ga., the son of the late Ralph Epting and Nellie Jones Sease. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by a sister Frances Sease Shannon.

John spent much of his youth in Florida, graduating from Dunnellon High School in Dunnellon, Fla. He is a 1963 graduate of the University of Florida where he was a member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity. Upon college graduation he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was a ground officer at MCA Beaufort, S.C., after which he went to NAS Pensacola, and NAS Glynco, Ga., for flight training as a Naval Flight Officer. John, a

combat veteran, flew F-4 Phantoms during two tours of duty in Vietnam and then returned to MCAS Beaufort. He had tours of duty in Pensacola, Quantico, Va., and Japan. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1989, after 26 years service, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

John greatly enjoyed the out of doors, was an avid hunter and fisherman, and was a collector of Indian artifacts and Civil War memorabilia. He will be most remembered, however, as a courageous and patriotic American, devoted husband, father, grandfather and a loyal friend. One of his oldest friends, a fraternity brother and fellow Marine, described John as "The most moral, kindest and best person I have known... and deserves eternal peace and happiness in Heaven." He was a member of the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Saluda.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 48 years, the former Sarah Margaret Mannheim, of Saluda, and their two daughters, Sarah Sease Hoffman of San Diego, California, and Ellen Sease Thompson of Raleigh, N.C.; sons-in-law, USMC Lt. Colonel Joel M. Hoffman and Brian T. Thompson; grandchildren, Riley Caroline Hoffman, Thomas Mastin Hoffman, Katherine Hayes Thompson and Cameron Rhys Thompson. Other survivors include numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and his precious dog, Boo.

A memorial service will be at the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Saluda at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, Saluda, the Saluda Senior Cen-

ter, or Four Seasons, Compassion for Life, Elizabeth House in Hendersonville.

The family wishes to express its gratitude for the kindness of caregiver Marie Petersen of Saluda and acknowledge the exceptional compassion shown by Dr. Margaret Noel and the staff of Memory Care, Asheville.

An online register book is available for family and friends by visiting www.thosshpherd.com. Thos. Shepherd & Son Funeral Directors and Cremation Memorial Center is in charge of arrangements.

SO YOU KNOW

All obituaries must be submitted by a licensed funeral home. Obituaries may be submitted by emailing fspsops@chronicleonline.com, or via fax at 352-489-6593. For information about prices, call 352-563-5660 and ask for Rita.

AARP Driver Safety Classes slated

An AARP Driver Safety Program for those 50 and older which, with certain exceptions, qualifies graduates for a discount on their automobile insurance, will be given over two days, three hours each day. Cost is \$20 per person for all materials, except pen or pencil. However, if you are an AARP member, the cost is \$15. Bring your AARP card with you.

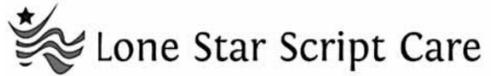
This course will be at 1 p.m. April 17 and 18 the Rainbow Lakes Estate Clubhouse, 4000 SW Deepwater Court.

There will also be an AARP Driver Safety Program at 1 p.m. May 8 and 9 at the Dunnellon Sheriff's Office substation on U.S. 41. Payment for the class is due the first day.

For information or to register, call 465 6359.

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Youths honor Seuss

Seuss-a-palooza!, an event celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday was hosted by at the Dannelon Public Library on March 26. Theodor Seuss Geisel, the famous author who penned several of the popular children's books, was born March 2, 1904. He would have celebrated his 110th birthday this year.

Clockwise from above left: Quinn Chessa raises his arm as he jumps up to answer a question during a trivia contest.

David Pualen braces for the chill of cold face paint.

Librarian Rebecca Melton, dressed as the popular Dr. Seuss character, "The Cat in the Hat," reads the book of the same name to youths.

Angelina Romen, 7, licks her lips after taking a bite of her cupcake.

Four-year-old Cole Jenkins enjoys a bite of a cupcake.

Photos by JEFF BRYAN/
Riverland News





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Clockwise from above left: Braylen Sparano, 3, stands still as Librarian Rebecca Melton applies face paint as his grandmother, Michelle, looks on during event.

Youths listen attentively as Melton reads "The Cat in the Hat."

Anna Mackay, right, listens to the movie, "The Return of the Cat in the Hat."

Ember Bateman looks on after enjoying a snack during the afternoon festivities.

Ellie Williams smiles while participating in Dr. Seuss trivia.

Photos by JEFF BRYAN/
Riverland News



District accepting kindergarten registrations

Students must be 5-year-old by Sept. 1

Special to the Riverland News

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

Currently, more than 3,170 kids attend kindergarten in Marion County Public Schools. Parents can register their children at local elementary schools at

any time. Parents can complete and print online forms to bring with them to save time in the waiting line. Forms are available under the 'Student Enrollment' option in the "Parent Information" tab at www.marion.k12.fl.us.

This year, summer VPK classes take place will be from 7:39 a.m. to 5:20 p.m. Monday

through Thursday, June 9 to July 30. Participating elementary schools include Belleview-Santos, College Park, Dunnellon, Fessenden, Fort McCoy, Greenway, Madison Street, Maplewood, and Oakcrest. To participate in VPK, children must be 5 years old by Sept. 1, a Florida resident, and not participating in a VPK school-year program.

Free breakfast and lunch are part of the VPK program each day, along with a snack. Parents

must provide their own transportation for summer VPK programs and obtain a VPK Certificate of Eligibility from the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County.

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

To attend kindergarten start-

ing this August, the same rules apply. To register for kindergarten, parents should complete the online form mentioned earlier, print it out, and bring it with them to their neighborhood school. To determine the appropriately-zoned school, parents may contact the Student Assignment & Records office at 352-671-7747.

For information, contact your nearest elementary school or call the K-12 Academic Services Office at 352-236-0500 or the

SPORTS BRIEFS

Jail Break 5K run/walk slated

The Dunnellon Police Department, in partnership with BTY Fitness, will host the inaugural Dunnellon Jail Break 5K at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 3. The event will begin at Datesman Park at 12050 South Ohio St. The event will benefit Special Olympics Florida.

To register, visit www.active.com. Pre-registered participants will receive a Dunnellon Jailbreak 5K logo drawstring bag and race shirt, along with other goodies. Entry fee is \$30 now until April 19. Participants can register during the day of the run, but the fee will be \$35 and no free T-Shirt will be given away.

For information, visit www.active.com, like us on Facebook "Dunnellon Jail Break 5K," or call 465-8510.

Memorial golf tourney slated

The 10th annual Phil Nichols Memorial Golf Tournament will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 3, at Juliet Falls Golf & Country Club. Entry fee is \$300 for a four-person team, or \$75 per individual. For a four-person team and a hole sponsorship, the fee is \$325; and the cost for a hole sponsorship is \$50.

Space is limited to the first 120 golfers or 30 teams. All money and hole sponsorships are due by Monday, April 28. All proceeds go to the DHS football program.

For information, contact Deana Miley at 465-6745, email deana.miley@marion.k12.fl.us, or mail at P.O. 264, Dunnellon, FL 34430.

Forging a new path



ABOVE: Amanda Hargabus chats with a fellow classmate prior to each students interview during as the year-end meeting of "Pathways 2 Prosperity" came to a close. The program, in its first year at Dunnellon High, was considered a success. District officials hope to bring the program back next year. BOTTOM RIGHT: Sara LeFils, the Career & Technical Education program leader for Marion County Public Schools, is in charge of the program.

Photos by JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

'Pathways 2 Prosperity' shows students range of options

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

With so many youths unsure of their future, whether its ranging from post-secondary educational opportunities, to entering the workforce or opting for technical (vocational) school training, the Marion County Public Schools took it upon itself to show a handful of high school juniors the vast number of opportunities they have right here in their own backyard.

Thanks in large part to Sara LeFils' ability to secure

the Carl D. Perkins Grant, a federally funded program, she was able to launch a pilot program called, "Pathways 2 Prosperity" a year ago at North Marion. The program also receives funds from Workforce Connection and donations from private businesses in Marion County.

Students chosen for the program are currently enrolled in a Career & Technical program at Dunnellon High. The goal is to better prepare students for their senior year and for future

See PATH page 14



Drama Club plans show

The Dunnellon High School Dramateers are ready to showcase their talents in their spring production, scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 11 and 12, at the Dunnellon Middle School auditorium. The cost is \$5 at the door.

Departing from their recent string of comedies, the group, under the direction of drama and history teacher Di- anne Sellner and English teacher Erin Darmody, has chosen to expand their horizons by doing a pair of one-act plays.

"Ms. Sellner and I decided we wanted to show one tragedy and one comedy in order to give depth to our students' range, and we wanted to give the audience a more complex experience," Darmody said.

The students spent most of March rehearsing, but they also attended the Florida State Thespian Festival from March 26 to 29 in Tampa where they did not compete, but rather attended workshops to sharpen their skills.

The one-act performances the students will perform are: "That Was No Lady," "That Was a Private Eye," a comedy by Denis Snee, which is a parody of Phillip Marlowe, and "Hush," a tragedy about the complexities of date rape by Laura Gagliano.

Follow the group on Facebook at Dunnellon High School Drama Program.

Back from Spring Break



JULIE MANCINI/For the Riverland News

Courtney Heinritz watches the flight of a ball after she connected for a hit March 21 against Crystal River High School. The Lady Tigers returned to the diamond Wednesday night against Belleview. Results were not available at press time. DHS plays at 7 p.m. Friday at home vs. Citrus.

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Romeo students gear up for FCAT

Elementary school students in grades three through five will participate in the annual FCAT tests from April 14 to 24. April 14 and 15, third-through fifth-grade students will take the FCAT reading test and on April 16 and 17, third- and fourth-graders will take the FCAT math test while fifth-graders will compete in FCAT science exams. From April 21 to 25, fifth-graders

will take the FCAT math tests, which are computer based.



Jane Ashman
Romeo
Principal

In order to help your child do their best on the test:

- Be on time every day. Our goal is to keep tardies to a minimum since testing begins at 8:10 a.m. Students will do their best if they are here early and settled prior to school starting or testing beginning. Drop Off begins at 7:20, and students can get break-

fast to ensure they are ready for testing.

- During the testing window, we need to have at least 95 percent of our students taking the FCAT in order to be eligible for an "A" school grade. It is important for your child to be here every day. Reassure your child that we want them to do their best! We all have strengths and who weaknesses.

- Attendance is very important. Students that are absent will have only a small window of time to make up

FCAT. Tardy students will not be permitted to test until makeup times are scheduled.

These two assessments measure student growth in reading, math and science (fifth-graders only). The FCAT is just one source of data we review to determine if your child has mastered the Sunshine State Standards for their grade.

The FCAT is one source that is used to allow your child to be promoted. FCAT is scored on a scale of 1 to 5. Students must earn a

See ASHMAN page 13

DHS ATHLETES OF THE WEEK • PRESENTED BY CHINA WOK BUFFET

Will Thomas, boys track

The junior standout earned all-county honors at the March 20 MCIAC Track & Field Championships in two events, the lone Tiger competitor to do so. Thomas placed fifth in the discus and seventh in the shot put competition.



Will
Thomas

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Tyra Thomas, girls track

The sophomore three-sport star led the girls 4x100 relay team to all-county honors with a fourth-place finish, while taking seventh in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 19.04 to earn all-county accolades. She was the lone Lady Tiger to earn all-county honors in two events.



Tyra
Thomas

Romeo second-graders celebrate achievement



Romeo Elementary School second-grade students celebrated another milestone March 20 as they received awards for reaching their goal of "steps" — hours of reading they completed — in the Action 100 reading program.

Special to the Riverland News

SPORTS BRIEF

Registrations open for hoops league

Registration for the Junior Tiger Basketball League will be accepted now through Saturday for youths, ages 6 to 14, interested in playing.

The season runs Saturdays, April 5, through May 3, at the Dunnellon High School gymnasium. Cost is \$25 per player.

For information, email jrtigersleague@gmail.com or Tony Maldonado, girls basketball coach, at antonio.maldonado@marion.k12.fl.us.

ASHMAN

continued from page 12

Level 2 to be considered for promotion, however, Level 3 is considered proficient or on grade level. Please know the importance of your child being to school every day of testing and to be on time. FCAT will have makeup sessions, but we have found students are more comfortable testing in their normal testing environment, with their classmates.

Art studio news

As Mrs. Love packs to move back to Dunnellon Elementary for the final nine weeks of this school year, she feels amazed at just how fast the year seems to have flown past. All of my students are growing up too fast. I will miss each one of them for their uniqueness and talents that show so well in the art room. I can only encourage you all to keep drawing with basic shapes, and then refine them while keeping size, scale and proportion in mind while you create great things and grow your wonderful imaginations!

There is artwork on display at Brannen Bank. If you are in Dunnellon, stop by the bank and look at the art from the following Romeo students: Kiele Bateman, Dulce Davila, Nevaeh Perkins,

Troy Selah, Alexis Riley, Connie Downes, Samantha Tweedy, Chase Letien, Aubrey Hewett, Tyler Carney, Logan Guess, Logan Minkema, Abigail Hernandez, Abraham Mesa, Jaiden Davila, Natalie Carter, Cynthia Saldana, Ben Law, Alexis Hiers, Brook White, Gabriel Martinez, Jacqueline Lemanski, Shelby

Hardbarger, Calista Neal, Samantha Carnecchia, Ashleigh Palmer, Angel Beemer, Jacob Dooley, Manuel Betancourt and Rhett Bradham.

Students will also have several pieces of art displayed at the Marion County Springs Festival, slated April 26 and 27, and at the Appleton Museum for "Young in Art,

which is also in April. The final selection for these two shows will be made next week and I will let the individual students know if their art will be shown.

All of our art show pieces will be returned to the student artist before the end of the school year by their classroom teacher.



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April 12

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PATH

continued from page 12

employment in a career field of their passion, LeFils explained. Additionally, the project consists of six excused out-of-the-classroom days throughout the school year. Each student must abide by a dress code for each field trip day.

This year, the Career & Technical Education program leader for Marion County Public Schools introduced the program to juniors at Dunnellon High School. And if all goes well in 2014-15, LeFils is hopeful she can bring the program back to Dunnellon High as well as Belleview and Lake Weir. To do so, she must again secure funding through the Carl D. Perkins Grant, then obtain permission from the principals at the respective schools.

If the program's success at Dunnellon High this past year is any indication, she likely won't have trouble getting Dunnellon High Principal Ken McAteer to give his blessing.

"I find it extremely valuable as there are students who are already active in our Career and Technical programs at DHS and this exposes them to real-life experiences in these fields and helps them learn and apply valuable soft skills such as interviewing, customer service, etc.," the second-year year principal said.

And that's exactly one of the main goals of the program.

LeFils, who previously served career pathways coordinator at the College of Central Florida, understands the growing need to show high school students the abundant amount of opportunities that await them upon graduating from high school.

"Pathways 2 Prosperity" helps prepare students for the future by introducing them to local employment opportunities and conducting training on business skills. On March 20, more than 20 students had the chance to participate in mock job interviews, but not with teachers, instead with



Tiffany Murray laughs during an interview with Kim Sellers, the director of Lab School at the College of Central Florida.

JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

business representatives and human resource directors throughout Marion County.

Students are required to dress in business attire and to bring a resume, where they then are given up to 15 minutes during the interview process. Some even taking advantage of the opportunity to participate in more than one interview session.

Following the interviews, students then participated in a workshop

about financial literacy, where they were given a book by financial guru Dave Ramsey and given a completion certificate before enjoying a year-in-review slideshow presentation.

"This was my brain child, my passion project," LeFils said, noting she recognized a need during her tenure at CF. "I have learned so much about what is in our county that I did not know was here before. Here are these high school students

who don't have a full understanding of what is available in their community and this program gives these students some exposure to those opportunities.

"What's really cool is we target juniors so they have that time to explore more in depth about what's out there."

LeFils' second motivation for launching this program, the only one of its kind in Marion County, was her past experience as a judge for job interviews.

"You don't get that kind of practice and exposure anywhere else," she said. "So I put together this program to target a certain number of students."

Hannah Warren praised the benefits of the program, especially the opportunity to take part in interviews.

"I really wanted to work in a veterinary's office," she said. "But now I realize I can do that without having to be a vet. I don't think I would have known about the other opportunities without this program."

EDUCATION NOTES

Woman's Club offering scholarship

The Dunnellon Woman's Club will sponsor a college scholarship for young women graduating from 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 eligible.

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.

Church collecting box tops

The Altar and Rosary Society of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church will continue to collect Box Tops for Education and Campbell Soup UPC labels for one of the local schools here in Dunnellon. Box tops and labels can be dropped off at the church office or put in the container in the church narthax.

For information, call 489-5954.



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Worship**

**On Thursday April 17, 2014,
The Riverland News will be publishing its
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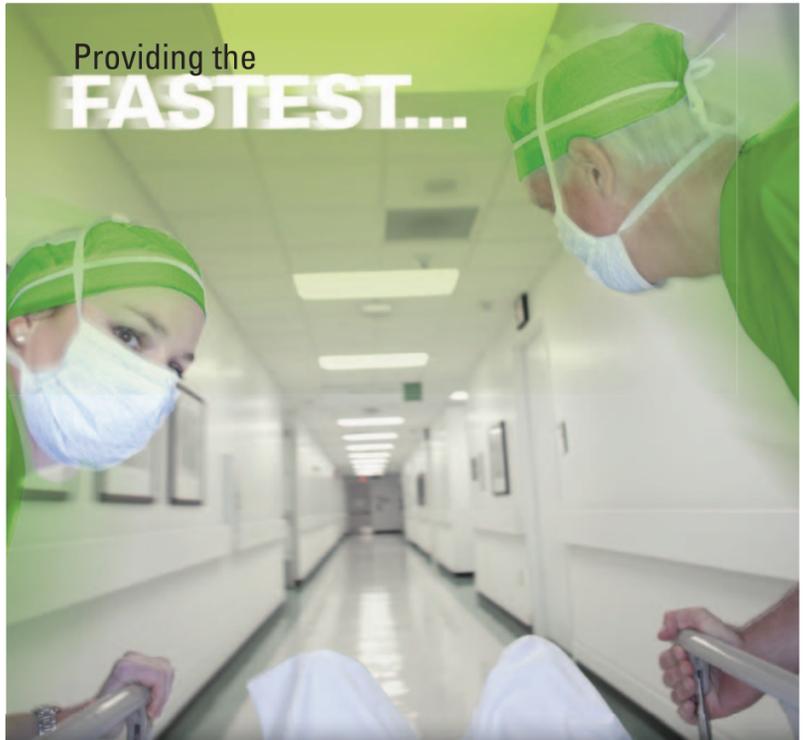
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Boys & Girls is back

The Boys & Girls Club Dunnellon branch opened the doors to its new facility March 24, welcoming students who were on Spring Break. Officials with the Boys & Girls Club of Marion County plan to have a ribbon-cutting ceremony today.

Clockwise from above left: Victoria Boone plays a card game Friday at the new facility with a fellow club member as youths enjoyed the opening of the new facility.

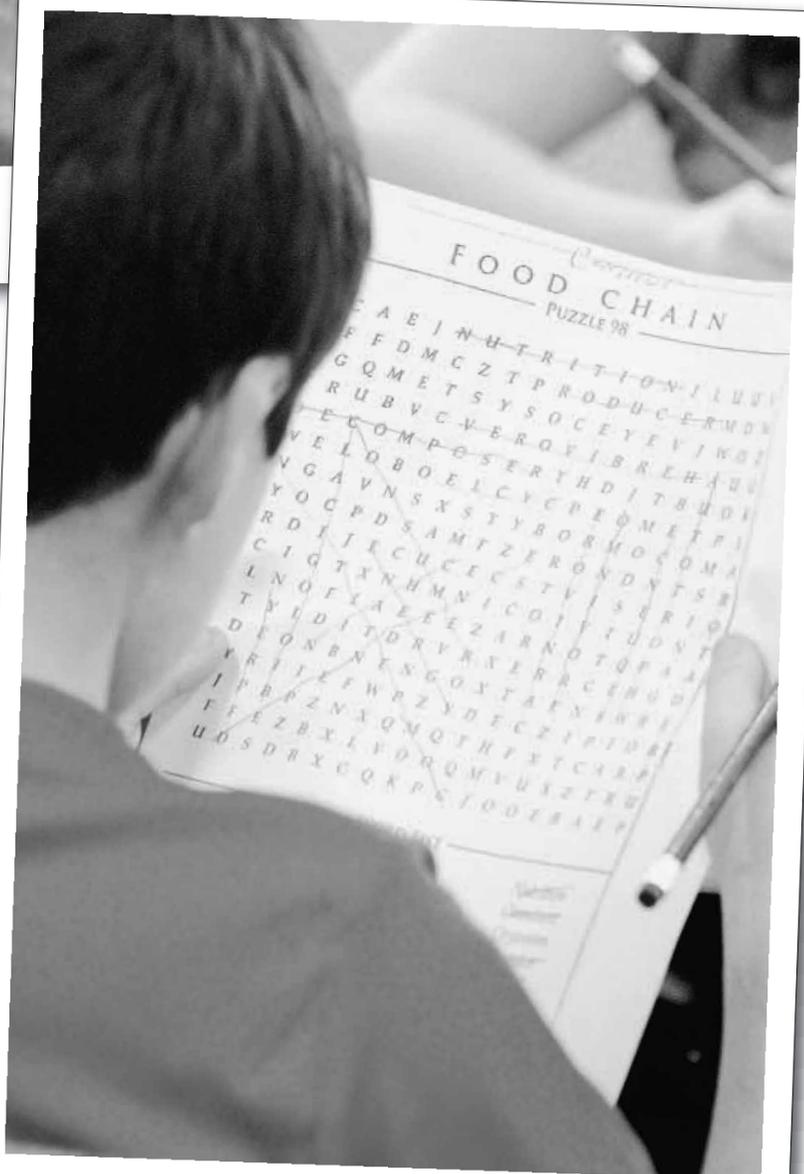
Keonta Johnson, right, helps Yaviel Velez with classroom work.

Connor Davis searches for answers during a classroom activity.

Mikaylah Laurelli takes a big bite of pizza during lunch.

Candice Soutar smiles after finding an answer on a word search during a classroom activity in the education room.

Photos by JEFF BRYAN/
Riverland News



ACCORD

continued from page 1

amount of \$6,751,124.80.

The agreement came about in a twofold manner.

First, both parties, at the request of Gov. Scott's office, met in Tallahassee two weeks ago and were urged to reach a deal, according to Mike Markham, special legal counsel for the city.

"Eddie (Esch) and I were invited to go to the capital and meet with representatives of the governor's office and Regions Bank," Markham explained Thursday during a special City Council workshop. "I say invited, because we didn't have much choice. Regions did the same."

"(Governor's officials) put us in a room together, with bank's lawyers, officials and a financial consultant. Everyone was told the governor was aware of the situation and we were urged to reach a resolution. It was expected we reach a resolution before we left."

Second, Regions Bank and the city were scheduled to appear in court Wednesday regarding the Writ of Mandamus Pursuant filed in November. In the lawsuit levied against the city, Regions Bank sought the city's share of excise taxes.

In November 2010, then-City Manager Lisa Algiere and Marsha Segal-George, then-assistant city attorney, secured \$7.3 million in financing from Regions Bank in Orlando. To do so, they secured the three bonds by pledging the city's share of excise taxes, which was approved by the City Council.

For Fiscal Year 2014, the city collected between \$600,000 and \$700,000 in excise taxes. However, during the budget process, Esch, the interim city manager, and the Council agreed to set aside \$350,000 for debt obligations. Also, the city set aside \$500,000 in its telecommunications budget. Esch told the Council at its Thursday workshop there is approximately \$230,000 to \$235,000 remaining in the Greenlight budget. The remaining funds would be used to pay the initial \$200,000 payment. The city would then be required to pay \$75,000 to Regions Bank by the end of September. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2015, the city would make its annual payments of \$175,000 in quarterly payments.

However, if the city fails to make a payment

and is unable to secure a payment, Regions Bank retains the right to exercise the Writ of Mandamus Pursuant and pursue the whole sum owed.

"That's what that writ would have done if that hearing would go forward, it would have taken all of that excise tax," Markham said, with Esch noting the city's excise tax represents 50 percent of the general fund revenue. "If you default on your payment, you go right into court and get that writ. If you default, the other side wins and gets everything they want. You're not going to get there, so I'm not worried about it. What's in this agreement is doable."

"We know that it is the same number every year. Once you get it into the budget, you won't even be thinking about it."

Vice Mayor Dennis Evans praised the agreement. "It certainly sounds like a pretty good deal to me," he said, noting the city will now pay half of what it owes Regions Bank. "It's a consensus of the Council and management and possibly both parties have some fault issues."

However, Evans had concerns with the city's accounting system and if it would be able to provide a red flag if funds would not be available to make the required quarterly payments.

"Do we have assurances through our book-keeping system that we have flags will warn us six months prior if something happens that we may not have the money to make a certain pay-

ment?" he asked.

Esch assured Evans processes for improving the city's cash flow analysis. Esch explained to the Council he is awaiting final bids from finance firms to assist with implementing processes.

Esch told the Council he and other city staff members recently underwent a midterm review of the budget and he will bring that review to the Council in the coming weeks.

"I can attest to the fact the payment comes from a reliable, repetitive resource," Esch said, alluding to the city's received share of excise taxes. An initial offer to Regions Bank, Esch explained, was to pay the monetary institution \$300,000 for the next 12 years. "This agreement definitely relaxes that strain on us," he added. "It's a manageable payment."

Esch assured the Council and the public, the city would not make this mistake again.

"This deal does not make us fat and happy by any means," Esch said.

Councilmembers, including Lynne McAn-

drew and Penny Fleeger, praised Esch and Markham for their efforts to resolve the situation with Regions Bank.

"It's been a really long ordeal for everybody," Esch said. "For it to have boiled down to a reasonable agreement for the city is beneficial."

"Again, we're sewing an open wound up with no Novocain. We have a lot of opportunity to reduce the amount we owed and make it best agreement we could hope for."

However, Rainbow Springs resident Steve Swett was quick to point out the situation is not "something to rejoice about."

"Great, congrats, good job," Swett deadpanned. "Someone is going to pay that money. I know the situation, it's not something to rejoice about. (Regions) could have done a lot with that money. It's why people are disgusted with politics and government. Someone somewhere had to know what was going on. I would be looking for that person. Somebody had to know what was going on."

"But again I don't want to spoil the moment."

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★ ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

Puzzle answers on Page 2

WE WANT YOUR NEWS

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

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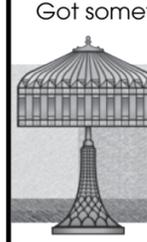
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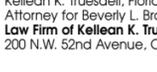
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PIPELINE

continued from page 1

this pipeline," said Janet Barrow, a long-time resident of Dunnellon, whose property would be affected by the proposal. She told FERC as well as a room full of concerned citizens the pipeline would cut right through their ranch behind Dunnellon High School.

Barrow encouraged FERC to push federal and state officials to embrace solar energy. "We have tons of sunshine," she added.

In addition, Sabal's proposed plan calls a compressor station on the west side of Halapata Tasthanaka Preserve, which is a sanctuary for the Florida scrubjay.

"I'm concerned about this gas pipeline and how it can withstand large sinkholes somewhere along this path," said Jon Brainard, a Dunnellon resident and education chairman of the Suwanee St. Johns Sierra Club. "Secondly, I don't understand how the pipeline could go under the Withlacoochee River. How far from people does the compressor station have to be? How often are there problems with them? How does it affect landowners who are near the easement?"

Tamara Robinson grilled the federal regulators source of funding. "You're a self-funding agency, are you not?" she asked. "I always believed FERC was a federal agency paid for by me."

Jon Pencom, the project manager for FERC, explained companies regulated by FERC pay fees, which are paid to the U.S. Treasury. Then Congress allocated a portion of those fees to fund the agency.

David Carleton, a re-

tired power plant worker, said in the past he has worked FERC and argued the agency is not an industry "lapdog." The government would hold Sabal Trail accountable, he maintained.

"I've been in a backroom with these guys and they are not nice," he explained. "They will enforce the law. They will prosecute, so do not make that mistake."

Karen Chadwicks questioned regulators how many projects it has denied. She also chided government officials for believing there's a need for such a project and not looking at alternative energy projects.

"I don't think we need this, and we're smart enough to do this," she said. "We need to stop the old way of thinking. The contamination is incredible around the country."

Not everyone was against the project.

"This project will provide jobs and energy to Marion County," Butch Verrando, a Dunnellon resident, said. "God bless you because you have to listen to an awful lot of whining."

Jim Bailey echoed those sentiments.

"No matter what the preconceived notions are, it's a clean alternative," he said. "We need to embrace this clean energy project."

Pencom explained the project is early in the development stage and has not been approved.

"We're in the pre-finding phase, the pre-application phase," he stressed. "I need Floridians' help. They have very valuable input. Your help is appreciated and needed. We need to get your comments."

He told the packed room FERC does not expect Sabal to submit its application until November, at the earliest, and it would take up to a year before the application would even

be approved. FERC does not sign off on applications, he said, adding a five-member commission appointed by the president is responsible for approving all requests for projects.

Andrea Grover, a spokeswoman with Spectra Energy, told the Riverland News her company approached federal regulators for their assistance with its proposal. Doing so, she said, is done on a voluntary basis.

"We definitely want to hear what landowners have to say, what environmentalists have to say," Grover said. "We, ultimately, want to be successful. We are mindful of those considerations to be successful. The more information we can gather, the more we roll it into our draft research of our formal application. It puts us in a better position to address people's questions and concerns."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Friends of the Library plan Boomtown sale

The Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library will host its annual two-day Boomtown Day Spring Book Sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 25 and 26, in the meeting room of the Library.

Among the specials, there will be a "bag of books" for \$4. All hardback books will be \$1 and all paperback books will be 50 cents.

All proceeds from the bookstore, membership fees and other fund-

raisers benefit the Dunnellon Public Library.

For information, call 438-2530.

Kiwanis Club slates golf tournament

The Kiwanis Club of Dunnellon will host its annual tournament at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, April 12, at Rainbow Springs Golf & Country Club. Cost is \$50 for nonmembers and \$30 for members. Entry fee includes a barbecue luncheon, awards and prizes.

For information or to register, call Mike Pontius at 465-0310.



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STITCH

continued from page 1

large square. Each piece is cut out, placed on the square, pinned down and then sewn completely by hand.

"I've been sewing since I've been 5 years old and I got this pattern many years ago from a friend," Lantz explained. "This quilt will have 20 squares and the dresses will be in five different colors. I just love doing this."

After all the pieces are completed, some will add borders to give the blanket an extra splash of color and to highlight the patterned squares. When the front and back of the quilts are finished, a 1/8-inch of thick fill is put between them and pinned or kept together with a long basting stitch until it all can be sewn together.

"It is all like a big sandwich, you have the top, the fill and the back," Hall said with a smile. "We prefer the cotton fill because it makes the quilt washable. Our quilts are small enough that we can easily sew them on our machines, otherwise a much larger quilt could be professionally sewed which is very expensive."

The finishing stitches can be straight up and down rows or a swirling design can be used to secure "the sandwich" together. The more stitches used the more stable the quilt will be after it is washed.

The women are working to complete as many blankets as possible and plan to take their first batch to Shands



AUGIE SALZER/For the Riverland News
Susan Zawaski hand sews her quilt.

Hospital in May. "Once we go and give the quilts to the hospital, I'm sure we will get even more excited and then we will just want to make more of them," Hall said. "Quilting is an act of love, not a money making project. There is more labor and love in each quilt than the cost of materials."

The group is looking for donations of 100 percent woven cotton fabrics in bright, cheery colors and thread so they can continue their project.

For information, to join the quilting group or to donate call Hall at 465-5039 or Kathy Shetzler at 341-2235.

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

SHERIFF

continued from page 1

small amount of marijuana in the center console.

According to the report, the deputy asked each individual for photo identification at which time the female said she did not have any because she was only 15 years old. The officer immediately read Ramkelawan his Miranda rights and agreed to talk to law enforcement authorities.

Ramkelawan told officials he had met the girl on the social media site, "Meet Me," and began talking to her on March 27. He also stated the girl told him she was 18 years old and they agreed to meet each other and have intercourse.

According to the report, Ramkelawan told the deputy prior to law enforcement's arrival the girl had taken off her shirt and bra and they began "messing

around" and he had all intentions of having intercourse with the teen. He also stated to authorities that was his only reason for meeting with the girl.

The report stated Ramkelawan believed the girl to be 18 when he met her and that it was dark when he picked her up so he did not get a good look at her. When asked by authorities if he knew the girl's name, Ramkelawan said, "I don't know. I just met her."

Authorities then spoke to the juvenile, who told deputies she had met Ramkelawan through "Meet Me" and Facebook, and agreed to meet him to hang out. She added she told him on numerous occasions she was only 15, the report stated. In addition, the girl also told authorities, the two began talking on the phone and through Facebook and Ramkelawan agreed to come pick her up so they could hang out.

The juvenile stated during their phone conversation he asked how old she was to which she replied, "15." Ramkelawan said, "OK," the girl reported to authorities.

According to the report, Ramkelawan picked her up and they went to the community center to "hang out." Once they parked, the two smoked some marijuana when Ramkelawan asked to see her breasts. The juvenile then removed her shirt and bra and started to "mess around" when law enforcement arrived.

The report stated the juvenile told authorities she had not had intercourse yet, but would have had deputies not arrived. Officers released the teen to her guardian and also notified the Department of Children and Families.

Ramkelawan was transported to the Marion County Jail. His bond was set at \$5,500. He posted bail Sunday.

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