

ON THE RIVERS & LAKES



Special to the Riverland News
Dave Knight, left, seen here with guide Tommy Korinis, caught two nice bass weighing 8 and 8.2 pounds last week.

Don Miller
 Special to the Riverland

With the weather as hot as it is, there aren't many fishermen out. But fishing on Lake Rousseau and the Withlacoochee River has still been fair.

Make sure you're out early morning or late afternoons for best results.

Wild shiners continue to have luck on both the lake and the river.

Wild shiners are also working best at the mouth of the Rainbow and Withlacoochee.

Those using artificial bait are still having luck with worms and top-water plugs.

Those fishing for bluegill around the lily pads and docks are doing best using worms and crickets.

TALES OF A TWO-RIVER TOWN

Become filthy rich in a year

The phosphate companies sent out salesmen to ride the rails to poor towns in the South. They'd disembark and hang a few posters on fences and poles and spend a day or two recruiting single men or entire families to travel to Dunnellon, where everyone was getting filthy rich in the phosphate business.

These slick talkers had a deal with the railroad company to carry the recruits at a nominal fee. The ride might take two days or it might take a week, but everyone ended up in the same place.

At the Dunnellon Depot, where more slick gents descended on them, they held out a contract for them to sign: "Make your mark here and you'll be wealthy in a year." Twenty-two phosphate companies were badly in need of workers.

Just down the road, a few thousand workers lived in shacks, huts, canvas tents, and wooden boxes. A lucky family might live in a cottage. The problem for each company was the loss of three or four of their workers every day. A dozen every week.

Brutal work beneath the tropical sun in dust-filled air was unpleasant. Those who remained on the job were paid a dollar a day... twice as much as they'd ever earned.

The owners of the phosphate companies formed a consortium that operated a huge general store for the workers. All they had to do was give their name and number and the cost was deducted from their pay in a lengthy payment plan. The consortium had an accounting department

of 22 office clerks behind 22 desks (one clerk for each company), and they were very efficient.

If a worker failed to show up for work, the crew chief would notify a guard and the guard would go to the office and see if the runaway owed the company. If there was money owed, a guard (a thug with a club) would go and look for the poor lost lamb.

All of this was taking place while Dunnellon sat like a bird in a cage. Several hundred residents lived in quaint Victorian houses surrounded by a monstrous land of sand and dust. On East Pennsylvania Ave., there were five saloons, 16 hootch-houses, three red-lantern businesses, and two bordellos. A dangerous place on weekends when hundreds of workers came to town, each one with a weapon.

Of course, they had to stack their revolvers and rifles on the porch before entering any place of business. After all, the town was civilized.

Most citizens remained indoors, only slipping out on Sunday to attend church. However, the town was quiet Monday through Friday. A time for families to get their shopping done. A time for bible studies at the new Presbyterian church. A time when the farm wagon rode around selling beans and corn. A time when the two deputies rode up and down every street and spoke to everyone they saw.

A pleasant day in the birdcage.

Duke Stoetzer is past chairman of Florida Writer's Society and president of the Dunnellon Author's Guild.



Duke Stoetzer

Lane closures in RLE, Romeo area

Intermittent lane closures will occur in Rainbow Lakes Estates and the Romeo area through Feb. 10, 2021, the Florida Department of Transportation reports. The closures are due to SECO Energy replacing overhead electric poles and performing other maintenance duties.

Residents can expect in-

termittent closures on individual streets inside the following road boundaries: S.W. Westwater Drive east to S.W. Ivy Place, and S.W. Rainbow Lakes Boulevard north to S.W. Pine Bluffs Road.

The affected roadways near Romeo are: N.W. 13th Street, from the intersection of N.W. 225th Avenue to N.W.

210th Avenue; N.W. 210th Avenue, from the intersection of S.W. 5th Place to N.W. 20th Street; N.W. 217th Court, from the intersection of N.W. 6th Street to N.W. 13th Street; N.W. 222nd Terrace, from the intersection of N.W. 13th Street to N.W. 225th Avenue; and N.W. 225th Avenue, from the intersection of N.W. 6th Street to N.W. 13th Street.

Free online job training

LAURA BYRNES
 CAREERSOURCE CLM

CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion is offering free access to Metrix Learning, a dynamic online training platform to help anyone improve their employment skills.

The online learning initiative, called "Skillup® Citrus Levy Marion," features

more than 5,000 courses that can be accessed 24/7 by anyone with high-speed internet.

"We're pleased to be able to help the citizens of Citrus, Levy and Marion counties improve workforce skills at a time and place that is convenient to them," said Rusty Skinner, CEO of Career-

See TRAINING/Page 7

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OUT TO PASTOR

Are home-made cookies addictive?

Some people say we're living in the "new normal." I'm not sure exactly what they mean, and I don't have the time to ask, nor the desire. If the "new normal" is what I've been experiencing in the parsonage for the last several months, I'm all for it. Let it continue. Everybody should be able to live their own normal.



Rev. James Snyder

ing out of it most amicably. Some people might say we're opposites in many regards. She's on the vegetable side of the table, and I'm on the fruit side.

There have been some little clashes concerning that. She's a vegetable connoisseur and I, well, let's say I'm a fruitaholic. The only veggie I really approve of is the Carrot Cake.

Because of being limited, as far as traveling is concerned and going shopping or whatever, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I have spent a lot of time at home enjoying our time together.

I must say that my wife and I don't always see eye to eye. After all, I'm 6'3", and she's only 5'2". I'm tempted to say at times, but I value my life too much, that I have a "higher perspective" than my wife. But you didn't hear it for me.

We've spent almost half a century together, and we're com-

ing out of it most amicably. Some people might say we're opposites in many regards. She's on the vegetable side of the table, and I'm on the fruit side.

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See PASTOR/Page 10

GRACE NOTES

Driving with mercy, grace and hope

(Editor's note: This column is adapted from an essay in Nancy Kennedy's book, "Lipstick Grace.")

Recently, my pastor began his sermon asking what one word we would use to describe God. For me, it's mercy, followed closely by grace and hope.



Nancy Kennedy

When I think of mercy, I think of a teenage girl sneaking out of her house to meet a boy her parents have forbidden her to see -- and getting caught.

If that's ever been you, then you understand what it is to plead for mercy.

And if you've ever had a kid who scribbled "I love you" on a wall with a permanent marker, you understand mercy from God's perspective. The crime deserves punishment, but mercy offers a hug instead.

Years ago, I was obsessed with making bracelets, and when I had made so many that I couldn't fit any

more in the glass jar on my bathroom counter, I made three more and hung them from my car's rear-view mirror -- "car bracelets."

Using pewter alphabet beads and assorted green glass beads, one bracelet spelled "mercy," one spelled "grace" and the third spelled "hope."

Although mercy is what I think of first when I think of God, I don't think you can separate these three attributes.

Just like the trio of bracelets wrapped around each other as I drove my car, God's mercy, grace and hope, yet separate, are intertwined.

One time, the bracelets broke and the beads spilled all over the inside of my car. After I had restringing them and put them back on the mirror, I noticed that I had misspelled mercy as "meery," which I decided isn't all that inaccurate. After all, mercy is something

See GRACE/Page 10

TODAY CAN BE DIFFERENT

When we judge - wrongly

Divorce hurts. Especially when it separates you from your children.

When I was a young mother, I had to pick up and return my children to my former husband every other weekend. Every time I dropped them off at the end of my weekend, I cried.

Returning my children to their dad hurt not only because I ached deeply for them, but also because of the reality of my situation. My obsession to lose weight (anorexia nervosa) cost me my family. I was devastated by what I'd done.

One Sunday when I drove to the designated place to hand over my small children, my sister-in-law met me instead of the children's father.

Seeing her caught me by surprise. I felt so self-conscious that I couldn't speak or look at her. As I helped the kids get into her car, I imagined how I must have come across to her -- snobbish and ungrateful for the time she took out of her day to meet me.

In that moment, my sister-in-law could have easily judged me. If I were in her shoes, I would have thought, "Look at her! How rude! She doesn't even have

the decency to look at me, much less thank me." Wouldn't you have thought the same thing?

But she would have been wrong. The truth was, I was too ashamed to face her. And that's the point.

Most of the time, we don't have all of the facts we

need to make a fair judgment about someone in a particular situation. John 7:24 AMPC says: "Be honest in your judgment and do not decide at a glance (superficially and by appearances); but judge fairly and righteously."

My sister-in-law probably never judged me as I imagined. (Knowing her, she most likely didn't.) However, many times, I've formed an opinion about someone -- and thought I was correct in my assessment -- but I was wrong. Completely wrong.

How many people have I hurt with my hasty and superficial verdicts? How many have you? Wouldn't it be wiser (and more compassionate) for both of us to give others the benefit of the doubt instead?

Isn't that what we'd want others to do for us?

Sheryl H. Boldt is the author of the blog, *www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net*. Connect with her at *SherylHBoldt@gmail.com*.



Sheryl H. Boldt

TRAINING

Continued from Page 2

Source Citrus Levy Marion.

Skinner said that area community organizations are invited to partner with CareerSource CLM to access the Metrix Learning system to benefit those they serve. There is no charge for the service.

Since the effects of the pandemic began to be felt in the region, the

number of workers who lost their jobs skyrocketed to near record highs, hitting 12.9% in April, up from 3.9% just two months earlier.

"This free training is an ideal opportunity for anyone and everyone in our region, regardless of whether they lost their job due to COVID-19," said Kim Baxley, vice president for Safety and Human Resources for the Central Florida Electric Cooperative and CareerSource CLM's board

chair.

Baxley said the training platform is "flexible and helpful to job seekers and workers looking to improve skills, earn industry certificates, launch into new careers, or promote into new career opportunities."

Skillup® Citrus Levy Marion allows participants to learn at self-pace, receive clear training milestones, and achieve industry

certificates upon completion through customized badges. The online courses lead to more than 180 in-demand industry certificates, and offer coursework in everything from soft skills to project management.

For guidance and fee-free re-employment assistance, CareerSource CLM career coaches are also available to assess job seekers' interests and skills

gaps and work with them one-on-one to create individual Training Plans aligned with their targeted career pathway.

CareerSource CLM's services are accessible by phone, email, Live Chat and video conferencing. Job seekers may also meet with staff, by appointment only, at any of the region's career centers in Ocala, Lecanto or Chiefland.

The Skillup® portal can be reached at citruslevymarion.skillupamerica.org. For more information, call 1-800-434-JOBS or visit careersourceclm.com.

Community human services agencies interested in becoming a Skillup partner should contact Dale French, CareerSource CLM's director of operations, at 352-873-7939, ext. 2204 or email dfrench@careersourceclm.com.

IMMUNIZE

Continued from Page 5

County is offering two back-to-school immunizations opportunities within the month to help children get immunized before the first day of school.

The department will be providing immunizations by appointment on the following dates:

- Wednesday, Aug. 19, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Florida Department of Health in Marion County (1801 SE 32nd Ave., Ocala)
- Saturday, Aug. 22, from 8 to 10 a.m. at the Florida Department of Health in Marion County (1801 SE 32nd Ave., Ocala)

To make an appointment to receive immunizations, call 352-644-2695 or 352-644-2770 (español) during normal business hours Monday through Friday.

Students entering kindergarten or attending or transferring to a Florida public school need the following vaccines:

- Four or five doses of DTaP (diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis)
- Four or five doses of IPV (inactivated polio vaccine)
- Two doses of MMR (measles-mumps-rubella)
- Three doses of hepatitis B
- Two doses of varicella (unless a history of varicella is documented by a healthcare provider)

All students entering seventh grade must have a Tdap booster (tetanus-diphtheria-acel-

lular pertussis).

College immunization requirements can vary; entering students should contact their schools to see what is required. More information about requirements can be found at www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunization/children-and-adolescents/school-immunization-requirements.

The Vaccines for Children program provides vaccines at no cost for children up to age 18 if the child is eligible for Medicaid, uninsured, underinsured (e.g. insurance doesn't cover vaccines) or an American Indian or Alaskan Native.

When coming to get immunizations, individuals need to bring government-issued photo ID and all immunizations and travel records. A parent, guardian or individual who has power of attorney for medical consent must accompany anyone under age 18. A step parent, grandparent, adult sibling of the minor, or an aunt or uncle can bring a minor child in for immunizations if they have written consent from the parent, legal guardian, or individual with power of attorney for medical consent; the parent, guardian or individual who has power of attorney must be reachable via telephone in this situation.

For more information, call the Department of Health in Marion County's Immunizations Clinic at 352-644-2695 or 352-644-2770 (español).

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