

Riverland News

Thursday, September 25, 2014

Vol 32 No. 46

75 cents

Council OKs tax, water rate hikes



Nathan Whitt

Erik Collop

Mayor, other officials defend increases to be borne by city taxpayers

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

Looking to the future and avoiding the problems of the past few years, the Dunnellon City Council voted, 4-1, to raise the millage rate to 7.5,

setting the Fiscal Year 2015 general fund budget at \$2,605,722, a 0.5 percent increase from 2014. The millage the Council adopted Monday will net the city an additional \$60,000, giving the city almost 25 percent to set aside in

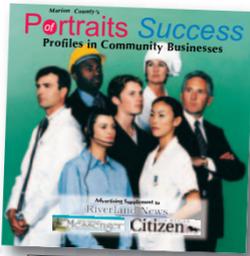
reserves.

"We've had some challenges. I, for one, want to look straight ahead and I try to refrain from going backward," Mayor Nathan Whitt said. "Of course, we don't want to increase the millage. My goal

over the next few years is to see it dramatically reduced. It's going to take all of us. Right now, it's on our backs."

The past most of the Council chose to ignore is the failed telecommunications See COUNCIL page 3

WHAT'S HAPPENING



PORTRAITS OF SUCCESS: An advertorial profiling community business. /INSIDE

Participants sought for state park event

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Rainbow Springs State Park is in need of participants for National Public Lands Day, which is scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 27.

Join a park ranger and help remove invasive exotic plants from the park. This will provide an opportunity to celebrate public lands, learn, and have fun at one of Florida's state parks. Those who volunteer to remove invasive exotic plants will get free entry.

Please be sure to bring gloves, sunscreen, bug spray and hat. Participants should wear long sleeve shirts, long pants and close-toed shoes.

To sign up in advance to participate, contact Monay Markey at monay.markey@dep.state.fl.us.

Lake Tropicana plans spaghetti dinner

The Lake Tropicana Civic Association will host its annual spaghetti dinner from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday at the Lake Tropicana Clubhouse at 3380 SW 181st Court.

The public is welcome. Tickets are \$5 for adults; \$3 for children 12 and younger. Advanced tickets are required and will not be available at the door. The meal includes salad, beverage garlic bread and dessert.

Tickets can be purchased at the clubhouse from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays or from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursdays. For information, call 489-2134 or 465-6322 or email at hall3118@bell.south.net.

Overdue accolade



Photos by JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News

World War II veteran Ralph Lamb, center, smiles as Doris Ingersoll, pins his Prisoner of War service medal on his jacket Friday night at "The Ride Home" ceremony in Americus, Ga. Lamb and his unit were captured by the German army during the Battle of the Bulge. Lamb was a POW for 144 days during his service in the U.S. Army. Standing behind Lamb is Kathy "Kat" McLaughlin.

WWII veteran, 95, finally receives POW service medal

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

AMERICUS, Ga. — The surprise was evident on Ralph Lamb's face Friday when he walked into the Storm Dome at Georgia Southwestern State University for "The Ride Home," an annual event celebrating National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

There to greet Lamb were his son, Ralph "Buddy," and his granddaughter, Debbie Marshall.

That was just the beginning of the surprises in store for Lamb, who served in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1945, having been captured by German forces in December 1944 during the Battle of the Bulge, perhaps one of the most documented fights in the European Theatre.

Little did Lamb know he would be

asked to take center stage for a long-overdue medal presentation for the 95-year-old former Prisoner of War (POW). Kathy "Kat" McLaughlin had learned in the past few months Lamb had never been presented with his POW Service Medal.

McLaughlin quickly went to work to remedy the situation. McLaughlin, an officer with the Florida chapter of "The Ride Home," reached out to Congressman Ted Yoho's office, explaining Lamb's situation in detail to members of the first-term representative's office. They went to work just as quickly, making sure Lamb wouldn't be denied his medal. The process went smoothly, and the congressman had a member of his office

See ACCOLADE page 7



ABOVE: Ralph Lamb, center, poses with his son, Ralph "Buddy" Lamb, and his granddaughter, Debbie Marshall prior to the evening's festivities. BELOW: The POW medal presented to Lamb had his name engraved on the back.



Resident captured during famed battle

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

Ralph Lamb doesn't boast about his service in the U.S. Army during World War II, but no one could blame him either if he did.

After all, the now 95-year-old served in the famed Third Armored Division, which was led by both Gen. George S. Patton and, at times, Gen. Omar Bradley, if Gen. Patton had not drawn the ire of his superiors, which was often as history indicates.

"I never saw either one of them," said Lamb, who has lived in Lake Tropicana for nearly 30 years. "(Gen.) Patton was a wild man. Every other word out of his mouth was typically a swear word while (Gen.) Bradley was a church guy. They were two different styles of men but they got the job done."

Lamb recalls the first battle he and his unit were involved a few months after D-Day — the well-chronicled invasion of Europe on June 6, 1944. Lamb said the Third Armored Division was slugging it out with the Germans in France. During the skirmish, six tanks were lost in the fray, prompting Gen. Patton's supervisors to show their displeasure. "I remember they wanted him out of there," Lamb said.

Still, Gen. Patton's tactical skills on the warfront were needed, said Lamb,

See BATTLE page 6



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Fresh pickin's await at The Pickin' Patch

Popular venue opens Friday

AUGIE SALZER
For the Riverland News

The summer season has ended and autumn arrived just a few days ago to remind us it is time for harvesting, falling leaves, pumpkins and the season's bright colors of orange and red.

The pumpkins and gourds have grown, the sunflowers have bloomed and all the last minute details have been completed in preparation for the fifth annual

Pickin' Patch pumpkin attraction, which opens at 3 p.m. Friday.

The popular Dunnellon pumpkin farm has an appeal to kids of all ages. A \$2 admission (children 3 and younger are free) allows families to enjoy a hay fort, walk through a spectacular corn maze and even go on a hayride around the pumpkin field before deciding which orange pumpkin they will choose to pick and take home.

Before going to find that special pumpkin, the adult is given small hand clippers to cut the pumpkin right off the vine. If it isn't too busy, there will be small wagons available for them to carry their orange-yellow gourd-like fruit out of the field.

The Pickin' Patch is Florida's only true pumpkin patch, claims Andie Dixon, one of the originators of the attraction. Andie and her husband, Steven, and their niece, Sarah Joe Thomas, and husband,

See PICKIN' page 17



Riverland News

Trent Derocha carries a pumpkin to a wagon with the assistance of his mother, Tiffani, last year at The Pickin' Patch. The popular you-pick pumpkin field is set to open Friday.

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Police: Two women face drug charges

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

Two women were apparently so engrossed in smoking crack cocaine they didn't notice the Dunnellon Police Department officer walk to the truck they were sitting in and ask them if they'd pass their pipe to him.

According to an arrest affidavit, Officer Adam Robinson was dispatched Sept. 15 to the Circle K along U.S. 41. Upon his arrival, Robinson witnessed Susan M. Popke, 47, of Dunnellon, and Michelle

Parker, 44, of Deltona, sitting in the back of a blue Chevy truck while parked in front of the gas pumps smoking crack cocaine and passing a clear glass pipe back and forth between them.

The report stated Robinson then approached the vehicle and stood there for a second watching the two pass the pipe and lighter back and forth between them. To their surprise, Robinson requested the pair pass him their pipe, which they did. Upon further inspection, there was a partially consumed rock of crack

cocaine melted to the copper screen in the pipe.

According to the report, Robinson asked both Popke and Parker exit the vehicle when he observed a small white rock on the back seat floor of the vehicle where the pair was sitting. A field test confirmed the substance tested positive for cocaine.

Upon further inspection of



Susan M. Popke



Michelle Parker

the vehicle and its contents, the report stated, Robinson found a blue in color Bic pen barrel, which had been cut off inside of Popke's purse. In addition to the cut off pen barrel, Robinson found Popke's expired driver's license. When asked if she had a current license, Popke told Robinson, "no, you guys took it away because it was suspended."

Robinson also found two Florida identification cards, not belonging to Popke.

Both Popke and Parker were transported to the Marion County Jail. Both were charged with possession of cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Additionally, Popke was charged with knowingly possessing a suspended license and unauthorized possession of identification cards.

Bond for Popke was set at \$12,500. She posted bail Sept. 18. Bond for Parker was set at \$5,500. She also posted bail Sept. 18.

Police: Woman, 69, charged with DUI

JEFF BRYAN
Riverland News

A 69-year-old Dunnellon woman was charged Sept. 16 with driving under the influence after breathalyzer tests showed her blood alcohol content was more than twice the legal limit, a Dunnellon Police Department arrest report stated.

According to the report, Officer Adam Robinson observed Deloris R. Murphy driving a maroon Oldsmobile northbound at about 11 p.m. Sept. 16 on U.S. 41 while conducting traffic enforcement in the area of County Road 484 and U.S. 41.

The report stated Murphy failed to maintain a single lane by crossing the white line and into the bicycle lane of U.S. 41 and drifting back over the white line and into the lane multiple times. Murphy was also traveling between 19 mph and 30 mph in a 35 mph posted zone.

According to the report, Robinson initiated a traffic stop and made contact with Murphy, who only cracked her window to speak to him. Robinson observed Murphy to have bloodshot watery eyes, low slurred speech, constricted pupils, which were slow to react to changing light

and the strong odor of alcoholic beverages emanating from the vehicle.

The report stated Murphy provided Robinson with her vehicle registration, a large number of insurance bills and assorted receipts. Murphy told Robinson she left her purse at home and could not provide her driver's license. Robinson was able to confirm her identity through DAVID.

According to the report, Robinson asked Murphy to exit the vehicle and observed her to be extremely unsteady on her feet and used the car to steady herself. Robinson detected the strong odor of alcoholic beverages emanating from her breath and body at which time he asked Murphy if she would participate in field sobriety exercises.

The report stated Murphy failed three tests. Two tests she was not asked to perform because of arthritis.

According to the report, Murphy was transported to the Marion County Jail where she agreed to a lawful test of her breath. Results showed a 0.169 percent and a 0.171 percent. The legal limit in the state of Florida is 0.08 percent.

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

COUNCIL

continued from page 1

venture the city undertook in 2010.

Greenlight Communications losses reached more than \$10 million and the city sold the system for \$1.3 million to Florida Cable in December 2013 after defaulting on \$7.3 million in bonds from Regions Bank. Florida Cable never paid for the system, despite receiving the titles to the failed telecommunications system.

In the city's original agreement, the then-City Council had pledged the city's share of state excise taxes; however, in April, the city and bank officials struck a deal calling for the city to pay Regions a total of \$3,468,750, including an initial \$200,000 payment. The city is scheduled to make annual payments of \$175,000 for the next 18 years. In addition to the lack of revenue streams for the city, officials budgeted money for a fire assessment fee to be completed.

Councilman Erik Collop was against raising the millage, especially after the Council had an hour earlier approved a 12 percent increase in water rates to citywide users. Utility customers outside of the city were all expected to see drops in their bills.

The one-term councilman said hindsight may have proven the purchase of the Rainbow Springs system and 25 percent surcharge weren't such good decisions.

"I don't feel like it's right for the citizens," Collop said, explaining why he was voting no against a millage increase. "It's big for everyone. When you make those decisions, sometimes you have to live by the consequences. That's the way it goes. On behalf of the citizens, we've made some not so sound decisions."

Vice Mayor Dennis Evans said a tax increase won't affect every citizen. He too, like the mayor, is hope-

ful the millage rate can decrease in 2016 if the city's legal issues go away. Between the general fund and the water/sewer enterprises, the city budgeted \$180,000.

"I don't know what else to do," said Evans, a member of the Council that approved the launch of Greenlight and the purchase of the Rainbow Springs system as well as the implementation of the 25 percent surcharge. "This would make it work."

Whitt said as a taxpayer, it falls on his back too, but not everyone who resides in Dunnellon will feel the pinch. The first-term mayor said that is why the fire assessment study and potential to implement a fee will be essential for those who don't pay ad valorem taxes.

"One glaring issue is police and fire," Whitt said. "It is a privilege to have hometown police and fire. They're to be fought for. We're working on that as far as I'm concerned. I really am truly for keeping small-town police and fire departments. We've gotten through bigger hurdles. A lot of the city's employees have had no raises in quite a few years."

Councilwoman Penny Fleeger said she's not happy about paying more in taxes.

"I really cannot afford it," she said. "I understand the problems, we have to get over this hump. We have to get over some of the mistakes we've made. I don't believe we have a choice. In the future, things will be different, we're under different leadership."

Two sore spots among the public were the addition of an IT manager and a community development manager for the city's CRA program. When the budget was unveiled, the public was told the IT manager was a new position. However, on Monday, City Manager Eddie Esch said that's not the case.

Former Greenlight employee Lonnie Smith has been under the employ of the city since Florida Cable took control of the city's failed telecommunications enterprise. All told, Smith's salary, including benefits, will be \$76,000.

In addition, the public voiced its concerns about salary expenditures within the CRA. The city budget showed \$143,505 coming into the CRA for 2015; however, salaries and benefits totaled \$69,184. The city planned to set aside \$29,499 in reserves. In the past four years, the city has spent more than \$500,000 of CRA funds, completing one project in that time. The other expenses tied to the CRA include \$300,000 spent on Greenlight, the purchase of a house for the vacant community development director position and salary expenditures.

"I think you're making a mistake with the CRA," said Mathew Baillargeon, the president of the Dunnellon Business Association. "You have \$143,000 coming into the CRA, but it's going to all of these other departments."

Esch said the time employees spend working on CRA-related projects must be accounted for on their time sheets. According to budgetary figures, 20 percent of Esch's salary and benefits is tied into CRA funding.

"I don't think you understand the CRA," Fleeger told Baillargeon.

Paul Marraffino said when the CRA was established 15 to 20 years ago, it was to improve blighted areas within the district.

"In any event, (the CRA district) has been extended," he said. "Salaries shouldn't be more than 25 percent of this budget. You should

pick a project, say a transportation center or a pedestrian center, pick one this year and do it."

The budget for water operations was approved \$2,563,679 for 2015. It includes the potential \$650,000 Community Development Block Grant for Economic Development for the proposed hotel off of U.S. 41 behind Walgreens.

The sewer enterprise budget of \$2,630,433 was approved.

Rainbow Springs resident Joan Duggins told the Council it should drop its plans to appeal Judge Steven Rogers' recent ruling the 25 percent surcharge was inequitable.

Both Esch and Whitt defended the city's stance, with Esch telling the public the Benza vs. city of Dunnellon forced them into appealing because they are now asking for damages stemming from the surcharge.

"We cannot just sit back and accept that," Esch said.

Whitt was more direct.

"You're damn right were appealing it," he said.

In other action, the Council:

- Awarded a bid in the amount of \$999,968 with Daly and Zilch Inc. for Rio Vista wastewater treatment facility decommissioning.

- Approved a site plan for O'Reilly Auto Parts at 11423 N. Williams St.

Solution to puzzle on Page 16

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Meet-and-greet slated with political hopeful

There will be a meet-and-greet house party at 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, in Rainbow Springs Woodlands for Marihelen Wheeler, who is running against Ted Yoho for the District 3 House of Representatives seat. Those wishing to attend or for directions to the event should call Patricia at 465-5523.

Fero & Sons Insurance plans celebration

Fero & Sons Insurance, in conjunction with its 60th anniversary, will host a community picnic from 4:30 p.m. to dusk Thursday, Oct. 9, at Ernie Mills Park.

A deejay will play music, and hot dogs and sodas will be offered while supplies last. A bounce house will entertain the kids.

Riverland News

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OUR VIEW

City officials must address CRA deficiencies

There's no denying city officials have done a poor job of wisely investing Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) funds into worthwhile projects on the list of master projects since the program's inception years ago.

There is a lot of bitter history behind it, and deservedly so.

In the past four years alone, the city has unwisely used more than \$100,000 to pave an overflow parking lot; pumped \$300,000 into the now-defunct telecommunications system; bought a house for a now-vacant community development coordinator; and spent untold thousands more in salary expenditures. That's more than a half a million dollars laid to waste, with nothing to show for it.

What a shame too, especially as there are a number of projects that amount of money could be used for, most notably the extension of the bicycle trail into the heart of the downtown district.

Imagine if you will, improved sidewalks, street signage and other much-needed improvements to both East and West Pennsylvania Avenue.

The public, both the business community and the citizens, deserve answers.

We need to know how the city plans to make a wholehearted, sincere effort to begin implementing plans for improved sidewalks, signage and streetscaping projects that will not only benefit businesses, but the city and community as a whole.

The Council needs to dust off the plans for CRA funds and begin mapping out a workable solution to begin implementing projects. The public needs to see a comprehensive map of the current CRA district, how much they are currently worth and how much they might potentially generate with necessary improvements.

But to establish such a timeline, we need money to complete projects, which should make the most sense and allow us to get the most return for our money, or bang for the buck.

We need to know how officials plan to reimburse the CRA for the \$300,000 expenditure wasted on keeping Greenlight Communications afloat. It might have been legal for the Council to approve the

transfer of funds, but it certainly wasn't a proper decision. The Council and City Manager Eddie Esch need to make this happen, as a sign of good faith they are diligently working toward repairing the fractured divide between City Hall and the business community, easily the largest taxpayers in the city.

That means officials need to hold off on hiring a new community development director, or manager, if you will. However, if city officials are chomping at the bit to hire another employee, they need to consider finding a person who has experience writing grants, which could be paired with CRA money.

Sell the house. It was an absurd idea to purchase a house as office space for the community development director. Once the house is sold, those funds would be returned to the CRA account.

Quit diverting salaries from CRA funds. Esch recently admitted the CRA is an area he is not well-versed in and lacks the necessary expertise to manage. Yet, according to the most recent city budget, Esch claims 20 percent of his workday is spent managing the CRA, with nothing to show for it.

Replace the current CRA Advisory Board with business owners, residents and other individuals who understand the intricacies of a CRA, how it works, or how it is supposed to work, and the best approaches to investing funds. If necessary, have them speak to officials from the cities of Ocala, Crystal River and Mount Dora, to understand and see their respective plans in action. The current format of allowing the Council to serve as the advisory board was an ill-advised mistake.

We want a complete financial report of the CRA since its inception, and the complete amount of money the city has netted. In addition, we want to see a list of projects the city has completed in conjunction with the master plan and the cost of each project as well as salary expenditures throughout that time period.

In this era of transparency within the city government, that shouldn't be too much to ask, nor should it be a difficult request to fulfill.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Enough is enough already with city

It's a good thing I decided to relocate to the little town of Dunellon, Fla. Historic, quiet, time just to watch the rain fall or gas grow.

What I didn't realize was I live in Dunnellon by ZIP code only. When I found out, I could not run for council or mayor I was floored. Then finding each community has no representative on council, just amazing.

Yes folks, I live in

Rainbow Springs. I am happy to say that. Throughout the past several months, I have enjoyed the entertaining information on a weekly basis provided by this newspaper in regards to small-town politics. So many different issues and topics, you just can't say, "I'm bored."

What is so amazing is that the Rainbow Springs residents continually allow themselves to get bullied by

See **LETTERS** page 5

THE JERSEY GIRL

'Jersey Girl,' or country girl?

Hunting season is right around the corner. What does the "Jersey Girl" know about this? Well, it may surprise you to know that once upon a time I used to be a farm girl, lovingly referred to as a "redneck."

Well, I wasn't a natural country girl, just one by marriage. I was the Italian city-girl cheerleader who married the most

country of boys there could ever be. But that was a long time ago. One of our first dates consisted of turning watermelon vines. Since I had nice clothes on I borrowed some of his farmer gear. I was covered in sweat and dirt and had callouses on my hands when my dad came to pick me up. You should have seen the look on his face.

I remember he said something like, "I've spent my whole life taking care of you and right now you look like you have worked harder than any daughter of mine ever should."

Those weren't his exact words, but they were close. But in my 16-year-old mind I thought it was cool. So cool in fact that I married that farmer and we had two little yearlings named Amanda

and Alicia.

We moved into an old rock house on a 40-acre farm, complete with mice and critters. I soon learned to drive a tractor and bale hay. OK, anybody that's ever met me has got to find that funny. I hate to get my hands dirty or break a nail.

The first time I went over a railroad track on a tractor nobody had told me I needed to slow way down. I came up off the seat about 10 inches. That was pretty scary. One time we even rode our tractor to the store to get bread. You might be a redneck if ...

My mother-in-law, may she rest in peace, would be out in my garden around 5:30 a.m. and then at 9 o'clock when I got up she would tell me I missed the best vegetables because I was sleeping. I'd look out there and tell her, "no I didn't, they're still there."

I never adapted well to the whole farm wife thing.

She did teach me how to make homemade jelly and can some vegetables. But I was never really good at any of it. There are a few Southern recipes I've kept though thanks to her.

A couple of times a month they

would get up the cows. What does this mean, you ask? It means they either had to move the cows from one place to another or they had to pen the cows so they could give them shots or whatever.

Do you want to know what my job was in all of this? My job was to block a hole and keep the cow from getting out. I was supposed to throw up my hands and yell real loud and act like I wasn't a bit scared. OK, so I'm not that good an actress.

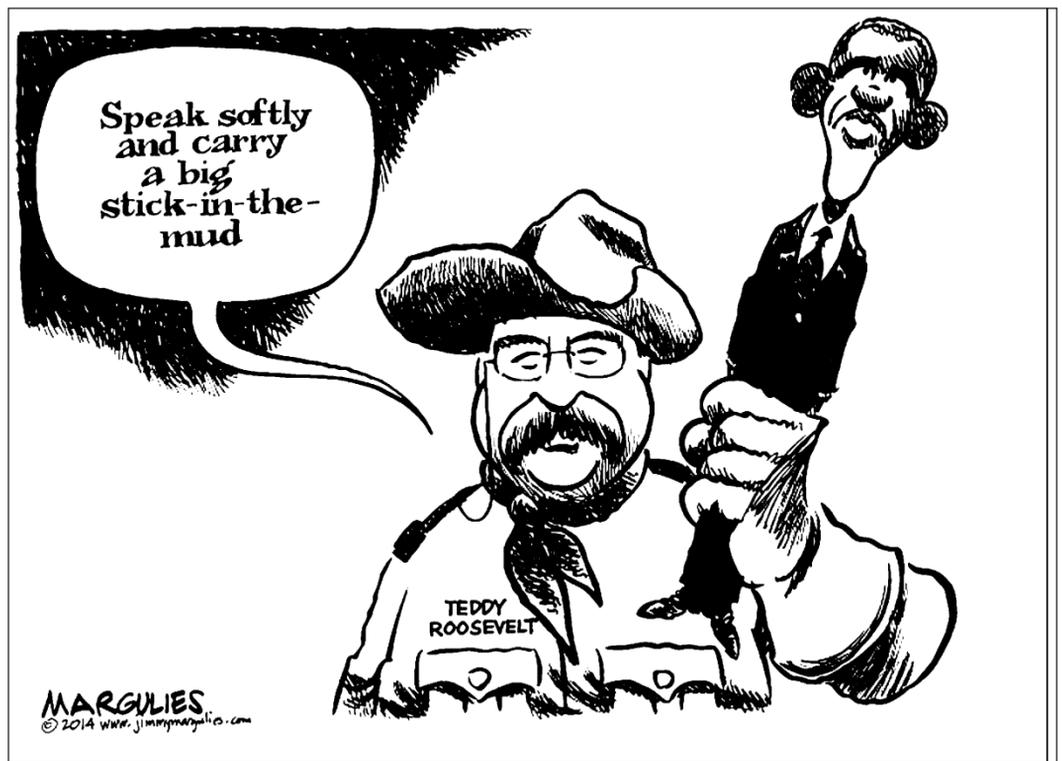
Probably the funniest story and the one that would get told most often happened pretty early on. I hadn't known my in-laws for very long and one night my sister-in-law asked me if I wanted to help her find the eggs.

I very innocently turned to her and said, "Sure, who hid them?"

Although I don't miss the farm, I do miss my sisters-in-law.

Hunting season was the hardest. I hated every minute of it. It would last from October to January. Since I was the only one who didn't actually hunt, I would stay at the camp with all the kids and cook lunch for 50-plus people, which was probably good since I didn't want to see Bambi get shot anyway.

See **JERSEY** page 5



TIME TO SMILE

Procedure pain in the rear

I don't care what side of the political spectrum you are on — and I have heard all the whining and complaining — I am happy to be on the National Health Insurance plan, or the Affordable Healthcare Act. I refuse to call it "Obamacare."

Have you noticed no one says "president" anymore? Especially the media. When did we lose respect for the job? It is Obama, Bush, Clinton — rarely a president before the name.

As someone who has gone without insurance for 15 years, I am thrilled to have it no matter what you call it. It took me five years to pay off my appendix operation. I could have bought a house for the price I paid for less than 24 hours in a hospital. The bill was enough to give me a heart attack, but I couldn't afford it.

I was born with a pre-existing condition. Trying to get insurance when you have a pre-existing condition is as bad as trying to get a date in Dunnellon. It was not happening. I did finally find a carrier that would insure me. The catch was I had to pay a monthly fee twice the rent of a Manhattan penthouse. The new National Health Plan does not penalize me for having a pre-existing condition and I am grateful.

Currently I am making up for lost time.

My body has been poked, prod-

ded, squeezed, pricked and even hit with a hammer. This week, I will have the biggest degradation as my favorite sister would say, I am getting my fanny booped. In plain speak I am having a colonoscopy.

I would rather have lunch with Jeff Bryan and City Manager Eddie Esch than have a colonoscopy. Better yet, a newscaster from Fox News and CNN would be more enjoyable than having my rear end probed.

To top it off — no pun intended, I am having an endoscopy on the same day. It will feel like a tube going in one end and coming out the other. My good friends, Robin and Phyllis, have volunteered to drive me and wait. That is another thing I am grateful for — good friends.

If all of that isn't enough to give you a pain in the butt, wait until they give you the prep instructions. It is seven pages long. Now, I am a college educated woman so I have partial use of my brain cells — the other part was lost in all the beer drinking I did.

My head was spinning after reading the first three pages. It was very contradictory. For example, foods I can eat two days prior to the operation include rice, pasta, eggs and tofu. Foods I cannot eat are rice, pasta and fruit. Make up your mind people.

On the day before the procedure, I have to drink a gallon of lemon/lime antifreeze also

known as the stuff that keeps you on the toilet for a day. Instructions say to drink the gallon one liter at a time. Talk about mixed messages. The metric system was new when I was in school. I wish I had paid more attention. Thankfully, soda bottles come in liters so I am safe. The only thing I can eat is Jello as long as it is not red, blue, purple or green. Orange is OK.

They have something against the color red. Every other paragraph has "DO NOT EAT ANYTHING RED." Yep, it is all capitalized. Along with the anti-freeze concoction, I have to take four Duclox stool softeners. Isn't that overkill? Guess what color those pills are? Yep, red!

Now to look at the size of me you would not believe I only eat two meals a day. Doctors never believe me, but I don't eat that much. I have GERD, so I rarely eat after 5 p.m.

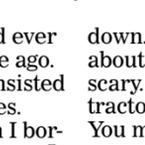
Everything gives me indigestion, hence the endoscopy to check for esophageal cancer, which my mom died from. The months of steroids probably didn't help either. Can you believe water makes me burp? I am one of those people who inhale food. Being the youngest in a family of nine you had to act fast or you would go hungry. Bad habits stay with you.

In fact, I am burping now and I haven't eaten breakfast. When food makes you ill, eating becomes less pleasurable. Except for an occasional chocolate bar or piece of cake, my diet is

See **SMILE** page 5



Audrey Beem



Kathleen Wallace

LETTERS

continued from page 4

the little guy. With a household size of more than twice the city of Dunnellon, why Rainbow Springs just doesn't incorporate and build in the amenities is beyond me.

A post office box for a legal defense fund donation ... what? How about putting the money to better use? You already have police and fire services courtesy of the county. There are plenty of commercial opportunities. The road expansion of State Road 40 and U.S. 41 on the horizon, the time is right to smile and wave to the city of Dunnellon. Let them wallow in their hotel, parking meters and bringing back red-light cameras.

Wish them all the best as signs are hammered in "Welcome to the Village of Rainbow Springs." First order of business, buy back the water system. Maybe Dunnellon can use the \$999,000 to upgrade their water and sewer system instead of decommission Rio Vista.

Great suggestions, ideas and visions I would never share with the current City Council. They are too involved in self-justifying their positions.

I have gone through 50 pages of the city budget and easily shaved \$500K from it; 176 pages is not impressive, just a lot of numbers.

I was glad to see there are others that know how to read a budget and see where the numbers don't add up. Uncle Fred and Aunt Ethel are going to have to be off the cell phone family plan. Mending fences and taking gloves off is just a waste of time as the big picture had dictated.

The biggest question – it is going to sting – does the Rainbow Springs community have the guts, willingness and fortitude to become a stand-alone town, utilize current resources and develop new ones?

Within this community, there are former CEOs, engineers, creative professionals – myself included – who know how to get things done.

The need for an outside consulting firm would not be required. The key is who wants to truly get involved, get it done and still be able to watch the rain and grass grow.

Dominic Battista,
Rainbow Springs

City should cut staff, not add more to it

I read the city is going to, unbelievably, hire an information technology manager and a community development manager.

Perhaps if the information manager had been on board the city would have gotten the information that the former city attorney was, to use the legal phrase, ripping them off. How extensive is the Dunnellon computer system it needs a full time employee? No consideration of outsourcing locally? It's business as usual.

Does the city not realize that pretty soon there will be no community to manage unless change comes quick? Responsible people are urging consolidation and perhaps a merger with the county resources and the Council wants to hire someone to further develop local government, staffing and cost. The total cost of these two new positions will overlap revenue generated from the tax increase.

Addressing the city's concern about the \$23,000 annual cost of keeping up the cemetery I would note that more residents moved to the cemetery than the city since the 2000 census.

In addition, no one has moved from the cemetery that we know of, while Dunnellon has lost population, a rare feat in fast-growing Florida. Perhaps

it would be more prudent to hire a cemetery development manager as that area is at least growing, plus there have been no complaints.

I would like to quell the rumor that some of the more recent additions to the cemetery were longtime residents who expired after they found how much money was wasted on Greenlight or a Rainbow Springs utility water irrigation user who got his first city water bill.

I barely survived reading the unneeded, ridiculous and infamous "On the River" newsletter the city put out when they had the greatly needed communication manager, even though my heart fluttered as I read the city's explanations.

The City Council acts as if it has no control over the actions of the city manager so it is strictly up to him to hire and increase city staffing. Where does the money come from to pay for new positions?

One thing the city has historically learned it does not need to monitor; demand rationale or oversee the actions of the city manager. It will all work out as in the past. Does the city hire a manager or a dictator with no accountability?

I hope the city manager does not decide to hire a publicity agent or a Dunnellon poet laureate.

In the legal lexicon, there is a phrase and argument call but for. In essence, it means but for the actions of a certain liable party all that transpired afterward would not have happened. Certainly, but for the bad decision making and lack of oversight since Greenlight, the utility debacle and absurd overpayment of legal fees would not have happened.

Certainly, the Rainbow Springs lawsuit would not have happened if the city had just simply charged Rainbow Springs the same high utility rates as the city residents.

To think and assert that all parties are equal in culpability is just wrong. It would be akin to blaming Ukraine for letting Russia invade them. Ukraine like Rainbow Springs just happened to be the neighbor of an entity who wanted their resources.

What recourse did Rainbow Springs have? We are not a member of NATO either. I am just glad there is no state grant for surplus tanks or Dunnellon would get one, buy a tank and hire a commander to secure the water plant.

Why not? Grant money is free. We all know it as it comes from either Cary, Hugh or Ulysses, but certainly the Grants are generous.

Would it not be fair and prudent to wait until the two new city council members take office before major decisions are made? Dunnellon needs a new start and new outlook. It now has a chance to get one if it changes

and makes tough decisions. So far it has not.

Steve Swett,
Dunnellon

Bread-and-butter planning is needed

So the city council of Dunnellon invited someone from Inverness to brag about the great job that city had done to its declining downtown, fantastic!

The difference between that city and ours is that they had a downtown to renovate and they implemented their ideas while we spent money hiring consultant after consultant on pipe dreams and now as if some stroke of genius Dunnellon wants to dust off a 10-year old plan that didn't work before and now try it again.

Some folks might ask why Dunnellon is bypassing citizen input. A feeble attempt for citizen input was made by Dunnellon many years back when the town put out a survey asking citizens what they wanted, the people responded, but nothing was done.

After the second and third survey for the same questions, nothing was even attempted by Dunnellon. The people stopped responding knowing that their wishes had fallen on deaf ears.

Dunnellon blamed the citizens for having a lack of interest in the town's welfare and it decided for itself that it knew what was best for Dunnellon and the pipe dreams began.

I sat through some of those pipe dreams and that's exactly what they were – pipe dreams. One notion was to stretch an iron archway across West Pennsylvania Avenue touting the historic district. Another was to turn the historic district into an "artists colony," where tourists could meander through the back yards of the locals and ask questions as the artist plied their trades – first problem, no artists.

Second problem, part of the idea also including removing the fences, garages and sheds, putting pathways through the backyards of the area. No consideration was taken as to the safety or liability of property or to the fact that the folks

living there need their garages and sheds. Nearly a month of meetings had taken place and the citizens rejected the ludicrous plan. Eventually the idea was scrapped and Dunnellon was, to put it nicely, miffed.

The people of Dunnellon have simple wants: it's jobs, housing and local entertainment.

In the first survey many years ago, the people asked for a movie house, a skateboard park and a centrally located children's park. When the high school's indoor basketball court was still standing, the citizens wanted it repaired so as to have games in town and the local businesses were fine with this knowing that after the games folks would stay in town to eat and shop. The people even thought that big building would make a great civic center, but no, Dunnellon had loftier dreams and the old place was torn down.

Many citizens wanted the old fire station renovated by tearing down the wooded back half and replacing it with a two-story concrete or brick building leaving the quaint front façade as a throwback to old times. The citizens also thought that the house that sat next to the fire department would make a great office space or housing for the firefighters, but that didn't happen. The people wanted the town to do things that would keep our families together, but instead Dunnellon ignored its people needs for some pie-in-sky dreams.

Get real Dunnellon! Finish Blue Run Park and the cycling trail, they both need better access and more parking. If the folks that come to these two places are made to feel welcome, they will choose to stay in town longer to eat and shop, never mind about the KP Hole or the state park, they aren't in Dunnellon.

The idea is keep people here. Look at Swampy's when the tubers, cyclist and kayakers are around. Wouldn't it be nice if all those came cruising into other parts of town. How about jobs? We have boats, but no places to build or fix them or how about some-

thing for the RVers or motorcycles?

I care about Dunnellon and I'm real about what Dunnellon needs. We are a town with a shrinking population and a rising tax bill. I honestly believe that the City Council has no idea as to how many taxpaying homeowners actually live in town. On my street, several of the homeowners have passed away, leaving their houses empty.

In our area, small businesses open and close quicker than the ink can dry on their leases and others are forced to close due to illness with no one to replace them. Many of our residents can't leave, because either way they have no place to go or they have invested too much, in what they have to walk away.

Honestly if the city wants money let it become a landlord again and stop taxing the life out of us. Many cities have public housing where the income is steady and on time. If the city wants to it can hang onto the land, put a house on it and charge rent. If the city had 10 houses, at \$800 per month, that would be \$8,000 a month income or \$96,000 a year; the higher the monthly rent, the higher the monthly income on these 10 houses and I'm sure the city has more than 10 lots going to waste.

If the City Council is serious about doing something for Dunnellon, the first thing they have to do is get out of their chairs, open the City Hall doors and go for a walk – not a drive by, but a real walk through every corner of the town. Let them really see what shape this town is in and let them use their brains to think like a tourist, a parent and a resident.

Let them see the vacant lots and houses, let them see the empty stores where dreams were created and quickly lost. We don't need pie-in-the-sky – we need bread and butter.

A.C. Rosier,
Dunnellon

JERSEY

continued from page 4

You might be a red-neck if you know how to make venison stew, venison steak, venison chili and venison potpie.

I did shoot a gun once. It knocked me on my butt and bruised my shoulder for a week.

I haven't been on a tractor, worn camouflage or been down to a hunting camp since 1990. I dislike shooting, woods, ticks and bears. Would you believe I can't even eat venison now?

You know that saying you can take the girl out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the girl. All I have to say is please, for everyone's sake, keep me out of the country.

SMILE

continued from page 4

pretty good. My size comes from my lack of exercise.

I stopped my daily walk due to a leg problem, so all the weight I lost came back and it brought its friends with it.

So, here I am 48 hours before my procedure and looking forward to a day of eggs and water. Wait, it didn't say anything about chemically modified potatoes. That little canister of Pringles looks good. I rarely buy junk food, but I was in the mood for salt the other day. Chips are a big indigestion maker, but about every six months or so I break down and buy some. Fried food and I no longer speak. We sit at opposite ends of the table at any gathering.

My next medical adventure will be a mammogram. I figure the price of my insurance will sky rocket at renewal time, so I better do everything now. As my grandmother, Mal, used to say, "It's time to (explicative) or get off the pot."

She died of colon cancer so I believe her.

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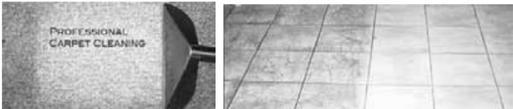
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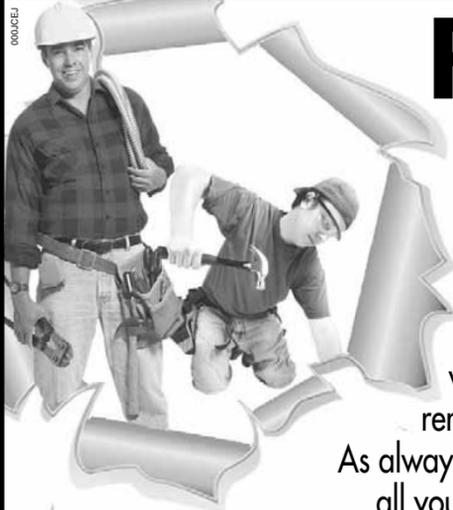
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ABOVE: Ralph Lamb, a World War II veteran and former POW, speaks with Major Gen. John J. Broadmeadow prior to Friday night's ceremonies. **BELOW:** Lamb told the audience he hopes to celebrate his 100th birthday at "The Ride Home."

BATTLE

continued from page 1

who worked in anti-aircraft artillery, mostly 50-caliber machine guns. When he arrived at the Third Armored Division, most of the 50-caliber guns were installed on half-tracks.

"I could take them apart, fix them and put them back together in a matter of minutes," he said.

Bad break

To this day, Lamb can still remember how he broke his leg in December 1944. The then-private along with his unit were scrambling to avoid a barrage of mortar fire when he and several of his comrades scaled a 7-foot wall and leapt to the ground, with a full field pack and a gun in tow.

A week removed from breaking his right leg, doctors sent Lamb back to the front line, despite the then-25-year-old questioning how he could walk with a broken leg and severely swollen ankle.

"I told the field doctors I couldn't walk, and they just asked me, 'How do you know if you don't try?'" he recalled about the December 1944 conversation with the field doctor. "The doc said I was OK, so I went back to my outfit with a broken leg."

Lamb regrouped with his unit, which was part of the Third Armored Division, to find out they were preparing to provide support to the 101st Airborne in the Ardennes Forest during the Battle of the Bulge. As Lamb's unit made its way into Belgium, they were overrun by a division of Germans, a week after his return to the front line.

Along with his unit, Lamb, and his broken leg, were forced to make a two-week, 579-mile march from Belgium to Neubrandenburg, Germany. Lamb knew better than to attempt to address his injury with the German army. During his time as a POW, Lamb was held at Stalag XII-A in Hesse, Germany. Shortly after arriving at Stalag XII-A, Lamb was one of 100 men selected to help repair a railroad bed located in Werdau, Germany. He would spend his remaining time as a POW there. All told, Lamb spent 144 days as a POW during World War II.

"You didn't complain when you had a gun pointed at your head," the 95-year-old Lamb said of the journey into Germany, noting it wasn't the last time a German would point a weapon at either him or other members of his unit.

During his time in Werdau, Germany, Lamb and the others chosen to work on the rail bed were forced to work Mondays through Fridays in a cotton mill; then on Saturdays and Sundays, they worked to help repair a much-needed rail bed for the German army.

Food was just as scarce in the POW Camps as it was on their forced march into Germany, Lamb said.

"We worked for this old German in that mill, we weren't working for the army," Lamb said. "So we complained one day about not being given enough food to eat. That old man pulled out a gun and pointed it at us. We couldn't



understand what he was saying, but we got the message loud and clear: we went back to work. There was no use arguing when you had a gun pointed at your head."

Because there was no breakfast, except a lone cup of coffee Lamb described as "miserable," or lunch, he and his fellow POWs made do with what they were given, which was very little. Typically, the Germans provided a bushel of either potatoes or turnips for the 100 men to share.

"We made soup, if that's what you want to call it," Lamb said, explaining how they stretched their food to feed the POWs. "I can tell you I didn't eat any turnips when I returned to the States."

Freedom

It wasn't until late April when Lamb and the other members of his unit were liberated from their POW Camp in Werdau, Germany. "The Germans were leaving in a hurry," he said. "Our guys came in, provided aid and left us there."

With no means to defend themselves, Lamb said he and the other men remaining at the camp broke into City Hall to find whatever weapons, ammunition and other supplies necessary to defend themselves.

Stateside return

After the war ended, Lamb opted not to return to his native Pennsylvania, settling in Orlando with his wife and son, Ralph "Buddy," who he'd last seen prior to his deployment to the European Theatre.

Lamb secured a job with the city of Orlando as a plumber, and worked for the city until his retirement in 1985. He remembers his first months working for the city when he had to ask his supervisor to send him to a different job site.

"I had a hard time adjusting when I got back," he said, noting eating turnips wasn't the lone problem. "The first job site I was on the supervisor was a big German. He had a very, very thick accent. I came back and asked the supervisor in the office not to send me back to that site, to send me elsewhere, because if he sent me back I told him I was going to kill that guy with a shovel."

"Now, that was right after I had returned. You begin to lose that animosity after a few years. You learn to live with whoever you're around, but it takes a little time."

Lamb does not consider himself a hero despite his valiant service during World War II.

"The true heroes are the ones who didn't make it back," he said. "They are the real heroes."

TIME TO SMILE

History is critical part of knowledge

OK, so it's confirmed. I did learn something in high school. I wasn't so sure, and I imagine my teachers had their doubts as well.

Dave Hartley was a big jolly fellow; a good teacher and a good guy. He always seemed intensely interested in teaching history to a bunch of high school students who were intensely interested in what they would do after school. He had a tough assignment.

Personally, I did a lot of studying in his class. I had a back row seat and I found his class an excellent time to study my blocking assignments for our option series against a five-man front.

It must have been in that window of time between football season and baseball season that Hartley taught us the "Burnt Toast Theory of History."

Basically, his burnt toast theory theorizes someone could be in a bad mood because his toast was burnt, and could choose a course of action that would change history. He said something about Napoleon having a gall bladder attack at Waterloo and how that could have changed history. We were high school students and had little interest in some short guy who had a belly-ache in like 1813.

Perhaps I only remembered his theory because his class preceded algebra. The algebra teacher had burnt toast pretty much every day, and it affected my ability to learn math in the future. I got the point and it has profoundly affected the way I viewed history from that point forward.

My understanding of the burnt toast theory is the reason that I have the utmost respect for the greatest generation.

History is fixed; it's already happened. We can study and debate who did what when and how, but it's done. We were destined to defeat the Nazis and build the bomb before anyone else.

Not according to the burnt toast theory. According to the theory, history was not a fixed object; it could have happened differently.

According to the burnt toast theory, we were exceedingly lucky at Pearl Harbor. What if the carriers had been in port? Pearl Harbor was in disarray and defenseless. Yamamoto could have launched

another wave and destroyed the fuel supply at Pearl Harbor, leaving the entire west coast defenseless. He chose not to because launching another wave would leave his fleet without air cover and there was at least one American carrier out there somewhere. But toast says we got lucky.



Dwight Porter

According to the burnt toast theory, the landings at D-Day may have failed if German Gen. Erwin Rommel and the 21st Panzer Division's commander, Lt. Gen. Edgar Feuchtinger had not been taking a little vacation with their mistresses.

If Hitler had not had burnt toast and decided inexplicably to shift his bombing campaign from RAF airfields to bombing London, the RAF could have been grounded in a matter of weeks.

The World War II era was a challenging and dark time for America. The fight required the service of an entire generation of young men. The battle was fought on the home front also. From buying war bonds to recycling, the folks on the home front suffered from the rationing of almost everything to the constant fear of being called upon by the loneliest, perhaps most dreaded, man in the country, the telegraph delivery man. He was to make his delivery five times in the Dunnellon community during the war to inform us our men would not be returning.

It is important to share with today's young people the sacrifice of the greatest generation. Without a lesson in history, our nation's current students will have a skewed perception. You see, they are too intensely interested in what's happening after school and their viewpoint on war is drastically different from ours.

To today's youth, war is a glorified video game. Drone strikes controlled from air-conditioned offices hundreds of miles away.

Successful missions can be uploaded to YouTube and posted on Facebook for everyone to check out. Interestingly enough, the real video games are many times more graphic and destructive, but you can always hit reset if your tank gets blown up.

Yes, today's generation, more than ever, needs a Mr. Hartley to get through to them where we came from as a nation.

While the burnt toast theory tells us we were fortunate that Gen. Rommel was womanizing during the D-Day Invasion, it took real "boots on the ground" for the invasion to work.

Dunnellon's own Mr. Herb Meredith was there piloting his landing craft onto Omaha Beach and the very real German fire that took the life of one of his mates.

Mr. Woody Ulm's boots were on the ground on Pacific Islands, carving airfields from the jungle with the Seabees.

Mr. Ralph Lamb was there to serve at the Battle of the Bulge and was forced to march more than 500 miles as a POW. Lamb's story hits home with me because my Uncle James was a POW on that same march. Except Uncle James has no boots on the ground. He made the march barefooted after someone stole his boots while he was sleeping.

Mr. Hartley's burnt toast theory teaches us that things could have been different. It took everything the greatest generation had — and a few good breaks along the way — to prevail.

Without the unified effort of all Americans and a little burnt toast the Japanese and Germans could have been divvying up America the way we ultimately did Europe. The Japanese take the west, and the Germans everything east of the Mississippi.

Give the Italians the leftovers, the desert southwest, and maybe toss in North Dakota to keep them quiet.

Mull that over a few minutes and then seek out a World War II veteran to thank him for his service.

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OBITUARY

Peter James Kuka II

Peter James Kuka II, of Rainbow Springs (Dunnellon), passed away on August 27, 2014, at the age of 71 years from a sudden illness. Peter was born in El Paso, Texas and moved to Miami, Florida in 1955. He attended Miami Palmetto High School, Millsaps College, and Florida Atlantic University. He was employed by Bendix Avionics (later Allied Signal) in purchasing, where he worked with engineers to develop the first aircraft avoidance radar still used on airplanes today. He retired in 1997 as Supervisor of Purchasing. Moving to Rainbow Springs in 1998, he was employed at the Rainbow Springs Country Club Pro Shop for 12 years. He also served on the Vestry of Holy Faith Episcopal Church, Dunnellon, which he attended for many years.

He is survived by his wife, Suzie; daughter, Shawn Williams; and granddaughter, Morgan Williams, both of Chapel Hill, North Carolina; an aunt, Joan Kuka Gillespie of Missoula, Montana; and many cousins. His father, Leonard J. Kuka, and mother, Phyllis Marian Kuka, preceded him in death.

A funeral service will be held at 11a.m. at Holy Faith Episcopal Church in Blue Cove on Saturday, September 27, 2014, with a reception following in Faith Hall. In lieu of flowers, the family requests gifts be sent to The Salvation Army (Ocala), the Wounded Warrior Project, and the Holy Faith Food Pantry. Arrangements handled by Roberts Funeral Home of Dunnellon, robertsof.dunnellon.com.

ACCOLADE

continued from page 1

personally deliver the medal to McLaughlin the day of the event.

So with the evening's festivities well underway, McLaughlin took the stage to share Lamb's story about his capture during the Battle of the Bulge. That's when she also shared that the World War II veteran had yet to receive his POW Service Medal, but the 69-year, 4-month and 13-day wait was about to end for Lamb. According to records shared with Congressman Yoho's office, a spokeswoman said Lamb is the oldest surviving POW to be awarded his medal.

As Lamb was escorted to the stage, the thunderous applause from the more than 200 in attendance shook the rafters above. Lamb showed he still has plenty of spunk.

"Now, there's no cotton pickin' way I'm the oldest," he told the crowd, who responded with laughter and applause, as his medal was pinned on his jacket.

Lamb said he hopes he's able to attend at least five more of "The Ride Home" events.

"I think it would be enjoyable to celebrate the big 1-0-0 here," he said, holding his hand up to show the number five. "If the good Lord allows me, I plan on being here."

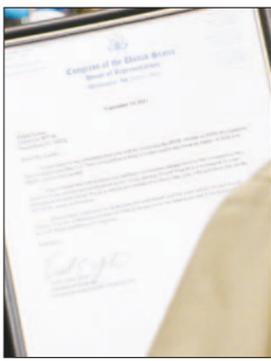
Following the medal presentation, Lamb was given an American flag on behalf of Congressman Yoho as well as a proclamation, thanking the former veteran for his service during World War II. Lamb

was taken aback by the attention.

"I'm very surprised," said Lamb, also a Purple Heart recipient. "I'm surprised (my son and granddaughter) were here, too."

It was a moment his granddaughter hadn't planned on missing when McLaughlin shared the details about the presentation. Marshall said it's only been in the past five to six years she's learned more about her grandfather's service in the Army, his days in World War II as well as a journal he started when he was captured in Belgium.

"I was stunned when they said he'd never got his medal," she said, noting it was in the past 10 years he'd been presented with his Purple



Photos by JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News
ABOVE; Ralph Lamb received a U.S. flag flown over the U.S. capitol and a proclamation from Congressman Ted Yoho's office at Friday night's ceremony recognizing national POW/MIA Day.
LEFT: Lamb reads over the proclamation.

BRIDGE SCORES

Rainbow Springs Country Club Bridge Results from Sept. 16:

Winners: 1. Debby Rodriguez, 6,450; 2. Luise Pellett, 5,070; 3. Brian Norris, 4,490.

Slams: Jean Bozak and Brian Norris, 6 Hearts, Made 6.

Results from Sept. 9:

Winners: 1. Debby Rodriguez, 5,410; 2. Jean Bozak, 4,820; 3. Evelean Clarkson, 4,260. No slams.

Results from Sept. 2:

Winners: 1. Gary Roosenberg, 5,700; 2. Luise Pellett, 4,220; 3. Mary Jones, 4,190. No slams.

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OUT TO PASTOR Pastor muses about what he misses about summer

Summer is over and winter is beginning to give us her cold shoulder. The only way I can really handle winter is the hope of summer coming again in all her warm embraces. I can only take the shivers for so long.

In our home, there is a divide over the subject. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage lives for winter and I live for summer. How two people who can be so opposite and still live together harmoniously is one of the mysteries of matrimonial bliss. I endure her complaining about how hot it is during the summer and she somehow endures my shivering throughout the winter. And boy, do I shiver.

I am not so sure what it is about winter that is so fascinating for her. Maybe it is because she gets to wear more clothing than she can during the summer. Or, maybe she just likes the cold. That is not exactly true because once I gave her a cold shoulder and I have been paying for that ever since. She does have that cold stare when I am in trouble, but that comes during the summer as well as the rest of the year.

Maybe she likes winter because in the middle of winter is Christmas. If anybody loves Christmas, it is my wife. She begins her Christmas planning in January and knows exactly what she is going to buy throughout the year. I think it has something to do with when things go on sale or something like that. Personally, and do not let this get back to her, I think it is just an excuse to go shopping. I will not say she is a Shopaholic, but give her a coupon and she is off to the mall. You did not hear it from me.

Also during the winter season is Thanksgiving where my wife outdoes herself in making Thanksgiving dinner for all the family. She makes enough for an army and out of deep respect for her, I eat like an army. Actually, I eat until I hear that little whisper from the other end of the table, "Don't you think you have had enough?" What she does not understand is, when I am eating I am not thinking.

As for me, I enjoy summer and all the laziness associated with summertime. All those lazy, crazy days of summer were designed for people just like me. When it comes to lazy and crazy, I am the expert. I can remember years ago when I was doing something and my wife thought it was a little out of line, she would say, "Are you acting crazy?" She does not say that anymore because she has concluded, and rightly so, that I am not an actor. If I were acting, she is sure I would get an Oscar.

However, something about summer makes a person slow down a little bit and not be in such a hurry. One of my excuses is that it is too hot to do anything today. I love that excuse because my wife always agrees. I cannot use that excuse in winter for obvious reasons. According to her, an activity will warm me up. I have never warmed up to that idea.

I like summer because there are so many fun opportunities to get together with family. Every summer we go and spend a week with my son and his family, which is one of the highlights of the summer. I only have one week out of the year to spoil his children so I

try to make the best of it.

If I had the ability to manipulate seasons, I would make sure that 11 months out of the year it would be summer. I would have to give one month to my wife for winter, but I would only give her one month. That is about all I can handle. Summer is a time to enjoy the nature God has created. It is

wonderful to see green grass and green leaves on the trees and watch blossoms turn into full-fledged flowers.

What could be better than sitting on the back porch with a tall glass of iced lemonade watching the sunset? I love hearing the crickets in full concert and that only happens during the summer. Here in Florida we have little frogs that think they are crickets and chime in adding their voices to the evening music.

Did I mention picnics?

What would summer be without a picnic? In my mind, a picnic is an excuse to overindulge in the fine art of stuffing yourself. The picnic is a little different so that somebody cannot query me with, "Don't you think you've had enough?" The "Food Whisperer" is not allowed at picnics. After all, at a church picnic it is imperative that I sample every dish brought to the picnic. I do not want to leave anybody out on this. The picnic is the time to let down your hair, if you have any, and just enjoy food and fellowship.

It amazes me how fast time flies when you are not paying attention. King Solomon understood this when he wrote, "To every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

One man's winter is another man's summer and the joy of life is learning to appreciate what you may not really like.



Rev. James Snyder

Church announces fall concert series

Dunnellon Presbyterian Church has announced its schedule for its Fall Concert Series. All events begin at 3 p.m. Sundays and are free and open to the public. Concerts will be at the Dunnellon Presbyterian Church at 20641 Chestnut St.

Flowing Sounds will perform Sunday, Oct. 19. Flowing Sounds blends stringed instruments and

woodwinds together. This chamber ensemble will present a string trio performing classical music, a string and woodwind classical duet, as well as two double basses performing popular arrangements.

The Dunnellon Community Chorale will perform Sunday, Nov. 9, presenting its second annual "Tribute to Veteran's" concert. Under the direction of

Jeanne Wolfanger and accompanied by Connie Hart. The American Legion Post 58 color guard will open the program and guest performers, The Shade Tree Pickers, will entertain with their traditional American instruments and vocals.

The Central Florida Master Choir will perform Sunday, Dec. 21. Under the direction of Harold W.

McSwain Jr., the Central Florida Master Choir will present its annual Christmas program performing the "Magnificat" by Pergolesi, as well as "Mass in G major" by Franz Schubert along with various versions of "Hallelujah/Alleluia." The singers will be accompanied by pianist GayLyn Capitano and The New Moon String Ensemble.

Post No. 58 members visit veterans at assisted-living center



Special to the Riverland News

Four members of American Legion Post No. 58 visited veterans Sept. 12 at Pacifica Assisted Living Center. Following introductions, prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, cookies and refreshments were enjoyed by all. Life honorary membership cards to Legion Post No. 58 were presented to each veteran.

CHURCH EVENTS

Church schedules monthly fish fry

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, on the corner of U.S. 41 and State Road 40 East, will host its monthly fish fry from 4 to 6 p.m. the first Friday monthly through May. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children.

Blessing of the Animals scheduled Oct. 5

Father J. James Gerhart will conduct the sixth annual "Blessing of the Animals" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5, in the Holy Faith Episcopal Church Pet Memory Garden, Blue Cove, Dunnellon. All area pet owners are welcome.

Catholic church plans Latin dance Oct. 18

The Spanish community of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church will

sponsor a Latin dance from 7 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Oct. 18, in the Parish Hall. Music will be provided by "Los Sabrosos de Ocala." Join in for a night of Latin dancing. Tickets are \$10 per person.

For information, call Lilly at 489-3166.

Baptist church plans Fall Festival

First Baptist Church of Dunnellon will have a Fall Festival from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8. Table space is available to vendors for a donation of \$20 each. There will be pie judging contests, a pie eating contest, live music and food. Entry fee is \$3 or a household item (one per adult) such as canned good, toothpaste, dish soap, school supplies, etc.

For information, call

Donna Mast at 229-0229.

Romeo Baptist hosts Bible study

Romeo Baptist Church will host a Fall Bible study at 6 p.m. Oct. 12 to 14. The topic

will be "Character Studies" in the Old Testament and is open to all family members. Romeo Baptist is north of Dunnellon 8.5 miles, off U.S. 41, on Southwest 5th Place.

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Sixties-style celebration

Holy Faith Episcopal Church hosted a 50th anniversary celebration of its founding with a "Sixties" Country Fair Saturday on its church ground.

There were free games, pony rides, a petting zoo and more for children. Adults enjoyed an antique car show. Food was served at 1960s prices. Members of the church offered tours of the Memory Garden, Pet Memory Garden and Faith Hall.

On Sunday, the congregation had an anniversary service, which was as close to the original as possible without any lay people doing any of the readings.

Clockwise from above left: Haley Bandy, 9; Ladonna Houchins, 8; Nicholas Ginos, 10; and Ashley Ginos, 12, enjoy participating in a game during Saturday's festivities at Holy Faith Episcopal Church.

Five-year-old Andrew Bierce enjoyed the petting zoo offered for youths at the church celebration.

Kylee Thomas, 4, enjoys a pony ride.

Among the games and face paintings offered to youths, 8-year-old Joseph Folden also took time to saddle up for a pony ride.

Haley Bandy enjoys her time playing on a swing set under the watchful eye of a volunteer.

Photos by JESSE ROBERTS/
For the Riverland News



DHS aims to spoil Pirates' homecoming festivities

Harris: Team's focus is controlling what it needs to do

DUNNELLON AT CRYSTAL RIVER

- **WHEN/WHERE:** 7 p.m. Friday at Earl Bramlett Stadium, Crystal River.
- **RECORDS:** Dunnellon 3-1 overall, 1-0 District 5A-5; Crystal River 2-1, 0-0.
- **LAST WEEK:** The Tigers slipped past Santa Fe, 19-14, to post their third straight victory and win their district opener. The Pirates had their bye, but are coming into the game having lost two straight, including a 21-20 loss to Lecanto.
- **RADIO:** WOW 104.9 FM.
- **PLAYERS TO WATCH:** Offensively, Dante White, a senior, and Kobie Jones, a junior, split time at quarterback. The pair combined for 182 yards passing, but White had both scoring passes to Darion Baker, who caught a season-high five passes for 53 yards. Both White and Jones threw an interception. RB Rudy Sinflorant paced his team with 76 yards on 13 carries.

JEFF BRYAN

Riverland News

Coming off a tough, physical victory against Santa Fe for its District 5A-5 opener, Dunnellon coach Price Harris knows all too well what his Tigers are expecting Friday night at Crystal River: another tough, physical contest against the Pirates, a team with highly skilled position players, who have plenty of speed.

Add in a few additional factors, such as it is Crystal River's homecoming, the Pirates are coming off a tough 21-20 loss to Lecanto and the storied history between Crystal River and Dunnellon throughout the years.

Even Harris understands what to expect Friday at Earl Bramlett Stadium, and it's exactly what the first-year Tiger skipper has been stressing to his team.

"It's going to be fun," said

Harris, whose team has won three straight since dropping their season-opener to West Port. "We don't have to worry about the distraction of homecoming; it's a little motivation for us."

Harris is aware the Pirates 1-2 record is deceiving.

"We talked a long time ago about our goals, which are to try and make the playoffs," Harris said. "We have to take

See **SPOIL** page 15

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

School attendance critical in child's education, future

Parents we need your help. Dunnellon Middle School is reaching out to you and the community to help us instill in our children, of all ages, the importance of coming to school every day and arriving on time.

Absences from school can quickly add up to academic trouble. Chronic absenteeism, missing 10 percent or more of school for any reason, excused or unexcused, by the sixth-grade, is a leading indicator a student will drop out of high school.

Parents, if students don't come to school daily they can't benefit from what is taught in the classroom daily. We want DMS students to be successful and a big step toward success is to ensure your child is in school every day.

The first school dance of 2014-15 was a huge success. It was well attended. The students were great and everyone had a good time. We would like to thank all of you who helped with the dance. Without your assistance, special evening activities like this simply would not take place.

It takes a group effort to organize and implement a function for more than 100 students. The profits generated from the dance go right back into DMS. The canned food items will be used to prepare food baskets for needy families in November and December.

October at DMS is shaping up to be a very busy month for our Tigers. We are hearing their roar.

Throughout the month of October, we will have free before- and after-school tutoring every school day

with the exceptions of Wednesday, Oct. 1, and Oct. 29, due to early release days, and Friday, Oct. 24, because there is no school due to a teacher workday.

All students are welcome to join either or both sessions of daily tutoring. Parents, please complete the tutoring parent permission form and return it to Building No. 1, the front desk. Tutoring is an excellent opportunity for our students to obtain assistance and enhance their academic skills.

The Salvation Army will host its annual application for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday assistance. Those who are interested may apply Monday, Oct. 6, at Peace Lutheran Church at 7201 U.S. 41.

To parents and guardians of eighth-grade students in Marion County Public Schools, your child may be eligible for a college scholarship through Take Stock in Children. The program helps students from low-income families achieve academic and personal success by providing them with volunteer mentors and college scholarships.

Take Stock is a statewide program, funded locally through the Public Education Foundation. Students attending Marion County Public Schools are selected through a competitive process during their eighth-grade year.

Upon high school graduation, students who have completed the requirements of the Take Stock program will receive a two-year college tuition scholarship. To be eligible to apply, your child must meet the following criteria:

- 2.5 grade point

See **SCHOOL** page 15



Delbert Smallridge
DMS Principal

DMS staff recognizes Sickle Cell Anemia Awareness Month



ABOVE: September is Sickle Cell Anemia Awareness Month, and the call went out to show bold lips and spread the word about the disease. The Dunnellon Middle School faculty and staff showed their support for Keturah Woodley, daughter of DMS staff member Michelle Reese. Female teachers wore their boldest lipstick, and the men got "lip prints" on their cheeks (stickers). Approximately 140,000 Americans live with sickle cell disease and an estimated 2 million Americans have the sickle cell trait.

BELOW: DMS Principal Delbert Smallridge gets his "bold lips."



Fly Fishing expo planned in Crystal River

Special to the Riverland News

Citrus County Visitors & Convention Bureau announces Bob Clouser of Clouser Deep Minnow fame and Wanda Taylor, nationally acclaimed fly casting instructor, will each lead four skill improvement classes at the 2014 Florida Fly Fishing Expo on Oct. 10 and 11 at Plantation on Crystal River.

The nonprofit Florida Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF-FL) sponsors the event. It features more than 50 fly fishing clinics, classes and workshops conducted by noted charter guides, casting instructors, and fly tyers. The Expo also

features manufacturer exhibits, ongoing fly-tying exhibitions, and opportunities to see the latest fly rods and reels, lines, clothing, kayaks and other gear.

Clouser's 90-minute workshop at 10:30 a.m. on Friday and Saturday is "How to Cast Weighted Flies and Lines". His 90-minute afternoon workshop "Tying the Clouser Minnow and More with Bob Clouser" starts at 1 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Taylor, the first woman to earn Master Casting Instructor certification by the International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF), will teach Beginner Casting and Rigging Class for Women at 10:30

a.m. Friday and Saturday. Instruction covers how to match fly reel and line to the rod as well as basic casting techniques.

Her 90-minute afternoon class "Intermediate Coed Casting" is scheduled at 1 p.m. Friday and Saturday. It is for fly fishers who want to take their casting to the next level and her instruction includes how to make five trick casts to catch more fish.

Admission to the family-friendly Expo is \$10, which covers attendance at both days. Those 16 and younger are admitted free. For more information and to register online visit the website www.iff-ffl.com.



JULIE MANCINI/For the Riverland News
DHS Media Specialist Joan Lourenco fills the Little Free Library with books recently at Swampy's Restaurant on East Pennsylvania Avenue.

Dunnellon High sets up 'Little Free Library'

Display at Swampy's, school officials hope to promote literacy

JULIE MANCINI

For the Riverland News

What if you saw a book you wanted to read and buying the book was out of the question? Your library card has long been misplaced and the library's hours just don't gel with your work schedule.

Visit the Little Free Library outside of Swampy's Restaurant on Pennsylvania Avenue to borrow a book.

Little Free Libraries are popping up everywhere in the world, including the one in Dun-

nellon, which was installed Sept. 8 by several faculty from Dunnellon High School, including Principal Ken McAteer, and about a half dozen School Advisory Council members.

Last spring, students in Archie Smith's building construction class, built the wooden box, shaped like a large birdhouse, to house popular titles and children's books.

According to the Little Free Library website, a Little Free Library is a "take a book, return a book" gathering place where neighbors share their fa-

vorite literature and stories. In its most basic form, a Little Free Library is a box full of books where anyone may stop by and pick up a book (or two) and bring back another book to share."

The installation Sept. 8 was no accident.

"Books have a lot to offer. Florida is a tourist spot. Not everyone has a library card, especially tourists, but globally, all of us can spread the joy of reading," said Joan Lourenco, DHS

See **LIBRARY** page 15

RIVERLAND SPORTS/EDUCATION

Learning the basics



On the final day of Basic Cadet Orientation camp, Dunnellon High Junior Air Force ROTC cadets march for their parents. For more pictures from the camp, see Page 13.

Photos by MICHAELA FRAYSIER/For the Riverland News

Basic Cadet Orientation teaches incoming finer points of JROTC

ABBEY LONG

For the Riverland News

Every year, freshmen cadets from the Dunnellon High School Junior Air Force ROTC program journey to Camp Kiwanis to endure a weekend, consisting of early morning workouts and team building exercises. This training event is well-known as Basic Cadet Orientation (or BCO).

At the end of school Friday, all cadets attending BCO — more than 50 — report to the ROTC building to begin roll call. Then, they pile into a bus and head off to Camp Kiwanis. Upon arrival, cadets are briefed about safety regulations by Thomas Erickson, safety officer, and then have dinner. The all-student staff of JROTC consists of a Top Five, with Cmdr. Sergio Aponte giving a speech about integrity, success, and what JROTC is striving for in young cadets.

"This is so that cadets could be more successful," Aponte told his younger charges. "The corps is very motivated on showing through example what it is like to be a leading citizen in society."

Vice Cmdr. Jacob Hilliard spoke on behalf of aviation history, giving incoming cadets a taste of what they'll be learning this year of how humans have improved in the ideal of flying, and how the Air Force has branched from that.

"It's a good thing to know and it comes with a history lesson," said senior Elizabeth Trice.

Along with the meet-and-greet of the Top Five, cadets were separated into elements, allowing them to associate with other cadets from different periods in school and the accompaniment of upper-class flight commanders.

"It was fun to get to know my cadets," said an enthusiastic Michael Vasquez.

The chosen commanders are given the responsibility of their flight and teaching them to march, drill and know the basic necessities of JROTC. Cadets are put into an all-attendance



ABOVE: Cadets were greeted the first day with a light drizzle. BELOW: The staff get together at the end of the day to talk about the pros and cons of how the day went.

competition known as a drill down called IDR. Freshman Cadet Angel Viorn liked IDR for the practice of stationary marching.

"I'm excited to be marching; I love it," Viorn said. "I think I'm prepared for this year."

A traditional capture the flag game was also played throughout the weekend. If a flight happened to get its flag stolen, that flight would have to embarrass themselves at the next meal, or whenever the whole group was present. The "punishment" was a ritual called Superman Bananas, in which the chosen flight — including the commander — would lie on the ground and roll around posing as a banana (when called) or superman (when called).

"It wasn't that embarrassing. It was really fun," Case Evans said.

Fun was included in the BCO package, but it is not all that encompasses the rigorous weekend. Cadets were expected to be sore after PT Cmdr. Tiffany Jones and NCO Kinsley Grant set expectations for all cadets. All cadets are awakened at 6 o'clock in the morning for the presentation of the flag — featured by Grant, Jones and



Vasquez — and they endure a nonstop workout before breakfast. With the smell of dew, early morning grass and sweat, cadets finish with the stationary exercises, and progress to an early bird run on the campground's trail. After the last flight crosses the finish line, everyone is ready for breakfast.

As tradition has prevailed, JROTC's Color Guard "retired" a well worn flag. The ceremony calls for a silence, with all present at attention.

"The ceremony was done very well," freshman Ryan Rowles said. "It was very respectful."

Even though BCO can be a lot of work to assimilate and plan, it is an enjoyable experience. The freshmen get a glimpse of

what can be expected throughout the year, as well as familiarizing themselves with the staff. The entire group finished off the exhausting weekend with a marching presentation for the parents.

"It was memorable," Rowles said.

Freshmen left with aspirations for the upcoming year.

"I hope to help more in my community," Viorn explained, after being asked what she expected to receive from JROTC.

At the end of it all, all cadets have the same expectations; each member must make a conscious effort to improve their actions and reactions to everyday life to become a better citizen in the community.

NEWS NOTES

DHS gears up for Spirit Week activities

Dunnellon High School is gearing up for its annual Homecoming Week activities. Spirit week kicks off Sept. 29 with sports day, followed by matching day (Tuesday), Decade Day (Wednesday), class color day (Thursday) and spirit day (Friday).

The school is also reviving its traditional homecoming parade, the first since 2009, on Thursday, Oct. 2. Not only are DHS students and staff participating but also Romeo and Dunnellon elementary schools, Dunnellon Middle, Boy and Girl Scouts, the Boy & Girls Club and Pop Warner. The parade will also include a sweetheart from each club at DHS. After the parade, the Dunnellon powder puff game will be at Ned Love Field.

At 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3, the Tigers will host Belleview and during halftime, the 2014 crowning of the Homecoming King and Queen will take place.

Edible Books contest Oct. 18

Teens, ages 13 to 18, can sharpen their culinary skills, prepare book-inspired food creations and be eligible to win a prize by participating in the Edible Books Extravaganza: Turn Dreams into Reality event.

The event, set for 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, will be at the Headquarters-Ocala Public Library at 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala. The deadline for entries is Saturday, Oct. 11; visit www.library.marioncountyfl.org or any public library location for entry forms.

The Edible Books Extravaganza is held in celebration of Teen Read Week and sponsored by the Friends of the Ocala Public Library.

Golf for the Cure tournament planned

The Rainbow Springs Golf & Country Club Ladies Golf Association will host "Golf For The Cure" at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 23. The format is an 18-hole, two best ball of four with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start.

Registration is \$65 for nonmembers and \$30 for members, plus cart. Entry fee includes lunch. Individuals will be paired with a partner within a foursome. Registrations are due Oct. 20. All donations/proceeds will be donated to the Central Florida Affiliate, Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

For information, call Marilyn at 465-2684 or the RS Pro



DWIGHT PORTER/For the Riverland News

Dunnellon quarterback Kobie Jones attempts to evade a pair of Santa Fe defenders Friday night at Ned Love Field. The Tigers slipped past the Raiders, 19-14, in the District 5A-5 clash. Dunnellon plays at 7 p.m. Friday at Crystal River.

Tigers stymie Santa Fe, 19-14

Dunnellon wins district opener

AMANDA BARNEY

For the Riverland News

After battling both itself and its opponent all game long, the Dunnellon football team bowed up and came up with some big plays when it finally mattered.

Dante White's second touchdown pass of the contest to Darion Baker gave the Tigers a lead they wouldn't relinquish and a late goal-line stand delivered Dunnellon a 19-15 triumph over visiting

Alachua Santa Fe on Friday night on Ned Love Field at Tiger Stadium.

Dunnellon had to overcome numerous dropped passes, a disastrous interception and 16 penalties for 157 yards to pull out the narrow victory.

"They repeatedly bowed their necks and played hard," said Dunnellon coach Price Harris, whose team improved to 3-1 overall and open District 5A-5 play at 1-0. "They were able to battle through and play for each other."

"I was very proud of the way they fought back and got that score and then turned around and got that goal-line stand."

Despite carrying a 12-7 lead entering the fourth quarter, the Tigers saw it vanish in a flash when the Raiders' Bryce Sherman jumped a pass from White and took it 31 yards the other way for a score. Following Caysaun Wakeley's 2-point run, Santa Fe led 15-12 after trailing since the second quarter.

Dunnellon answered on the next series. Aided by a pass interference on third-and-14,

See **TIGERS** page 15



Pee Wee power

The Dunnellon Pop Warner Junior Pee Wee Black team is off and running this season. Overall, Dunnellon fields five teams in the Pop Warner league, and will play Saturday at Ned Love Field.

The Dunnellon Tiny Mite teams took to the field two weeks ago against the Crystal River Sharks.

Clockwise from above left: The Dunnellon Junior Pee Wee's Black team quarterback Luke Harding hands the ball off to a running back during second-half action.

Dunnellon Tiny Mite Black Team's Caleb Beville, left, and Malik Dennis pursue a Crystal River ball carrier.

Tamalvin Grady, a running back for the Junior Pee Wee Black Team, runs downfield as he seeks to elude Shark defenders.

Junior Pee Wee Black Team linemen Brodrick Luckey (56) seeks to open a hole for running back Le'var Fitzpatrick to run through against the Sharks.

Junior Pee Wee Black Team running back Elijah Lofton follows the lead block of teammate Tamalvin Grady.

Photos by JEFF BRYAN/Riverland News



Learning the basics



Photos by MICHAELA FRAYSIER/For the Riverland News

Freshmen cadets from the Dunnellon High School Junior Air Force ROTC program journey to Camp Kiwanis to endure a weekend, consisting of early morning workouts and team-building exercises. This training event is well-known as Basic Cadet Orientation (or BCO). Above, cadets go through the early phases of PT. The chosen commanders are given the responsibility of their flight and cadets are also taught how to march, drill and know the basic necessities of JROTC. Cadets are put into an all-attendance competition known as a drill down called IDR.



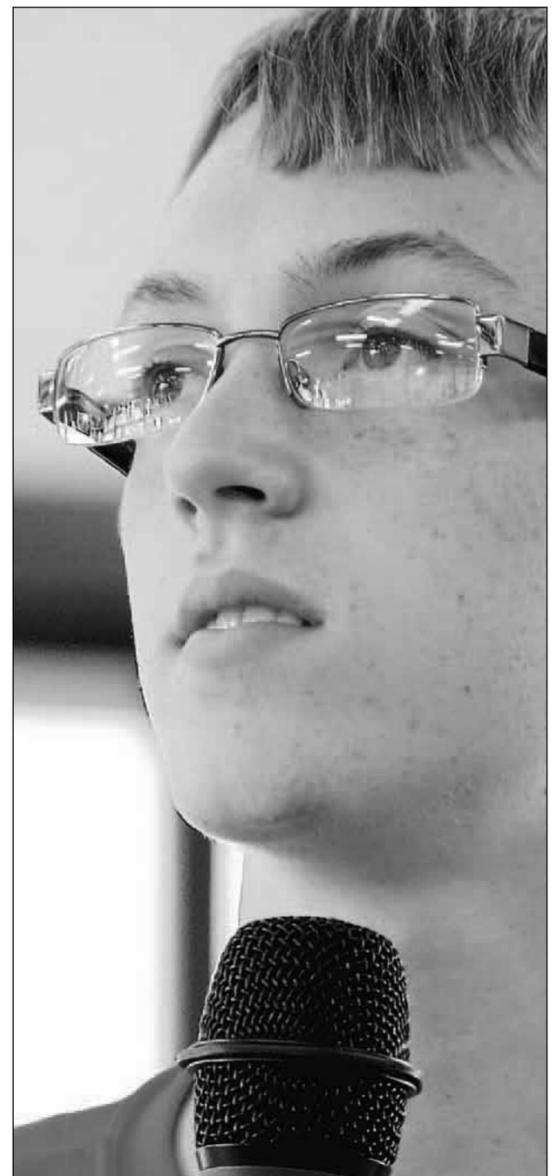
ABOVE: Tiffany Jones explains a team exercise during a portion of the camp.

RIGHT: Kensley Grant, left, and Jones give a speech about the upcoming PT plans for freshmen cadets.

BELOW: Megan Barde and C. Walls pull with all their might while playing tug-of-war.



ABOVE: Elizabeth Trice instructs first-year cadets in the proper way to fold the American flag.
BELOW: Jacob Hilliard gives a presentation about aviation history to cadets at the weekend-long camp at Camp Kiwanis.



SPOIL

continued from page 10

it one game at a time. The Santa Fe win was exciting for us, but that's behind us now. Now, we're focusing on Crystal River, who has a really good football team.

"They've got enough athletes, they are coached well and they can beat you. It doesn't really matter what Crystal River does, it matters what we do and if we can control what we need to do."

The "gut-wrenching" victory against Santa Fe nevertheless showed the Tigers still have issues to work on such as finishing plays and mental miscues. Dropped balls and penalties were two of Dunnellon's deterrents against the Raiders.

"Playing the teams that we play is definitely helping us prepare for the whole season," Harris said. "The biggest thing is not getting too beat up, we're not a deep team. But when we've had someone go down, we've had someone step up every time. There is no one person bigger than the team, when you give it your all for the team, then good things happen."

"We've still got a long way to go. We dropped a lot of footballs Friday night, and put ourselves in bad situations with penalties. We cannot do those things and expect to consistently win football games. Those are the little things that make all of the difference. We had kids who really stepped up and redeemed themselves."

Harris is confident his squad has yet to play its best game, which he hopes is the case as he doesn't want to see Dunnellon peak too early.

"When we can eliminate the mistakes, finish plays, we're going to be a pretty good football team," Harris said.

LIBRARY

continued from page 10

media specialist. "This is why it was important to me to install our Little Free Library on International Literacy Day, Sept. 8, 2014."

Building supplies were donated by Lowes. Books were supplied by the School Library Media Specialists Association of Marion County, and the Friends of the Dunnellon Public

Library, said Lourenco, who was thrilled that so many people came together to promote literacy in our community.

While this is the first Little Free Library in Dunnellon, there are at least two others in Marion County. Smith and his students built another at Liberty Middle School, and the engineering classes at Belleview High also built one.

Literacy is very important to Lourenco.

"When I heard about the concept of installing a Little Free Library in a place of importance in the community, I felt I need to be part of this concept," Lourenco said.

"Little Free Libraries are an invitation to read and that's what I hope to offer DHS students each and every day — an invitation to read. So why not expand that idea to our neighbors, friends and visitors alike?"

SCHOOL

continued from page 10

average and families must be eligible for free or reduced meals. If you meet the requirements above, note the following dates:

• Oct. 1 — Scholarship applications will be available at your middle school guidance office.

• 6 to 7 p.m. Oct. 28 — Scholarship information night. For parents/guardians to learn more about the program and application process, visit the Public Education Foundation office located in the Thelma Parker Center at 1239 NW 4th St. in Ocala.

• Nov. 3 — Scholarship applications are due to your middle school guidance office. Applications must be completed and submitted with proof of income. Families will be notified of their application status by March 2015.

The SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) Club is starting the year off with a bang. In addition to Ms. Wise, her advisers for SAVE are Dean Thomas and Mrs. Farley. Student officers are: Sayra Loya, president; Kendall Neumann, vice president; Haley Romine, secretary/treasurer; Biridiana Perez, assistant secretary/treasurer; and Zanatos Sinclair, historian.

The DMS SAVE Club will meet from 3:45 to 5:15 p.m. with Ms. Wise in Building No. 2, Room No. 22. The following dates for meet-

Schedule of Events

- 3:40 to 4:45 p.m. Tuesday Sept. 30 — Academic Brain Bowl team will meet with Mr. Williams in Building No. 2, Room No. 19. Please see Mr. Williams if you are interested in joining the team.
- 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 30 — The Bible Club will meet with Mrs. Osborne in Building No. 6, Room No. 2.
- 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 30, and Thursday, Oct. 2 — Chorus will meet with Mr. Soldano in the band room.

ings to be held after school in preparation for National SAVE day and Red Ribbon Week activities are: Oct. 6, 13 and 20.

Transportation for any after school-activity must be arranged prior to students staying.

Reminder that FFA Dues need to be turned in by Monday.

Box Tops for Education

Please continue to drop off your Box Tops for Education to Dunnellon Middle School at the front desk of Building No. 1 or the discipline/attendance office in Building No. 10. Thank you to everyone who has donated their Box Tops to us.

Share Table

Students, please put food items that have not been opened or touched on the Share Table in the Café. You will be helping someone who might like to have a little extra to eat that day.



SAMANTHA BARLOW/For the Riverland News
Dunnellon running back Kane Parks looks for an opening Friday night against Santa Fe at Ned Love Field. The senior standout caught two passes for 36 yards against the Raiders' tough defense.

TIGERS

continued from page 11

Dunnellon regained the lead on White's 10-yard strike to Baker for a four-point margin with 8:12 left in the game.

The Raiders' (2-2, 0-2) last gasp mirrored the majority of the game for both teams. Dunnellon incurred 35 yards in penalties to help allow Santa Fe to move the ball from its own 20 down to the Tigers' 9 in about five minutes.

Santa Fe had first-and-goal, but two false-start penalties forced the squad into a fourth and goal from the Dunnellon 14. A pass by Raiders quarterback Austin Roloff fell incomplete, giving the ball to Dunnellon on downs at the 2:17 mark. Santa Fe got the ball back with 8 seconds left after a Tigers punt, but Roloff's last-gasp effort from just inside midfield sailed out of bounds.

"They're better than us, they beat us," Santa Fe head coach Bill Wiles

said. "They whupped us."

The Raiders lost two fumbles and piled up 125 yards in penalties. Of the miscues, none was more costly than at the end of the first quarter.

Santa Fe, already leading 7-0 after a 45-yard touchdown pass from Roloff to Isaiah Cromarty, looked to go up by two scores after Tyler Jones picked off a pass and returned it 70 yards for a touchdown. Instead, a 15-yard roughing the passer flag and another 15-yarder for unsportsmanlike conduct took the points off the board and allowed Dunnellon to

keep the ball.

Sherman led all rushers with 25 carries for 128 yards. Dunnellon's Rudy Sinflorant paced his team with 13 rushes for 76 yards.

Offensively, White, a senior, and Kobie Jones, a junior, split time at quarterback. The pair combined for 182 yards passing, but White had both scoring passes to Baker (five catches for 53 yards) while each threw an interception.

Dunnellon forced four fumbles and recovered two. After giving up 127 yards rushing in the first half, the Tigers allowed 80 in the last 24 minutes.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Friends of Library plan book sale

The Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library will host its Fantastic Fall Bookstore Sale from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10, and Saturday, Oct. 11.

On Friday, Oct. 10, all hardcover books will be \$1 each or a bag for \$4; on Saturday, Oct. 11, hardcover books will be 50 cents each or a bag for \$2. Paperback books will be six for \$1 both days. All other products will be half off both days of the sale.

For information, call 438-2520.

Tickets on sale for murder mystery

The Greater Dunnellon Historical Society will host its next murder-mystery, "Evil Never Dies," at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 17

and 18. Doors open 20 minutes before the performance.

Tickets are \$25 and include a night of fun-filled entertainment with a full dinner and dessert. Tickets will be available at the society's historic depot 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, Sept. 30 to Oct. 3, or until they are sold out. Tables seat 8 or 10 people.

Chi Zeta planning annual card party

Chi Zeta will host its annual card party from 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 29, at Holy Faith Episcopal Church in Blue Cove. In addition to an afternoon of card games such as bridge, mah jongg and other table games, Chi Zeta will serve homemade desserts, fruits, veggies, cheese and choice of soft drinks.

There will also be a

raffle and Chinese auction.

All proceeds benefit the children of Dunnellon, including Romeo and Dunnellon elementary schools, the Boys & Girls Club, Dunnellon Public Library children's reading program, Food for Kids backpack program, Rainbow Springs Park Children's education program and gift baskets for both Thanksgiving and Christmas through the Guardian ad Litem program.

For information or to register, call Betsy Davis, 465 0442.

State park to host Halloween event

Rainbow Springs State Park will present the fourth annual Trail of Terror from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31. The Trail of Terror Tram Ride will

begin in the park by the Felburn Pavilion. The first tram will depart at 7 and the last tram departs at 9:30. There will be scary sights and loud noises, so parents should take that into consideration when taking young children on the tram.

Visitors should wear comfortable, close-toed shoes due to uneven terrain and low lighting. Flashlights will not be permitted on the tram, but costumes and glow sticks are encouraged.

Admission is \$2, cash, per person. Children 5 and younger are free. Funds raised from the event go to Rainbow Springs State Park volunteer program.

Additional volunteers are needed for cast or crew. For information, contact Monay Markey at monay.markey@dep.state.fl.us or call 465-8555.

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 3

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DIRECTV starting at \$24.95/mo. Free 3-Months of HBO, Starz, SHOWTIME & CINEMAX. FREE RECEIVER Upgrade!
2014 NFL Sunday Ticket included with Select Packages. Some exclusions apply - CALL 1-800-915-8620

DISH TV RETAILER
Starting \$19.99/ mo. (for 12 mos.)
Find Out How to SAVE Up to 50%
Ask About SAME DAY INSTALLATION!!
CALL 1-800-605-0984

Safe Step Walk-In Tub Alert for Seniors.
Bathroom falls can be fatal. Approved by Arthritis Foundation. Therapeutic Jets. Less Than 4 Inch Step-In. Wide Door. Anti-Slip Floors. American Made. Installation Included. Call 1-800-605-8035 for \$750 Off.

Mobile Homes For Rent

BRING YOUR FISHING POLE!

INVERNESS, FL
55+ park on lake w/5 piers, clubhouse and much more! Rent incl. grass cutting and your water
➔ 1 bedroom, 1 bath \$450.
➔ 2 bedroom, 1 bath \$475. - \$525.
Pets considered and section 8 is accepted. Call 352-476-4964 For Details!

Real Estate For Sale

PRIME FARM LAND ROMEO FLORIDA Two 40 Acre Parcels CALL (850)453-9958

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

Out of Town Land
UNRESTRICTED ACREAGE
Timber, Hunting, Recreation 40 to 350 from 1250 per acre
Mature hardwoods, Road frontage, Power, Creek frontage, Mountain views, Private, Excellent hunting- Deer and Turkey
Call 877-520-6719 or Remax 423-756-5700

Out of Town Land

UNRESTRICTED ACREAGE
Timber, Hunting, Recreation 40 to 350 from 1250 per acre
Mature hardwoods, Road frontage, Power, Creek frontage, Mountain views, Private, Excellent hunting- Deer and Turkey
Call 877-520-6719 or Remax 423-756-5700

Recreation Vehicles

WE BUY RV'S, TRUCKS, TRAILERS, 5TH WHEELS, & MOTOR HOMES
Call US 352-201-6945

Vehicles Wanted

BUYING JUNK CARS
★ Running or Not ★
CASH PAID-\$300 & UP (352) 771-6191

WE BUY ALL AUTOS
with or without titles
★ ANY CONDITION
Cindy (813) 505-6939

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CHRYSLER 2012 Town & Country
Wheelchair van with 10" lowered floor, ramp and tie downs Call Tom for more info 352-325-1306

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YOU'LL ♥ THIS!
DISCOUNT FLOOR INSTALLATION
As low as .99 cents per sq ft. We install hardwood, laminates, etc.
Call today for a free estimate. 352-533-2354

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COMFORT WORKS, A/C & HEATING
Mention this ad for \$29 Service thru 9/30/14
(352) 400 - 8361
Lic# CAC1817447

Home Services

Kat's Kritter Kare PET SITTING

(352) 270-4672

Tree Service

STUMP GRINDING CALL JIM FOR FREE ESTIMATES (218) 289-3767

Self Storage Notices

469-0925 RIV (10/3 sale)
PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF SALE
469-0925 RIV (10/3 sale)
PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF SALE
TO: Units 12 & 92 Tj O'Brien, 143 Elizabeth Lane, Barboursville, KY 40906
You are notified that the property stored by you with STOR-RIDGE, INC., P.O. Box 1107, 1807 W. Lockport Lane, Dunnellon, FL 34430-1107, believed to be household goods will be sold to the highest bidder for cash, at the above address on **October 3rd, 2014**, at 10:00 A.M. to satisfy the delinquent rental agreement. Per FL Statutes 83.801 and 83.8055. We reserve the right to refuse any and all bids.
Published September 18 & 25, 2014.

Foreclosure Sale/Action Notices

466-0925 RIV
vs. Raven, Jeremiah Q. 2014-CA-00620 Notice of Action
PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 5TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO: 2014-CA-00620

21ST MORTGAGE CORPORATION, PLAINTIFF,
vs. JEREMIAH Q. RAVEN A/K/A JEREMIAH GUILLEN RAVEN, ET AL., DEFENDANT(S)

NOTICE OF ACTION (Constructive Service - Property)

TO: KAREN S. LANCASTER AKA KAREN SUE LANCASTER AKA KAREN SUE LANCASTER-RAVEN AKA KAREN L. RAVEN AND UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF KAREN S. LANCASTER AKA KAREN SUE LANCASTER AKA KAREN SUE LANCASTER-RAVEN AKA KAREN LANCASTER-RAVEN AKA KAREN L. RAVEN

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a residential mortgage on the following real property, lying and being and situated in MARION County, Florida, more particularly described as follows:

LOT 22, BLOCK "N," LAKE TROPICANA RANCHETTES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK "G," PAGES 70, 70A THROUGH 70D, INCLUSIVE, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA, TOGETHER WITH THAT CERTAIN 2008 HOMES OF MERIT MANUFACTURED HOME, TITLE NOS. 100235972 AND 100235812, ID NOS. FL26100PHB300495A AND FL26100PHB300495B.

COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 3575 SW 186th Ct., Dunnellon, FL 34432

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Busch White Norton, LLP, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 505 South Flagler Drive, Suite 1325, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401, within thirty (30) days of the first publication, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on the Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

This notice shall be published one a week for two consecutive weeks in the Riverland News.

WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court at Marion, Florida, on the 3 day of Sept., 2014.

Clerk Name: DAVID R. ELLSPERMANN
As Clerk, Circuit Court, Marion County, Florida

(SEAL) N. Hernandez, Deputy Clerk

Debbie Satyal Busch White Norton, LLP
505 South Flagler Drive Suite 1325, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401
Primary:dsatyal@bwnfirm.com Secondary: mmorley@bwnfirm.com

Published September 18 & 25, 2014.

Lien Notices

473-0925 RIV
10/9 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 **10/09/2014 09:00 am** at 1901 NW MARTIN LUTHER KING JR AVE, OCALA, FL 34475-5007, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. **BIG JOE'S TOWING SERVICE INC** reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.
3N1AB41D3VL010705
1997 NISSAN
Published Sept. 25, 2014.

474-0925 RIV
10/17 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 **10/17/2014 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.
1HGCP2F35CA039494
2012 HONDA
3FALP15P0VR144911
1997 FORD
4T1BE32K52U634809
2002 TOYOTA
Published Sept. 25, 2014.

Meeting Notices

472-0925 RIV
10/1 Brd. Of Dir.
PUBLIC NOTICE
The Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast, a United Way supported organization, will be facilitating the Board of Director's bi-monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 1, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be at the Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast's main office, 382 N.

471-0925 RIV
9/24 Admin.Comm.
PUBLIC NOTICE
The Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast, a United Way supported organization, will be facilitating the

475-0925 RIV
10/10 sale
PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:
Tow Pro's Of Ocala gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicle(s) on **10/10/2014, 8:00 am** at 1914 N. Magnolia Ave Ocala, FL 34475, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. Tow Pro's of Ocala reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.
1N4A11D85C227404
2005 Nissan
4M47AAK110452 1980
BUICK
Published 25, 2014.

Administrative Committee's bi-monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 24, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be at the Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast's main office, 382 N Suncoast Blvd. Crystal River, FL 34429. Please contact Coalition Staff at 352-563-9939, ext. 263 if you have any questions. Public participation is welcome. Published Sept. 25, 2014.

Lien Notices

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1N4A11D85

Hair salon relocates

AUGIE SALZER

For the Riverland News

Jenifer's Hair Salon is the second of three businesses that have made the compulsory move out of the building at the corner of State Road 40 and U.S. 41. The Florida Department of Transportation notified the owner of the property and the three tenants about a year ago that the structure was going to be demolished and replaced with another drainage retention area to control any flooding, which may occur with the widening of U.S. 41 from two to four lanes.

The commercial property owned by SBK One LLC is being acquired under eminent domain, which means the government has the right to purchase property for public use with just compensation to the owner, according to Steve Olsen, FDOT spokesman.

Jenifer Boscarino, owner of Jenifer's Hair Studio, has moved her salon a little more than a mile north of her previous location to 4880 U.S. 41 and kept the same phone number.

"When the new property became available it was a god-send," she said. "The brief amount of time that I've stayed at this new location has been a 100 percent blessing compared to the 10 years at the old location."

She has completely moved out of her old building and is now doing business at her new location, fulfilling the requirements necessary before she signed the FDOT Public Disclosure Affidavit and received her compensation for moving.

Although Boscarino moved into her new salon at the end of



AUGIE SALZER/For the Riverland News

Jenifer Boscarino, owner of Jenifer's Hair Studio, has moved her salon a little more than a mile north of her previous location to 4880 U.S. 41 and kept the same phone number.

August she still has more remodeling to do. She moved from the 550 square foot shop into the new location with 2,500 square feet of space available for her business and now has room for a washer and dryer.

"Before I had to take all the towels used throughout the day and take them home to wash," Boscarino said. "Now I have room, right here, for the washer and dryer and don't have to wait until the end of day to

wash the towels."

Her new landlord, J.R. Lang, already painted the interior a bright cheery yellow, installed several paddle fans with lights, added extra wall scones lights to match the fans and power washed the outside of the building.

"I told them one of the doors had a little dry rot and expected him to fix it and he put a whole new door in," she said with delight. "J. R. (Lang) and

his wife are angels. They are very helpful and accommodating."

Boscarino still had the responsibility to install all the extra plumbing needed to turn the building into a hair salon.

Jenny Hansen has been with Jenifer's Hair Studio for the past five years and she and Cat Smith, a nail tech, have also moved into the new location. With all the additional room, Boscarino plans to expand her services to include a massage therapist, an esthetician and a tanning room in the near future.

Carolyn Cairns, a Dunnellon resident and hairdresser, is joining the staff in October.

Jenifer's Hair Salon has just completed 10 years in business and she is looking to have many more years at the new building with the red door.

Debbie and Scott Covey, owners of Saucy Circles, were the first tenant to move out of the soon to be demolished building in May. Both Boscarino and the Coveys have looked on the positive side of FDOT widening U.S.41 and have agreed the forced move turned out better than they had planned.

The structure to be torn down is owned by SBK One LLC and Charlie Patel is the corporate manager for the building.

"I'm not the person to make that decision so I don't know what they are going to do," Patel said recently over the phone. Multiple attempts to reach the owner of the building have not been successful.

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

PICKIN'

continued from page 1

Scott, decided they would attempt a family venture to try and grow pumpkins about five years ago.

As watermelon and peanut farmers, they knew they were tackling a big problem since pumpkins require a cool and dry climate to survive.

"Steven and Scott really came up with the idea to try growing pumpkins and gourds about the same time," Andie Dixon said. "It took a lot of prayer, research and work, but as long as God blessed us with a crop we would give him all the glory for the harvest."

The family business has grown leaps and bounds each year as the word spreads about the pick-it-yourself pumpkin farm.

"The first year we had about 500 people," Andie Dixon said. "Every year the attendance has been going up about 25 percent, and last year we had about 1,000 attend."

In July of each year, they plant approximately 12 acres of pumpkins and they have about a half-acre set aside to plant sunflowers. They plant 15,000 sunflower seeds, but they all don't come up.

"Last year, all the sunflowers didn't show up," Andie Dixon said. "So far this year the sunflowers are doing well. It's going to be a good crop."

The Pickin' Patch will be open from Sept. 27 through Oct. 26. The hours will be 3 to 7 p.m. Fridays; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays; and noon to 7 p.m. Sundays.

The Pickin' Patch is at 11000 Rolling Hills Road. Just look for and follow the brightly colored signs located all over town for a fun time.

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

Agency hosts county medical/dental mobile unit

The Annie W. Johnson Service Center will host the Florida Department of Health Citrus County's Medical/Dental Mobile Unit from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. the sec-

ond Wednesday monthly.

Fees will be based on income. There is a minimum fee of \$10 for medical services, and a \$20 fee on minimum

dental services. Photo identification is required.

The mobile medical unit will provide: treatment of brief illness; treatment of long-term

illnesses requiring ongoing care; laboratory services; school/sports/employment physicals; pregnancy testing; and STD/HIV tests.

The mobile dental clinic will provide: limited exams; basic cleaning; simple extractions; simple fillings; and surgical extractions on a case-by-case basis.

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Over \$3500 in Door Prizes

Girls Night Out!

Saturday, October 4, 2014

VIP Preview 5-6pm ♥ Event 6-9pm

Shop 'Til You Drop • Cocktails • Hors d'oeuvres
Massage • Jewelry • Clothing • Cosmetics & More!

A weekend to get away, have fun and be treated like a Diva!

♥ 1 Night Stay & 2 ♥
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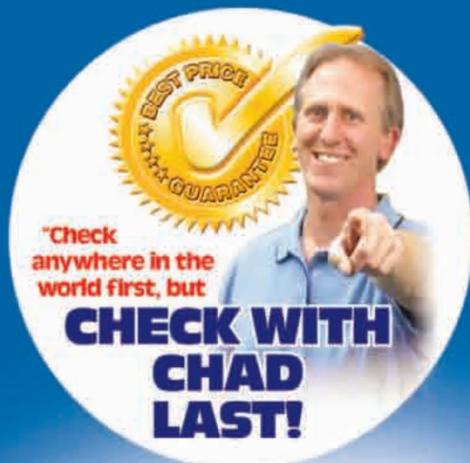
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- Crazy On Outdoors
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- Dr Santa Cruz
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- Rodan & Field Skin Care
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- Georgio's Hair Designs
- M Hair Studio
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- Connors Gifts
- Gold Rush
- and the Spa at M
- Thirty One by Valorie,
- Heart of the Garden
- Mez Mer Eyes
- Donna & Geraldine

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*See dealer for details. †For eligible active or retired members of the US Military and their spouses towards any new Honda vehicle when you finance or lease thru HFS. Used as a down payment or capcost reduction toward the purchase or lease of any new Honda automobile using a valid Honda APR, Honda Leadership Lease®, or Honda Leadership Purchase Plan® program through HFS (excludes Zero Due at Signing Lease Program). Must meet certain credit criteria established by HFS, and vehicle must be eligible for new-vehicle rates. See dealer for complete details. ** Plus \$790 destination charge and options. 1. 36 month closed end lease with approved credit, 12,000 miles per year 15 cents per mile thereafter. \$2995 cash or trade equity plus taxes, tag & fees. First payment, tag and lease and state fees due at signing. Any dealer installed equipment at additional cost. ††Covers internal lubricant parts. See dealer for details. All pre-owned vehicles include \$2500 cash down or trade equity. Offers valid thru date of publication.

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 Cash or Trade Equity -\$2,500
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