

# Riverland News

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Vol 32 No. 37

75 cents

## Mayor, RRC members chide former city attorney



Nathan Whitt, mayor



Burt Eno, RRC president

*Whitt questions Segal-George's decision without seeking officials' input*

JEFF BRYAN  
*Riverland News*

The president of Rainbow River Conservation (RRC) made it clear if the judge approves a settlement regarding the future of the proposed

Rainbow River Ranch development, the environmental watchdog group will have no choice but to fight the ruling. "I think we're prepared to go to an appeal," Burt Eno, president of RRC, told the City Council at its July 14

meeting. "We're not going to let go of this; it's far too important. I wouldn't have convinced anybody to plunge into this unless I was a believer that we're right, (Jerry Dodd's) wrong." "Your representatives —

Marshall Segal-George and Lisa Algieri — were very, very wrong. It's going to be far more expensive for you to delay the evidentiary hearing and not let us carry the battle

See MAYOR page 3

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

#### Paper seeks Mustang owners, lovers

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the debut of the Ford Mustang, the Riverland News is seeking individuals in the greater Dunnellon area who own a Mustang at least 20 years or older, or who have owned Mustangs during their life. Ford unveiled the Mustang in April 1964. If you have a story to share and pictures and you would be willing to share your love of Mustangs, email editor@riverlandnews.com with your contact information.

#### BMAP meeting slated Wednesday, Aug. 13

The Rainbow Springs Stakeholders Basin Management Action Plan meeting will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13, at the Dunnellon Public Library. This meeting will introduce the draft BMAP document.

#### Hot Summer Nights scheduled Aug. 16

The Historic Shops of Dunnellon will host Hot Summer Nights from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16, in the Historic District.

There will be live music by The Dane Myers Band and Tropic Haze as well as a classic car show. In addition, there will be food vendors and two beer gardens.

Admission is free.

For information, call 489-0999 or visit www.DunnellonHistoricVillage.com.

#### AARP Driver Safety Class planned

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. Aug. 21 to 22 at the Rainbow Lakes Estates Clubhouse, 4000 SW Deepwater Court.

For information or to register, call 465-6359.

# Gator grab



Photos by JULIE MANCINI/For the Riverland News

As Archie Smith begins to collect eggs from a gator nest July 15 on the Ocklawaha Prairie, a momma gator snaps at him trying to defend her nest. The Dunnellon High School teacher has been collecting gator eggs for the past 25 years.

## DHS teacher spends summers harvesting gator eggs statewide

COLBY CRANNEY  
AMANDA BARNEY

*For the Riverland News*

This isn't your typical egg hunt with gleeful children running around, bellowing shouts of joy.

In this egg hunt, there are no shouts of delights or laughter, but plenty of sighs of relief.

That's because collecting alligator eggs is not an easy job, nor a task for the faint of heart.

Not only are there angry momma gators to deal with, there's the summer heat and thunderstorms, the maneuvering of an airboat through thick, swampy vegetation, the presence of biting ants in some nests, and, on the paperwork side, licensing, permits and quotas.

"My scariest experience in my 25 years of collecting eggs would have to be being in the core of a lightning storm, in the middle of a marsh, with no shelter, no nothing, on an airboat," said Archie Smith, a longtime Dunnellon resident.

Smith and Shane Williams, another Dunnellon resident, sat among other hotel guests eating breakfast early on a recent Tuesday morning at the Holiday Inn Express in Silver Springs. While most of the guests in the dining room were likely heading to a theme park, Smith, a longtime construction teacher at Dunnellon High School, and



Archie Smith leans against his airboat as he waits for the start of the day's alligator egg collection on the Ocklawaha Prairie.

Williams, a college student, were up early on summer vacation because they had a job to do.

A job that Smith has done every summer for the past 25 years: collecting gator eggs. On this particular Tuesday, they would collect eggs at two locations: the Ocklawaha Prairie and Rodman Reservoir.

The eggs collected each July are sold to alligator farms, where the reptiles are raised for their meat and hides. The farms themselves do not have a high breeding

See GATOR page 7

## TALES OF TIME Gator tale has embarrassing bite to it

How can you tell a true Floridian from an imposter? Ask them to share their best story about a lightning strike or an alligator encounter. I will get to lightning strikes some other time, but I have a slew of stories about alligator encounters.

My favorite involves getting a sizable gator out of a very bad position he had gotten himself into. I'm sure we broke a few state statutes in the process, so the newspaper is a poor venue to tell that one. It is one of those stories that is told around the campfire in Gulf Hammock. Since pretty much any gator encounter could potentially be frowned upon by the game warden, I am left to share the one that involves the law. It's embarrassing, but hey it's all I can print.

I was busy trimming someone's grass when out of the corner of my eye I saw a gator crossing the



Dwight Porter

See TALES page 6

## Business leaders launch alliance Membership drive on tap

*Special to the Riverland News*

Seeing a need and opportunity for networking, education, promotion, referrals and revitalization throughout not only Dunnellon, but Marion, Citrus and Levy counties, a group of Dunnellon-area business owners and operators came together with the common goal of creating such opportunities. The result is the Dunnellon Business Association (DBA).

"DBA offers value to its members through networking, advocacy and education," said Mathew Baillargeon, DBA president. "The local business community is hungry for these opportunities. They've really pulled together to establish this dynamic business association."

Many DBA board members are long-standing business owners and operators with a keen understanding of operating a business in a small town during tough economic times. While this collaboration alone offers great value to its members, DBA has also formed a partnership with the Ocala/Marion Chamber & Economic Partnership (CEP). CEP has a proven track record of helping the local business community and provides DBA members additional resources for networking and training.

"Our (CEP) mission is to be a catalyst for a prosperous Marion County," Tamara Fleischhaker, CEP Director of Business Retention, said. "One way we do this is by providing tools and resources to help attract, retain, expand and grow businesses. By providing our Dunnellon area partners a reciprocal membership in the DBA, we can extend our programming and efforts to a greater area."

DBA and CEP's first joint event will be a

See BUSINESS page 2

## Foreign culture shock

*Families welcome exchange students to U.S.*

JEFF BRYAN  
*Riverland News*

If Dunnellon has a foreign feeling for the next three weeks, don't panic. You're not alone.

More than 20 families from Dunnellon and the outlying areas welcomed 33 Chinese exchange students, and two translators, last Thursday at First Baptist Church, as those students will immerse themselves in morning classroom work to improve their English language skills, while having the opportunity to learn more American culture through a series of afternoon and weekend adventures throughout the Central Florida region.

For the host families,

it's not only about opening their homes to the youths, whose ages range from 8 to 13, it's also an opportunity for them to learn about another culture.

"It's fun, because we get to learn about another culture," said Alisia Norcross, whose husband, John, and

See FOREIGN page 11



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Dakota Conger of Citrus Springs holds up a sign welcoming her family's exchange student last Thursday at First Baptist Church of Dunnellon.



**NEWS NOTES**

**American Legion activities slated**  
 American Legion Wall-Rives Post No. 58 meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 8. There will be no dinner. The Women's Auxiliary will not meet in August.  
 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 indoor/outdoor flea market will be from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16.

**Kiwanis Club meets weekly**  
 The Kiwanis Club of Dunnellon meets at 8 a.m. Wednesdays at Carmela's Restaurant for its weekly meetings and breakfast. Currently, the third Wednesday monthly dinner meeting is on hiatus.  
 For information, contact Ellie Pollock at 465-6803 for a reservation by the previous Tuesday weekly.

**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

**Mother, daughter recognized by DOT, police department**



JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

Meghann Jerrels and her daughter, Raegann, both second from right, were recognized at the July 14 City Council meeting after both of them were honored by the Florida Department of Transportation as well as the Dunnellon Police Department with "Saved by the Belt" award in recognition of her wearing her seatbelt and using a car seat for her daughter. On Jan. 4, both Meghann and Raegann were involved in a wreck in which the suspect in the incident had reportedly stolen a car and run into the back of Meghann's Ford truck. The collision caused Meghann's truck to roll over multiple times. Meghann and Raegann were transported to the hospital, treated and released that day. Pictured, from left, are: Cpl. Mike Miley, Officer Scott Houts, Chief Joanne Black, Meghann Jerrels and her daughter, Raegann, and Mayor Nathan Whitt.

**BUSINESS**

continued from page 1

membership drive as well as meet-and-greet from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 31, at Gruff's Tap and Grill at 12084 S. Williams St. This event is free and attendees will be provided with light appetizers and refreshments. This will be an opportunity to meet both DBA members and its executive board along with the CEP team. There will be membership and benefits information shared from both groups. For information, send an email to [info@dunnellonbusinessassociation.com](mailto:info@dunnellonbusinessassociation.com)

Additionally, the CEP will host, The CEP: Everything You Wanted to Know but Were Afraid to Ask, from 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, July 31, at the Dunnellon Public Library. The session will include an overview of the CEP as well as an opportunity for a question-and-answer session. For information, email [William@OcalaCEP.com](mailto:William@OcalaCEP.com).

The mission of the Dunnellon Business Association (DBA) is to promote and advocate for the businesses in Dunnellon, Florida. Its vision is to provide businesses, artists, entertainment venues and residents a place to prosper and business to flourish. Its members enjoy benefits including marketing, public relations, training seminars, and community event opportunities. The DBA serves businesses in Marion, Citrus and Levy counties.

**Guardian ad Litem seeks volunteers**

There are about 1,700 children in the Marion, Hernando, Lake, Sumter and Citrus counties, who have been removed from their homes for alleged abuse, abandonment or neglect, who are now part of a dependency court proceeding. These children need someone who will speak up for them, and the Guardian ad Litem program is seeking volunteers.

A GAL is a volunteer appointed by the court to advocate for a child. The volunteer works as part of a team with a volunteer supervisor and program attorney. They become familiar with the child and the child's case and make recommendations to the court to help ensure a safe, caring, stable and permanent environment for that child. Persons 21 years of age

and older — adults between the ages of 19 and 21 are also eligible, working under the guidance and partnership of a certified volunteer GAL—who successfully complete the pre-service training program, have a clean criminal background check and are able to be objective are eligible. A GAL must successfully complete 30 hours of pre-service training. On

average, volunteers spend 5 to 10 hours a month on a case. Most cases last 10 months. The next training begins Monday, Aug. 4, at the Ocala Police Department, 402 S. Pine Ave., Ocala. For information, call Sarah Jay at 352-274-5231 or email [Sarah.Jay@gal.fl.gov](mailto:Sarah.Jay@gal.fl.gov). For information and an application, visit [www.guardianadlitem.org](http://www.guardianadlitem.org).

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**NEWS NOTES**

**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](mailto: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.

**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.

The facility is on the left side of street just before the Annie W. Johnson Center. The public is invited to come help, and give ideas to promote community improvement and safety.

For information, contact Randy Campbell at 465-7135 or email [randolphcampbell@bellsouth.net](mailto:randolphcampbell@bellsouth.net).

**MAYOR**

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as we had requested to do. I think you ought to reprimand your attorney without asking for permission from her client."

Eno's remarks came after Mayor Nathan Whitt chided the former city attorney for not notifying officials that she opted to go with Judge Steven Rogers option to file an amended motion. The other option would have been to allow an evidentiary hearing, which the interveners have actively pursued in the settlement agreement they have opposed. According to court documents, the interveners listed in the case are RRC and Frederick Johnston.

"I feel like that decision was made without Mr. (Eddie) Esch's approval and certainly not with City Council's approval," said the first-term mayor, who is also on the RRC's Board of Directors. "I'm a little concerned by that. I also know Mr. Esch has asked Mrs. Cassidy to look a little harder to look at the settlement itself."

"I for one want the city out of that settlement ... or out of the court case for that matter. I don't know where we stand or where this Council would stand on evidentiary hearing or amending that settlement."

Current City Attorney Virginia Cassidy explained, Judge Rogers ruling from mid-June presented the parties involved in the case two options: an evidentiary hearing or the chance to file an amended motion. The settlement in question was reached by the city, Conservation Land Group LLC, led by Gerry Dodd and the

state's Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The then-City Council approved the deal in September 2012, which Segal-George and former City Manager Lisa Algieri helped to negotiate with the parties involved in the dispute. The lone party not to agree with the settlement was the interveners.

The judge ordered that there be an evidentiary hearing or an amendment; the parties decided to amend. There's not going to be a need for an evidentiary hearing. According to city officials, Segal-George filed a notice the parties agreed to file an amended motion.

"The judge wanted to make sure DEO weighed in on the agreement, to make certain statements," Cassidy explained. "There's no sense arguing with the judge. I would have made the same choice to amend as opposed to an evidentiary hearing. It wasn't going to be in the city's best interest to go through an evidentiary hearing. It would have been very lengthy for you to go through an evidentiary hearing."

Cassidy admitted Judge Rogers' response was surprising.

"I thought he was going to make a decision," she added. "I think he's being very careful."

Vice Mayor Dennis Evans believes the judge is covering "his you know what."

"This is the path of least resistance," Evans said. "It was our approved plan to begin with, OK? I would agree with whatever

decision was made." Whitt, however, as well as Eno and other members of the RRC were upset about Segal-George reaching a decision without consulting the city, her clients in this situation.

"She works for us. I don't want her working for us any longer," Whitt said. "I think this is a very clear point of cutting the cord. I don't think you are allowed, as an attorney for your client, to make a decision for your client."

"To circumvent authority, the city manager should have been made aware of it."

But Evans pointed the Council agreed to leave Segal-George in place because the belief was the end was near regarding the case.

"I think if we move forward at all, I'd like our city attorney to be handling it," Whitt responded.

Esch did agree that the Council agreed to keep Segal-George on board, but admitted "by the time decisions had been made" officials heard about everything after the fact.

"There was no discussion about it," Esch explained.

Whitt flatly stated he doesn't want the city to incur additional legal fees.

"That's the big long and short of it," he concluded.

Eno was blunt in his assessment of the situation.

"I find it very, very appalling that an attorney like Marsha Segal-George could take the initiative she did without checking with her client to determine whether or not a filing should be made to the judge, a notice to the judge, that they were given an option for an

amended petition. I think that is a very unethical thing for any attorney to do. Frankly, I think she's protecting her own behind, because she got you into this mess in the first place.

"If you do choose to go this path, it isn't going to be any cheaper because we haven't had our day in court. The interveners, who stand strong on this, say this is harmful to the river and the environment. The vested rights Mr. Dodd has claimed are not there, they don't exist."

If the city does not want to spend another dime, Eno said, he welcomed it.

"Because the interveners are going to continue ... to fight this matter even if the amended petition is submitted. If it doesn't answer what we have alleged in our intervention, we're going to challenge it. I expect the judge to listen and care and have the concern, because I detect from his ruling that he truly wants to get to the right answers."

The agreement that officials signed was extremely inappropriate, said Mary Ann Hilton, a former councilwoman and long-standing member of RRC.

"I realize many of you believe that your city manager and city attorney were acting in your best interest," she explained. "If you read what it says, you cannot swallow that whole. The changes that are made against constitutional law in the city, in that agreement, are egregious. It takes the power of management of the city out of the hands of council, our lawyer and out of the hands of the citizen. It gives undue rights to

commercial entity and it is wrong."

Hilton urged the current Council to go back and read the agreement carefully.

"Unless you want a developer coming in and saying, 'I'm changing the development format,' you'd better get rid of that agreement," she said. "Your best option is to allow your staff to investigate what needs to be done and present options that are not detrimental to the city and present the evidence of why that agreement is detrimental to the city at this point. If you do not do that, you are throwing away the rivers and the city, because the developers are allowed to do what they want, you may as well get out the shovels and bury any plans you have for turning this into a place tourists intend to come."

"You are signing a death warrant to this city if you do not go back to court and try to change that agreement."

Louise Kenny, another former councilwoman and long-standing member of RRC, said elections have consequences.

"We have different people who would now be looking at the settlement agreement," she said, referencing the time frame of when the settlement was approved in 2012 and the election later that year. "I think that's why you have elections. There is more than one settlement agreement in my mind. Certainly, an evidentiary hearing would be an appropriate place to show that."

"Most of us want good growth. We want the city to prosper. We do not want to see what we have taken away from us."

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The Riverland News is delivered on Thursday to subscribers by our carriers and mail. The newspaper is also available inside area stores and at various boxes throughout the community. Local subscription rate is \$28 a year. Call for Florida and out-of-Florida rates.

The Riverland News is published in Dunnellon, FL by Citrus Publishing, Inc., 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429-5760.

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# RIVER VIEWS

RIVERLAND NEWS

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 Publisher ~ Gerry Mulligan  
 Sales Leader/Manager ~ John Murphy  
 Editor ~ Jeff Bryan  
 Member of the Florida Press Association

## OTHER VIEWS

# Officials need to nix idea of second tax

Some time ago, we told you of a plan to put a sales tax on the ballot to help with school funding. School officials say it is needed to make up some major deficiencies in the operating of the Marion County School System.

A few months ago, County Commission Chairman Carl Zalak put together a group of people from all governmental agencies in the county, including the cities. The idea was to figure out how to improve things in the county.

The group eventually came up with a proposal for their own tax to help with Marion County in general. It would also go on the ballot in November.

Fortunately, talk of this second proposal has gone silent recently ... almost no one is beating the drum calling for this tax to be voted on.

That's a good thing. Putting a second proposed tax on the ballot would be a virtual death knell for both.

The school issue might fail, anyway. There is a certain faction that tells govern-

ment officials, including the School Board, to make do with what they have and stop asking the taxpayers for more.

But it would be almost sure that the proposal wouldn't pass if it had to share space with another tax plan. The voters are going to look and see both proposals, and mark the "no" box on both without thinking.

There is a definite anti-tax feeling among the electorate. That was apparent two years ago when a school proposal failed and a referendum to keep Munroe Regional Medical Center as a public hospital also was voted down. The result was that Munroe is now in the hands of a private corporation.

We haven't seen any change in the mood of the voters over the past two years. So while many may feel the school tax is necessary, they're fighting an uphill battle to get it passed.

But that hill they're climbing will become a mountain if a second tax is on the ballot. The county should wait and work to get one thing passed at a time.

— South Marion Citizen

## THE OTHER GUY

# Cut down on tree talk

"I cannot tell a lie, father, you know I cannot tell a lie! I did cut it with my little hatchet."

— George Washington, first president

We all know the fabled in which a young George Washington admitted to his father he cut down the family's prized cherry tree with his hatchet. The first president of the United States never did cut down a tree.



Jeff Bryan  
Editor

I would find it intriguing if one of our nation's founding fathers lived here today and had failed to seek permission to have a tree removed from his property.

"Mr. Washington, it's an honor to have you here before us today," the mayor would boast. "But we have policies in place sir, we have laws to protect our vast amount of trees and, more important, we have processes in place that allow you to remove trees."

But others wouldn't be so

kind, perhaps.

"Mr. Washington, while I respect all that you've done for our country, but would you please tell us you cut down that tree? It was so beautiful. We need to protect our trees and we just cannot have people cutting down trees whenever they feel like it," Councilwoman Penny Fleegeer said.

"Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen of the Council, I'll be brief regarding my reasoning for actions: "Well folks," said the spry 282-year-old Virginia native, "I'm at an age where climbing a rickety wooden ladder takes a lot of my energy. And with today's farmers markets, it's just easier to drive the horse and buggy down the road for fresh cherries. You know, spending locally is vital for our economy."

"So I opted to chop down the tree, use the wood to make a new desk. Cherry wood is beautiful and strong. If you'd like, I'd be more than happy to pull out the quill pen and help

you craft some laws that would benefit the wonderful citizens. I do have some vast experience in helping write some really wonderful legislation."

But, city officials were quick to point out the tree ordinance is part of local laws, rules and regulations regarding the removal of trees.

"Did you call an arborist?" Fleegeer questioned.

"A what?" Washington questioned.

"An arborist will determine if the tree is alive and still in good shape," Fleegeer explained. "We cannot just have citizens determining if their trees should be cut down. That's our job. We are a Tree City USA."

Washington, in a state of shock, chuckled.

"So, what you're telling me is, that despite the fact it's my property, which I legally own and pay taxes on," he said, "is that I need your permission to cut down a tree? That seems invasive on my rights as a

See OTHER page 10

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Grant just a way for city to tie into system

The city manager and the Council now believe that Dunnellon needs a major chain hotel located behind the Walgreens. However, before such a facility can be built the city needs to upgrade the water/sewer systems. And, in order to pay for an upgrade, the city needs to apply for a grant, in other words free money.

After the Greenlight fiasco it's doubtful the city could get a loan for the project. Before the city goes charging down the path it would be a good idea to get the answers to a few questions:

- Has any major chain expressed a serious interest in Dunnellon?
- What is the capacity of the Dunnellon water system, and how much additional capacity is needed for a hotel?
- What is the capacity of the Rainbow Springs system, and what is the impact of connecting it to the Dunnellon system?
- How many jobs would a new hotel add, and what types of jobs?
- What is the estimated occupancy rate of a new hotel and how much revenue would the hotel generate?

seems to think that such a project would be beneficial. Too bad they haven't produced any numbers to justify their idea. It seems unusual that the city would embark on such a project without first doing some serious research.

The other possibility is that the city is just using the hotel thing to justify getting the money needed to connect the two water systems. That seems to be the real goal. They have wanted to do it since they acquired the Rainbow Springs plant, but they seem to lack the funds. Why not prepare a grant request citing the need to support a hotel, even if there is no real plan for one?

It's time to get real. The city wants a grant to connect the water systems, because the city system is falling apart, and they are willing to go ahead with such a project without offering anyone an explanation of the possible impact. Let's also remember that grants aren't free money. It is taxpayer money.

Hugh Lochrane,  
Rainbow Springs

### Hotel location isn't the best choice

I understand the brand name of the proposed new motel in Dunnellon might be the

See LETTERS page 10



## THE JERSEY GIRL

# 'Walk a mile in my shoes'

I gave my orange to a homeless man yesterday. I know that should not be a profound statement, but to me it was.

For my husband and I have disagreed about this subject for years.

He is constantly giving people in need dollar bills, loose change, or when possible, dollar-menu items from McDonalds. I have never done anything like that. I feel I'm a kind person, yet I never felt compelled to give that way.

I donate pies to the American Legion during Thanksgiving and I give generously to the March of Dimes, Disabled Veterans and American Heart Association.

But I was fearful of doing such things on an individual basis, such as approaching the homeless.

Shame on me, I guess. Did I get upset when I noticed he had cigarettes in his shirt pocket? Of course, I did. How could he have enough money to support that habit? People sometimes feel that their vices are necessities.

But it also filled my heart with warmth when I looked in the rearview mirror and saw him devour the orange with a smile on his face.

To me it was simply an orange; to him it might have been his daily meal.

In my defense, I mistakenly felt that if you were in that type of situation, your bad decisions or

bad actions must have caused your woes. My husband would patiently explain to me that not everybody has had the support in their lives I have and that nobody would actively choose to be on the streets versus a warm bed and shelter.



Audrey Beem

For you see, I was raised by a loving, supportive family. We were taught to always be there for each other. Nobody in my family will ever be homeless, thank God, because the rest of the family would always step in. We will never allow each other to go hungry, cold, tired or lonely. We are like a pack of wolves, bound together forever.

A co-worker said to me the other day: "If there were a club for healthy functional families you would be the sole member." I took that as a hefty compliment.

However, many people don't have this luxury. There are people who don't have any family members or any support at all. People who, through no fault of their own, have been handed this horrible situation. And that's something I failed to realize.

A few years ago, I spotted a young, female standing on a corner in Gainesville, sign in hand, begging for money. A half block away there was a sign in the window of Bealls department store advertising "Help Wanted". I wondered why this woman didn't seek employment instead of choosing to spend her days on

the streets. Now I realize it was not a choice. It was circumstances, maybe bad decisions and, possibly, mental illness. I am learning.

It makes me uncomfortable when I stop at a red light and there's a person staring at me. I try not to make eye contact. I plead for the light to turn green so I can get away, make my escape and forget that there are people who are in need. It scares the heck out of me.

I'll never forget how good it made everybody feel last Christmas when a police officer bought a homeless man a new pair of boots. It went viral. The country needs more acts like that one.

They say our character is what we do when nobody is looking. I love that statement.

Have you heard the saying "Pay It Forward." It's when you do something nice for somebody in need and in turn you hope they will do the same.

Imagine if everybody in the country took that to heart. What if you helped pay for the groceries that the lady in line at the store had to put back?

I understand, sometimes we're skeptical. But who are we to condemn?

"Before you judge me, walk a mile in my shoes".

Maybe sometimes we need to think with our hearts, instead of our heads.

I gave a homeless man my orange. I felt good all day. I'm positive I'll be doing more of this in the future.

## OPINIONS INVITED

- The opinions expressed in Riverland News editorials are the opinions of the editorial board of the newspaper.
- Viewpoints depicted in political cartoons, columns or letters do not necessarily represent the opinion of the editorial board.
- Groups or individuals are invited to express their opinions in a letter to the editor.
- All letters must be signed and include a phone number and hometown, including letters sent via e-mail. Phone numbers will not be printed or given out. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, libel, fairness and good taste.
- Letters to the editor must be no longer than 550 words, and writers will be limited to two letters per month.

OUT TO PASTOR

# A year older but not that much wiser

I think I am in a rut. No matter how hard I work, I do not seem to be getting any farther along in life. Could it be that somewhere in my past, I peaked and did not realize it? If so, I wish I knew about it so at least I could have the consolation that I have peaked.



Rev. James Snyder

This week I celebrate another birthday. This is a rut I am talking about. After all, I celebrate my birthday every year on the same day. The only reason I celebrate it on that day is because my mother said that was the day I was born. What if she lied about my birthday? After all, there is that issue with Santa Claus!

I cannot prove one way or the other that I was born on a particular day because knowing what I do know now it is very easy to manipulate paperwork and birth certificates. It might be old age, but I just do not trust anybody about anything these days. I do not even trust myself.

In the early days of my life, my parents told a few things that have proven not exactly true. I would not say they were lying to me they were just protecting me from the gruesomeness of truth.

I mentioned Santa Claus. The thing that irks me about Santa Claus is that now that I am older and have children and grandchildren I am supposed to be Santa Claus. Who in the world made up that rule?

Then there is the whole issue about the tooth fairy. It took me a long time to figure out that the tooth fairy did not really exist. Several times I extracted teeth ahead of time in order to get some cash from the tooth fairy. I frequently questioned why the tooth fairy was so stingy with his giving until I figured out that the tooth fairy was none other than my father, known for his closed cash policy.

Growing up in Pennsylvania one of the big factors had to do with Punxsutawney Phil. It took me a long time to figure out that that little rodent was not who my parents said he was. If he was who they said he was, he sure was not very good at predicting the future.

A lot of things my parents told me turned out not to be true, so why should I put a lot of stock in believing that my birthday is the exact day I was born?

According to them, I get to celebrate my birthday one day out of the year and a specific day that I believe they picked out. Now what I want to know is, why can't I pick my own birthday? After all, it is MY birthday!

While I am on that

**Solution to puzzle on Page 10**

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

subject, why can't I celebrate my birthday whenever I want to, why can't I celebrate my birthday every month? After all, nobody gets tired of eating birthday cake.

Now that I am older (I am not quite sure how old I really am because I am not sure my parents were exactly forthcoming in telling me the year I was born) what am I supposed to do?

Personally, I would like to establish a set of rules associated with "my birthday." I do not care what other people do about their birthday, it is my birthday and I should be able to set the rules.

I think the first rule I would establish is, there should be no "surprise" birthday parties. If it is my birthday, I know when it is. If it is my birthday, I should be in charge of planning the party. After all, I know what I would like.

Who in the world started putting birthday candles on a birthday cake. I have been to several birthday parties and watched the "birthday boy" blow out those candles. After seeing him blow out those candles, I had no desire to eat the cake subjected to his spit-laden breath. After all, germs and I are not amigos.

Do not let this get around, but when there are candles on my birthday cake, I make sure my tongue is well lubricated before I start blowing out

See PASTOR page 9

## 3 couples celebrate 50th anniversary, together



Special to the Riverland News

Mr. and Mrs. Edward and Marie Vita hosted a party July 19 for three couples celebrating their respective 50th wedding anniversaries. Marie's sister, Sylvie Lightfoot, and her husband, Chuck, right, along with their friends, Norman and Kathy Gazaille, center, and Juergen and Rosemarie Kleuker, all of Rainbow Springs. To stay with the theme, 50 relatives, friends and neighbors

came to celebrate with the couples for a festive evening with live music by Rosa. The hosts compiled a list to let them know difficult it is to reach this milestone. Fifty years of marriage consists of 600 months, 2,600 weeks and 18,250 days of bliss. From the president in office to film, music and novels, plus these three couples saying, "I Do," 1964 was a very good year.

## CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

### Church seeks clothing donations for program

The Altar & Rosary Society of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church is collecting new and gently used children's clothing for youths, ages 6 to 18, for its upcoming "Clothe the Children" drive, which will be Thursday, Aug. 7, in the church pavilion at the corner of State Road 40 and U.S. 41.

All donations can be brought to the church office. For information, call 489-5954.

### Church seeks singers, musicians

Lighthouse Baptist Church is seeking people who like to sing or

play instruments to participate in a Gospel music night at 6 p.m. Friday, July 25. A love offering will be collected for the Children's Safe Home Program in Florida, which helps to rescue victims from human trafficking. Free refreshments will be offered after the program.

Lighthouse Baptist Church is at 974 W. G. Martinelli Blvd. For information, call 489-7515.

### Romeo Baptist Church to host new study

Romeo Baptist Church will host a new discipleship class, "Family Driven Faith" by Voddie Baucham, based on Deuteronomy 6:4-9. The

class will be at 6 p.m. Sundays, beginning Aug. 3, and run for 12 weeks.

For more information, call 489-1788.

### Women's Bible study slated

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, check us out 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.

### Church to host Saturday Supper

The Third Saturday Supper will be from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16, 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.

For information, call 489-1260.

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"For where two or three gather together in My name, there am I with them." - Matthew 18:20

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## DHS softball standout inks deal with CF



*Weber excited about joining Lady Patriots, playing for Fagan*

**JEFF BRYAN**  
*Riverland News*

Jody Weber had plenty of options for continuing her softball career. She had several offers from colleges

Jody Weber, a standout at Dunnellon High, officially signed Tuesday with the College of Central Florida. She'll be reunited with coach Kevin Fagan, whom she played for her freshman season.

JULIE MANCINI/For the Riverland News

across the state as well as an offer from a Georgia-based university.

But when it came down to making an official decision, the Lady Tiger offensive stalwart didn't have to make an

overly tough choice. Weber weighed the pros and cons of where she could excel and what coaching staff was likely to push her beyond her abilities.

So when Kevin Fagan extended an offer for her to continue her career at the College of Central Florida, it made the decision that

much easier.

"I'm really excited about the opportunity to play for coach Fagan," said Weber, who earned a starting nod her freshman season, Fagan's last at the helm of the Lady Tigers' program. "He's an awesome coach. I'm excited about that. He

See DEAL page 9

### Getting in the spirit



ABOVE: Marissa Crowe, a soon-to-be 10th-grader at Dunnellon High School, belts out a cheer Saturday while attempting to gain the attention of passing motorists along U.S. 41. The Dunnellon High cheerleading team, with the assistance of members of the football squad, hosted a car wash and bake sale at Tractor Supply. RIGHT: Brittany Gorman, standing, plants a soapy sponge in the face of her teammate, Taylor Holmes, as the two helped wash a bevy of vehicles. BELOW: Joey Polizzi washes off a car after the driver decided to take advantage of the cheerleading team's fundraiser.

Photos by JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News



## Who's the Boss? Former coach back at helm

*Baseball skipper returns after stint at community college*

**JEFF BRYAN**  
*Riverland News*

Three years ago, Tommy Boss left Dunnellon High again as he embarked on his dream to become a college coach.

Boss, who recently turned 31, served as the pitching coach and recruiting coordinator at St. Johns River State College. When he wasn't helping the team prepare for its more than 50-game schedule during the season, Boss was often on the road searching for talent to restock the shelves at the community college.

No one was more surprised than Boss when the Tigers' head coaching position became available for the fourth time since his departure.

"Oh man, I'm excited, I'm really excited," said Boss, who during his five-year tenure as skipper, the Tigers won three straight district titles and advanced to the Class 4A Final Four in 2010. I didn't quite think the opportunity would come this soon. It's kind of like you never realize how good you have it until it's gone. I had a really good job at St. John's River. I had a great time; we won a lot of ballgames. But it was tough being away from my family as much as I was."

So after a lengthy discussion with his wife, Mary Katherine, Boss opted to return to Dunnellon High for the third time. He was a standout pitcher for them in the late 1990s and early 2000s, where he earned plenty of prep accolades. He went on to pitch at the University of Florida, where he helped lead the Gators to the 2005 College World Series.

Knowing the de-

mand put upon collegiate coaches and their time spent away from their families, Boss knew in his heart it wasn't for him, at least not now.

"She's excited," Boss said about his wife. "I really lucked out, she's been amazing. Being the recruiting coordinator, I was gone a lot of nights. I

mean a lot. She spent a lot of time taking care of the kids (Addie, 4, and Tripp, 1).

"I don't want to miss my kids growing up," he said. "My goals

and dreams were to go to an NCAA Division I School. In doing that, I was talking with a lot these guys who said they were gone for months at a time. That's not me. I don't want to do that. I'm glad I got the opportunity (to coach in college). I learned what it was all about. Right now, I don't think that's right for me. I want to get my kids grown up. I want to be there for Little League games, school events and such."

Boss realizes there's work to be done as far as turning the program around. Since his departure three years ago, the Tigers have posted one season with double-digit victories. But he knows the team isn't lacking talent. He believes it's more important to build a foundation.

"We're trying to set our foundation; once we get a foundation started we can begin moving forward," he explained. "I am sure (the players) are excited. They are probably getting tired of hearing about it. We've got some things we need to fix and we need to fix them right now."

One of those "things" Boss alluded to is developing a winning

See BOSS page 9



Tommy Boss

### TALES

continued from page 1

road. Not much of a gator, in fact he was small. He had not even lost the camouflage colors the young gators have.

I would have never given this little fellow a second thought if I had not noticed his jaws had been taped shut. I will never know how or why, but someone had captured him, taped his mouth shut and released him. However, it happened. It signaled a death sentence in the wild. I hustled over to cut him off from the water and grabbed him.

The sensible thing would have been to unwrap his jaws and toss him in the river. I chose a different path. While I was holding this baby gator deciding what to do with him, I noticed that the algae and pond scum had grown over the tape holding his jaws closed. Now, I have never taken the time to stand around and watch pond scum grow, but I am sure it takes a matter of days or weeks. This gator had not eaten for a while.

Being in close proximity to the Homosassa Wildlife Park, I hatched the bright idea I would give them a call and see if I should run by and have them toss him in the gator tank. His fasting time would be quickly forgotten while living in the gator tank with the park ranger dropping mullet heads on him all day.

I gave the park a call and explained my bright idea and a clearly confused clerk transferred me to someone else. After about five transfers, I



DWIGHT PORTER/Special to the Riverland News

This is the small gator columnist Dwight Porter ran into while on a job before calling state officials to help out the small reptile.

began to get the impression there was no clear cut policy for someone who wanted to drive in and deliver a gator.

Finally, I reached someone in Tallahassee who seemed to understand the situation. She took the address where I was and said someone would be there in a few minutes. I sat down under a shade tree to await further developments.

After about two hours, I started to think I had made a mistake to call the state. I considered releasing him, but by now I had told a half dozen state employees who, and where, I was and that I was holding a captive gator.

In due time, a pickup arrived sporting an official looking seal under which it read "alligator trapper." Two burly looking men got out. The driver approached me as the passenger unloaded his tools to appre-

hend a nuisance gator. These guys had been dispatched to get a nuisance gator and I was sitting in the shade holding a baby alligator with his jaws taped shut.

I gave no explanation; this situation seemed to be spiraling out of control and I had no intention of testing the patience of a 6-foot-2 alligator trapper who had traveled from who knows where to capture an emaciated 8-pound alligator.

The trapper went to great pains to explain to me that this gator would be released far enough into the swamp that he would never be a threat to people again. All the while his assistant was doing a fine job of holding onto the nuisance and keeping a straight face.

My guess is that after his experience with electrical tape around his jaws they need not take him too far into the swamp.



Riverland News file photo

Dunnellon coach Tommy Boss watches his team during the 2010 Class 4A Final Four. After a three-year absence, Boss will return to the Tigers' dugout next spring.



Photos by JULIE MANCINI/For the Riverland News

Shane Williams rides on Archie Smith's airboat July 15 as they follow the helicopter to the location of an alligator nest on the Ocklawaha Prairie.

**GATOR**

continued from page 1

production; they rely on the egg collection to add to their stock.

Gators hatched and raised on farms have a much higher rate of survival than those born in the wild. Not only that, they mature a lot sooner because they are raised in a hot house, allowing them to grow year-round. A farm-raised gator is ready for harvest at around three years, after reaching 5 to 6 feet in length. A gator in the wild would take about twice as long to reach the same size.

How does one get a start in the alligator egg collecting business? Well, for Smith, it was part of his family heritage.

"I inherited a small piece of property from my dad," Smith said. "I always wanted to do some farming, and so I decided to gator farm."

Smith no longer farms gators, explaining that when the economy is bad people do not place alligator boots high on their list of priorities, but he does continue collecting the eggs.

Two crews currently collect the alligator eggs from the state's waterways. One crew collects in South Florida. Smith's crew started at Vero Beach and works north to Tallahassee.

Smith's crew was nearing the end of their approximately three-week adventure. Having just collected on Orange Lake, they would head to Tallahassee after their work was finished on the Rodman Reservoir.

A crew consists of four airboats, each with two collectors, a pontoon boat to hold the collected eggs, and a helicopter to scout for nests.

The airboats are useful because they can maneuver over land, stumps, and whatever gets in their way, for the most part.

"It's ... not your normal airboating because you run over everything and get stuck, a lot," Smith said.

On this day, Williams deftly got the pair out of many jams as Smith drove through the thick vegetation. In most cases, the pair used the same route to get back out on the open water.

"When we come back next summer, that will be grown over again," Smith said.

After a nest is located, one of the teams takes an airboat to the location to collect the eggs. Spotting the nests from the airboat at the Ocklawaha and Rodman locations would



ABOVE: Archie Smith drives his airboat on the Ocklawaha Prairie. BOTTOM RIGHT: Shane Williams rides on Archie Smith's airboat in the Rodman Reservoir right before the afternoon's first thunderstorm. BOTTOM LEFT: Archie Smith records the details of his latest nest collection on the Ocklawaha Prairie. The number of eggs, the nest's location, and whether the nest was dry or has been disturbed by predators are just some of the details recorded about each nest.



ABOVE: Smith and Williams unload some of the alligator eggs collected on the Ocklawaha Prairie before heading out to collect more. BOTTOM RIGHT: Williams and Smith work together to collect the eggs from a nest on the Ocklawaha Prairie before the mother alligator comes back. BOTTOM LEFT: Ants swarm all over the nest collection box after Smith and Williams harvest eggs from a particularly low lying nest on the Ocklawaha Prairie.



have been impossible if not for the helicopter. The nests were well-hidden in the

swamp, often among vegetation grown much taller than the airboat. The nest itself is

most often built above the water about 12 to 18 inches, and is about 6 feet in diameter. The

eggs, surrounded and covered with straw, are usually found about 6 inches below the top of

the nest. If a nest is not built up as high, ants looking for high ground sometimes take up residence among the eggs. Such was the case with the last nest on the Ocklawaha Prairie. Smith and Williams worked fast as swarming ants bit their hands. As soon as they finished, they both rubbed antibacterial gel on their hands.

"It seems to take the sting out," Smith explained.

Once the eggs are discovered, one of the collectors marks each egg with permanent marker to indicate which side of the egg was facing up, while the other keeps watch with a pole in hand, in case the mother gator is guarding the nest.

On this particular day, fewer than half of the nests were guarded. Williams reported that the day before there had been a momma gator that had been especially aggressive and had tried to bite the boat, making a dent in the railing. On this day, most mother gators required no more than a pole held near the end of their nose.

A plastic box, about 18-by-24 inches, is lined with some of the nest material, and the marked eggs are placed right side up into the box. The eggs are counted and then covered with more nest material. The number of eggs, where the nest was found and other information, is recorded. Most nests had about 40 eggs.

"You can tell which eggs are fertile by the band around the egg," said Smith, referring to the distinct opaque band around the middle of the egg.

The egg collection locations and quotas are established by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC). The quotas vary by location. In some locations, they can take 50 percent of the nests. In others, a number is assigned. On this particular day, the Ocklawaha collection site was allowed 24 nests, and 23 nests were collected. At Rodman Reservoir, the quota was 31 nests.

Each egg is sold for about \$13 with \$5 from each sale going to the FWC, while the balance goes to pay for expenses such as the helicopters, motel rooms and boats.

Smith doesn't plan on quitting anytime soon.

"I enjoy going out every summer to collect eggs," Smith said. "It's my summer job."

Julie Maninci contributed to this story.





JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

**Jody Weber, center, a former standout softball player at Dunnellon High, officially signed her national letter of intent to play collegiate softball at the College of Central Florida and Lady Patriots coach Kevin Fagan, left. Sitting with Weber during her ceremony Tuesday at Dunnellon High, from left, are, Fagan, Harry Weber, her father, Jody Weber, Terry Weber, her mother, and Ashley Clark, the Dunnellon High softball coach.**

**DEAL**

continued from page 6

pushes his team a lot. I love that about his coaching. He really pushes you to be your best and be better every day."

Injuries might have derailed more offers for Weber, who hit .341 for her career and drove in 83 runs at Dunnellon High, including a .377 average her senior season to go along with 15 RBIs and two homers.

Her injuries throughout her career included a broken collarbone shortly before her junior season and a broken finger during her senior campaign. Still, Weber said she kept a positive outlook about continuing her career. In addition to the injuries, the travel ball team she had been playing for had broken up, leaving her with fewer opportunities to showcase her abilities not only at the plate, but in the field.

"It was hard when I got hurt," said Weber, who plans to major in physical therapy in college. "That was really tough. I've gotten through it."

And it's Fagan, Weber said, who spurred her interest in playing collegiately.

"Coach Fagan was really the one who really made me become interested in playing at the next level," said Weber, who as a utility player can play a number of defensive positions. "When I saw how hard he pushed me. He was a big influence on me even wanting to play in college."

After her tryout with both Fagan and Mike Lingle, an assistant coach at CF, Weber realized she wanted to continue her career with the Lady Patriots, who lost in the NJCAA National Championship game in Fagan's first year at the helm of the program.

"Just hitting and going through the other drills, it made me really

want to go there," Weber said. "I forgot how great coach Fagan is at working with you in drills to help you improve. I'm excited to play for coach Fagan and coach Lingle. They're both great coaches."

Among her personal goals are to earn a starting role her freshman season as well as improve both at the plate and in the field. More important, is to help the team program build on the foundation it established this past spring.

"I think it's a great opportunity and I'm looking forward to the challenges," Weber said.

Fagan said he's excited about adding Weber to this year's recruiting class as well as bringing her competitive fire to the team.

"When the pitching heats up, some people wilt under the pressure," Fagan said. "That's not the case with Jody. When the pressure is on, that's when she's at her best."

**BOSS**

continued from page 6

mentality which he said is no fault of their own. "They need to have some success," he said. "Once that happens, it just grows from there."

Boss praised his predecessor, Chris Cole, for doing a "great job" in his lone season.

"The kids are really, they're attentive. They're wanting to learn," Boss said. "I know it doesn't show in the wins and losses. I think Chris did an outstanding job. He's very baseball savvy, very smart when it comes to the game. I'm just trying to teach them how to win, to make sure the little (problems) don't

become big (problems)."

Boss has yet to meet with all of the players who will return from last year's squad, because many of them have been busy preparing for the start of football season. That, Boss said, is what he wants to see.

"I like having athletes," Boss said. "Thinking about some of my better players as a coach, a lot of them played more than one sport. I like athletes, because you can show them what you're trying to do a few times and eventually they will figure it out."

"That's what I see with this group I have coming out. We're not trying to burn them out,

but they are very athletic."

Boss praised the early efforts of seniors Garrett Kudlack and Bo DeWitz who have been participating in the summer workouts for setting a tone among the underclassmen.

There are some seniors on this club who I think are hungry, they want to win," Boss said about Kudlack and DeWitz. "They're out there and busting their tails. They want to go out on a high note this season."

Boss would not guarantee a quick turn around.

"I cannot promise we're going to win a lot of ball games, but we're going to win some ball games," he said. "My

goal is to get the kids to play hard, and get the kids to do the little things right."

"We're going to hustle, because I've always believed you might have the level of talent as another team, but if you outwork everyone else, in the end the wins and losses will take care of themselves. We're going to have to work hard, we're going to have to play hard."

Boss said he wants to build a consistent winning program and stay with the Tigers for "as long as they'll have me."

"I want to be here, I want to build this program," Boss added. "I want to see kids develop, I want to be able to improve our facilities."

**PASTOR**

continued from page 5

those candles. After all, I love to share.

Another rule I would like to put in place has to do with birthday presents. It seems quite hypocritical for somebody to go out and buy a birthday present, wrap it up in fancy birthday wrapping paper and then bring it to me so that I can unwrap that paper to get to the birthday present.

If I am going to have birthday presents I think I should be the one to buy those presents. Everybody who wants me to celebrate my birthday could slip me a fiver and let me go out and buy what I

really want. Nobody knows what I want better than I do.

Finally, I think if it is my birthday and I am celebrating it, I should get to pick what year I am celebrating.

Good old King Solomon had it right when he wrote, "The glory of young men is their strength: and the beauty of old men is the grey head" (Proverbs 20:29).

You are only young once but you can be old for a very long time. I am learning to live with it.

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship in Ocala. Call him at 866-552-2543 or email jamessnyder2@att.net.

**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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	7				1		5	
	1			7		3		
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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!

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Puzzle answers on Page 5

**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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**LETTERS**

continued from page 4

Sleep Inn. I suggest that if the hotel is built at the proposed location next to the railroad track, it be aptly named the Sleep End Motel as your sleep will end when the train lumbers by. No need for a wake up call here. The official greeting will be "Huh, what did you say?"

I will try to contact the groups who really might want to stay at the Sleep End Motel located in the back section of beautiful downtown Dunnellon. The Walgreens parking lot fan club might be extremely interested as it is very hard to find a motel room directly above a Walgreens' parking lot. The "Railroad Track Noise Appreciation Society" would like to have its annual meeting here if the two members can be released from treatment at the same time period.

The "Jack Hammer Operators of America" might be interested if enough of the train vibration can be felt in the motel rooms, but they are a picky bunch. No need to pay for a vi-

brating bed at this motel.

The pool will at least have waves in it twice a day, if there is enough water pressure to fill the pool.

Burton & Associates will probably do the rate study to set the room rates based on revenue sufficiency. Using the very fair and trusted Rainbow Springs Utility methodology, based on the revenue needed for the motel owners to make at least a 30 percent net profit and provide needed services, the room rates will be \$350 daily for Dunnellon residents, others will also pay a 25 percent surcharge.

The hotel advertising slogan will be "Stay one night, but it will seem longer." The theme song will be the great country/western song, "Lonely Days and Sleepless Nights."

The downtown Detroit city planners, Edsel Auto Designers and Beta Max developers will probably be interested in this project. I cannot see why Regions Bank would not like to get in on this lucrative deal.

Perhaps the motel owners can entice the former city manager and

former city attorney to manage the motel for them. If not, then perhaps they could conduct financial management seminars. The city should encourage this as the city knows these two know how to spend money. Unfortunately, it is other people's money they spend.

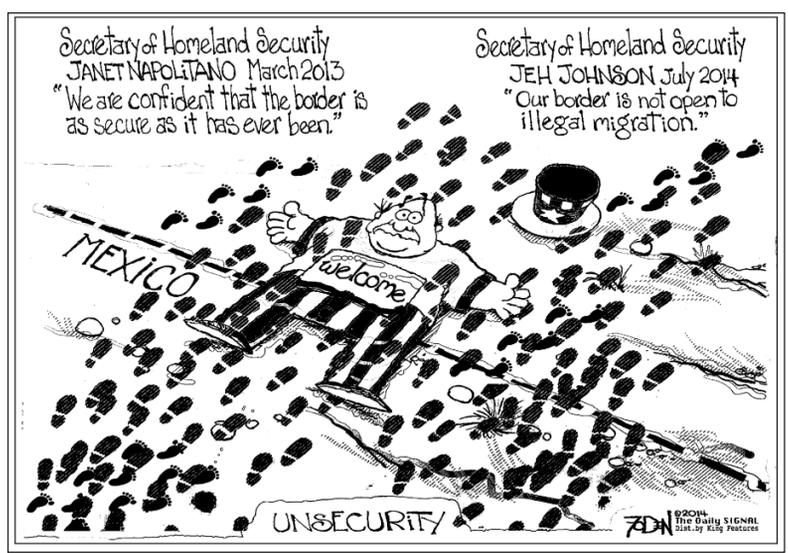
Of course, tourists might be scared to stay here due to all the rain we get according to the mayor and Burton & Associates. More rain, which is more water, leads to a need for higher water rates, so maybe tourists with a great sense of ironic humor will want to stay here.

Since I live near Dunnellon, I have learned to laugh about it and roll with the punches. Maybe I am used to getting rolled. It only hurts when I laugh, read the City Council meeting minutes or pay my water bill.

I just hope the motel developers do not ask if fiber-optic cable is available.

I bet this project gets the Greenlight to proceed. What can go wrong?

**Steve Swett,  
Dunnellon**



**OTHER**

continued from page 4

property owner, to determine what's best to do with my property. Next you're going to tell me growing hemp is illegal."

Actually, officials explained, it is illegal to grow hemp in the United States.

"That is absurd," Washington retorted. "What's next, a tax on tea?"

And that brings to the

point folks. I'm all for preserving trees, because they are a critical part of our environment. However, the City Council spends more time discussing tree removals than remedies to the debt problem and revenue woes it is facing again this year.

The Council should certainly find a better remedy to the tree removal process, because it is too cumbersome and, personally I feel it is too much governmental oversight of citizens

property rights. Perhaps a solution officials should consider is taking ownership of several properties it has liens on and implementing a policy in which those wishing to remove a tree must plant a replacement specified by the City Council's choosing at one of those sites or a city-owned park.

It's time to cut down on the tree talk and focus on the real issues plaguing the city.

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# Riverland News

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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 Published July 24 & 31, 2014.

**Notices to Creditors/Administration**

Foreclosure Sale/Action Notices

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**Foreclosure Sale/Action Notices**

408-0724 RIV vs. Pulgarin, Conrado 42-2011-CA-003030 Notice of Foreclosure Sale PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA Case No: 42-2011-CA-003030

**Foreclosure Sale/Action Notices**

CHRISTIANA TRUST, A DIVISION OF WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, AS TRUSTEE FOR NORMANDY MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST, SERIES 2013-18, Plaintiff, vs. CONRADO PULGARIN, ET AL., Defendants. NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

**Foreclosure Sale/Action Notices**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 20, 2014, and entered in Case No. 42-2011-CA-003030 of the Circuit Court of the Fifth Judicial Circuit in and for Marion County, Florida wherein CHRISTIANA TRUST, A DIVISION OF WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, AS TRUSTEE FOR NORMANDY MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST, SERIES 2013-18, is the Plaintiff and CONRADO PULGARIN and YOLANDA PULGARIN, are Defendants, David R. Elspersmann, Marion County Clerk of Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at www.marionrealforeclose.com at 11:00 AM on August 4, 2014 the following described property set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

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**Notices to Creditors/Administration**

414-0724 RIV Bouch Sr., James G. 2014-CP-1049 Notice to Creditors PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File Number: 2014-CP-1049

**Notices to Creditors/Administration**

IN RE: ESTATE OF JAMES G. BOUCH, SR. a/k/a JAMES GORDON BOUCH, SR. Deceased. NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the estate of JAMES G. BOUCH, SR. a/k/a JAMES GORDON BOUCH, SR., deceased, whose date of death was May 17, 2014, File Number 2014-CP-1049, 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.

**Notices to Creditors/Administration**

414-0724 RIV Bouch Sr., James G. 2014-CP-1049 Notice to Creditors PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File Number: 2014-CP-1049

**Foreclosure Sale/Action Notices**

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City Council for the City of Dunnellon proclaims a general election to be held on November 4, 2014 for the election of council members for the following seats:

**Foreclosure Sale/Action Notices**

SEAT NUMBER OCCUPIED BY  
2 Dennis Evans  
3 Lynne McAndrew  
4 Erik Collop

**Foreclosure Sale/Action Notices**

WHEREAS, any individual interested in seeking election to the City Council must do so by obtaining a qualification package, available August 4, 2014 from the City Clerk. The qualifying period begins at 12:00 noon on August 18, 2014 and ends at 12:00 noon on August 22, 2014. Petitions, as well as the proper financial disclosure and campaign forms must be submitted to the City Clerk no later than 12:00 noon on August 22nd. The cost for qualifying will be \$45.00, plus 1.0% of council's annual salary equaling \$18.00, for a total of \$63.00.

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**Notices to Creditors/Administration**

419-0731 RIV Marso, Theresa 2014-CP-1109 Notice to Creditors PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MARION COUNTY FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No.: 2014-CP-1109

**Notices to Creditors/Administration**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the estate of THERESA MARSO a/k/a THERESA M. MARSO, deceased, whose date of death was April 1, 2014, 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.

**Notices to Creditors/Administration**

419-0731 RIV Marso, Theresa 2014-CP-1109 Notice to Creditors PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MARION COUNTY FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No.: 2014-CP-1109

**Misc. Notices**

420-0724 RIV PUBLIC NOTICE PROCLAMATION #PRO2014-01 DUNNELLON CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

**Misc. Notices**

WHEREAS, in the event that the election results in a candidate not receiving the most votes cast, the Mayor of the City Council for the City of Dunnellon proclaims a runoff election to be held on January 6, 2015.

**Misc. Notices**

Be it hereby proclaimed that an election will take place on November 4, 2014 and petitions will be available after 12:00 noon, August 4, 2014.

**MAINTENANCE**

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**Notices to Creditors/Administration**

418-0724 RIV 8/16 sale PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: BIG JOE'S TOWING SERVICE INC. gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on 08/08/2014 09:00 am at 1901 NW MARTIN LUTHER KING JR AVE, OCALA, FL 34475-5007, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. Superior Towing/C&M Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids. 342698 1965 SAAB Published July 24, 2014.

**Notices to Creditors/Administration**

417-0724 RIV 8/11 Sale PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE Superior Towing/C&M Towing gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles(s) on 08/20/2014 9:00 am at 19940 N US 411, McIntosh, FL 34488, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. Superior Towing/C&M Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids. JHMEG8545NS039771 1992 HONDA Publish: July 24, 2014.

**Notices to Creditors/Administration**

418-0724 RIV 8/20 Sale PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE Superior Towing/C&M Towing gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicle(s) on 08/20/2014 9:00 am at 2157 NE Jacksonville Rd, Ocala FL 34470, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. Superior Towing/C&M Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids. JM1811TF7D1809372 2013 MAZDA Publish: July 24, 2014.

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Photos by JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News  
**Vicki Vinther, a teacher at Dunnellon Elementary School participating in the program for a third straight year, greets two exchange students with flowers last Thursday upon their arrival at First Baptist Church of Dunnellon.**

**FOREIGN**

continued from page 1

their two daughters, Jessica and Ruth, will open their home for two exchange students for the fourth straight year. "It's neat to learn more about their culture, their traditions while at the same time, introducing them to American culture, God and our family. We'll plan some fun things to do."

There have been challenges in the past three years, explained Alisia Norcross. "The first year, there was no problem with the language barrier, the girls spoke it so well," she said. "The second year, I think we had to use the translator the whole time. But it's a wonderful experience for our family."

Families gathered at the Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church as they were given last-minute instructions before meeting their guests, who had flown in the night before and made the trek to Dunnellon after experiencing a few Orlando-based adventures. Because the mission of this program is to teach the children new ethnicity from around the world, they were given American names to really get settled into the society of the U.S. people.

"They're going to be tired and sleepy," said Pam Lange, the local director for EP Educational Homestay program, a nonprofit organization. "They should be adjusted by Monday, but let them adjust to the time zone and being way. It'll take all of you some getting used to each other."

As families waited for the tour bus to bring the students to the church, families lined up in the behind the building, holding homemade "welcome signs," balloons as well as small gifts or, in some cases, flowers.

"It's exciting, we get to share food, we get to know each other," said Vicki Vinther, a teacher at Dunnellon Elementary School, participating in the program for a third straight year.

This year, Vinther welcomed two 9-year-old exchange students into her



**ABOVE: Bradley Rush of Ocala holds a welcome sign for his family's exchange student. BELOW: Jessica Norcross, left, and her mother Alisia, wait to meet the two Chinese exchange students their family is hosting during the program.**



home. "It's a blessing. I'm really looking forward to it this year."

At the end of their time in school, officials will host a graduation ceremony and talent show, and a trip to Orlando is in the works for the students to get to experience Universal Studios and, of course, Walt Disney World. The children are scheduled to leave Aug. 2.

"We're excited, it's

something we've been talking about doing and decided to volunteer this year to open our home," said Gloria Dollar, whose family, husband, Lee, and sons, Randy and Bobby, thought it would be a unique experience. "We'll get to learn about another culture and we just believed it was a great opportunity. We're looking forward to the experience."

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**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. Toy pickup is available.

For information, call 465-3666.

**CIA in need of liquids, powders**

Christians In Action, CIA, continues to assist all families who meet the federal guidelines for free clothing, detergents and toiletries.

Shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste as well as dish and laundry detergent plus clothing is distributed from 9 a.m. to noon the first Saturday monthly behind

Dunnellon Mulch and Stone at the New Second Bethel Missionary Baptist Church.

For information, call Susan LeBrun at 465-8660.

**UW slates workshops, needs volunteers**

United Way of Marion County is looking for volunteers who are interested in being facilitators for personal financial workshops. Money Smart Train-the-trainer workshops will provide practical experience in training delivery, coaching, assessing, and giving/receiving feedback.

Additionally, all future trainers will receive an instructor's manual and materials. Facilitators will present to businesses and organizations who are interested in hosting classes for their employees or clients or members at their facility. Training will take place from 10 a.m. to 4

p.m. Thursday, July 31, at the United Way of Marion County at 1401 NE Second St, Ocala. Lunch will be provided.

For information or to register, contact Marsha Holloway at 732-9696, ext. 215, or mholloway@uwmc.org.

**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.

The canteen is open Sunday through Saturday at noon; and closes at 8 p.m. or later Monday through Saturday except for meeting nights, and 6 p.m. Sundays.

For information, call 465-4864.

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