

# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 101 No. 13

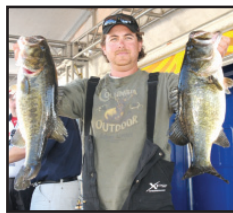
Friday, January 29, 2010

50¢ Plus tax

**2010 Community Guide inside!**

**FLW tourney ...**

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## Lake Levels

**13.48 feet**  
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Source: South Florida Water Management District. Depth given in feet above sea level.

See page 4 for information about how to contact this newspaper.

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# Tax deeds sold on unbuildable lots

**'Buyer beware' when buying real estate for back taxes**

**By Eric Kopp**  
Okeechobee News

When Sammy and Ann Hancock bought a tax certificate on a lot in the King's Bay subdivision they thought it would be a good investment. As did Marlen Cepero, of Hialeah, when she purchased a lot in another part of the same subdivision at a tax sale.

But instead of holding a valuable piece of land, they are the proud owners of easements.

"I had no idea. I just thought it was an investment," said Mr. Hancock of the block of land known as Lot 3, Block 6 B at the end of 50th Ave. "I just bought it at a tax sale. I never did much research

back then."  
Mr. Hancock paid \$80.46 for the tax certificate.

"They shouldn't sell stuff like that. Those things should never come up," he added.

But, they do.  
And while easements are common, situations such as these aren't.

"Situations where an easement is over a platted lot in a subdivision—I can't think of any other situations quite like that," said Bill Royce, head of planning and development for Okeechobee County.

An easement allows someone to use land for a specific purpose, such as a landowner granting a utility company the right to run lines under their private property. Normally, explained Mr. Royce, easements are granted on behalf

See LOTS — Page 12



Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp  
**When Marlen Cepero purchased the lot between these two homes in King's Bay she apparently didn't do her research and bought an easement, instead of a buildable lot. Hers is one of two lots in the subdivision that were designated as easements in 1985 but are still on county tax rolls.**

# Ag center sponsorships questioned

**By Pete Gawda**  
Okeechobee News

The Thursday, Jan. 28 meeting of the Okeechobee County Commission resulted in lengthy discussion but no action on several items that could effect the county.

The first item provoking discussion was a possible policy for naming rights at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center.

"This may be something we can use to generate funds for capital improvements," said Mark Brandell, chairman of the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center Advisory Committee. He presented a proposed plan that was patterned after the naming policy of Pinellas County. Under the proposal, the entire facility could be named and/or components of the facility,

such as the arena or horse barn, could be named. Each monetary offer for naming would be considered on a case by case basis. Terms for naming rights could be 5 to 15 years but not longer than the useful life of the property. Mr. Brandell said it would mean extra money to the county without raising taxes.

Commissioner Joey Hoover asked how much commissioners could expect someone to pay for naming rights.

"It's difficult to say what that would be worth," replied Terry Burroughs of the ag center advisory committee. He stated that many rodeo arenas across the country have been named for national and local businesses.

It was noted that the Okeechobee County Cattlemen's Associa-

tion has two more years remaining in their five year contract on the ag center. Under the terms of the contract they can name the arena after their organization. To date, they have not done so.

County administrator Lyndon Bonner stated the cost of constructing and maintaining a sign would have to be considered in arriving at a fee.

Commission Chairman Cliff Betts was of the opinion that the entire facility should keep its current name while individual components might be named.

County attorney John Cassels said the naming rights proposal could be a benefit to the county if handled properly or it could be a detriment if it were handled

See CENTER — Page 2

# Okeechobee schools celebrating excellence

Each year the Okeechobee County School System takes the opportunity to express appreciation to school employees by recognizing their important work with Okeechobee's students in achieving excellence. The Teacher and School-Related Employee Recognition Event is one way of honoring them.

This year, the "element of surprise" will prevail as the Okeechobee County School Dis-

See SCHOOLS — Page 2

**Open 9 a.m. until ???**  
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# CENTER

Continued From Page 1

poorly.

The consensus of the commission was that they agreed with the concept and Mr. Cassels was tasked with working on a naming policy.

The other item that generated considerable discussion was enforcement of a program being considered by Okeechobee Utility Authority (OUA). The utility is considering starting a program to regulate the disposal of fats, oils and greases (FOG) that may be produced by restaurants and other commercial customers and requested assistance from the county in enforcement of their program.

Mr. Cassels was of the opinion that OUA might already have that authority. He was tasked with researching the matter. The consensus of the board was to consider helping OUA if the utility indeed does not currently have enforcement powers

In another discussion item, Commissioner Hoover brought up the matter of the attendance record of members of volunteer boards. Staff was directed to come up with a proposed policy on attendance.

In other business, the board:

- allowed the Okeechobee Ministerial Association to use the courthouse lawn the first Thursday in May to observe the National Day of Prayer;
- authorized donation of land for sidewalks;
- renewed the lease the with Martha's House;

- renewed the lease with East Coast Mi-grant Headstart;
  - applied for an EMS grant for additional medical equipment;
  - authorized the submission of an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant application for building retrofits; and
  - recognized Code Enforcement Officer III Elizabeth Albert's 15 years' service to the county. Mrs. Albert has resided in Okeechobee County for the past 32 years. Her career was in the field of law enforcement. She came to work for the Okeechobee County Code Compliance Department in October, 1994 from the sheriff's office where she shifted from law enforcement to code enforcement. She has obtained her Code Officer, I, II and III Certifications
- Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com). Reporter Pete Gauda can be reached at [pgauda@newszap.com](mailto:pgauda@newszap.com).*

# SCHOOLS

Continued From Page 1

strict winners for the Teacher of the Year and School Related Employee of the Year will be announced during the recognition dinner.

This year's nominees for the Okeechobee County School District Teacher of the Year are:

- Lori Howard, Central Elementary School,
- Linda Robertson, Everglades Elementary School,
- Tina Suarez, North Elementary School,
- Amy Weber, Seminole Elementary School,
- Carrie Thompson, South Elementary School,
- Magi Cable, Osceola Middle School,

- Donna Garcia, Yearling Middle School,
- Brad Mims, New Endeavor,
- Kay Duke, Okeechobee Freshman Campus,
- Jean Sherlock, Okeechobee High School, and
- Patricia Keebler, ESE.

Nominees for Okeechobee County School District School-Related Employee of the Year include:

- Maria Jimenez, Central Elementary,
- Patty Coyne, Everglades Elementary,
- Cindy Pearce, North Elementary,
- Celica Mungaray, Seminole Elementary,
- Rosa Tijerina, South Elementary,
- Debbie Hill, Osceola Middle,

- Geri Thomas, Yearling Middle,
- James Mitzel, New Endeavor,
- Hilda Morse, Okeechobee Freshman Campus,
- Cindy Cantrell, Okeechobee High School,
- Lorraine Watson, Operations, and
- Kay Mathis, ESE.

The Okeechobee County School District looks forward to acknowledging all of these excellent employees at the recognition banquet on Saturday, Feb. 20. If any business or community member would like to make a tax deductible contribution toward this event, donations may be made through: The Okeechobee Educational Foundation, 700 S.W. Second Ave., Okeechobee, Fla., 34974.

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## Seacoast, Red Cross seeking money donations for Haiti

Seacoast National Bank is working with local chapters of the American Red Cross to call upon area residents to support international relief funds for Haiti through financial support. With a second earthquake on Jan. 20, Haiti residents are in need of basic necessities.

Seacoast will accept monetary contributions (made payable to the American Red Cross) at all Seacoast National Bank offices. The funds will be provided to the American Red Cross international relief fund for Haiti's earthquake victims.

While food, water, and other services are being provided by the United States and many other relief agencies, cash would enable many Haitians to purchase items they need, Seacoast officials have learned.

The operating arm of Seacoast Banking Corporation of Florida (NASDAQ: SBCF). Seacoast National Bank has 40 offices in Florida and approximately \$2.3 billion in assets, and is one of the largest independent banks headquartered in Florida.



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Minister Jim McCutchen

# Planners grant exception for Philippine center

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

The proposed Philippine Heritage Enrichment Complex came another step closer to reality with the action of the Okeechobee County Planning Board on Tuesday night, Jan. 26.

The board granted the request of the Philippine-American Cultural Foundation of South Florida for a special exception to allow a club on a 20 acre site on S.W. 16th Avenue in an area zoned for mobile homes. Plans call for an outdoor theater, an indoor

theater and exhibit building and a parking area. The complex would also have the only Philippine garden in the U.S. featuring the flora and bamboo landscaping of the Philippines. The centerpiece of the garden will be a typical bamboo thatch hut with bamboo furnishings and clay pottery kitchenware.

Officials of the foundation say the complex will be a definite boost to the local economy. The complex would serve as a venue for Philippine cultural activities as well as folk and performing art and exhibits.

In another matter, Jennifer Jordan, who runs a used mobile home business in Palm

Beach County addressed the board. She contracts with banks to sell repossessed mobile homes. She petitioned the board to change the county's policy on mobile homes. Currently a used mobile home older than five years must go before the planning board for a special exception. Ms. Jordan contended that the banks will not wait up to 90 days to see if a prospective buyer will get a special exception. Neither will prospective buyers buy a used mobile home until they get a special exception. Ms. Jordan suggested the process be sped up either by changing the age limit to 8 years or allowing a structural

engineer to inspect the mobile homes. The board took no action but agreed to consider the matter again at their next meeting.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com). Reporter Pete Gawda can be reached at [pgawda@newszap.com](mailto:pgawda@newszap.com).

## Okeechobee Arrest Report

The following individuals were arrested on felony or driving under the influence (DUI) charges by the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

or the Department of Corrections (DOC).

- Casey Robert Johnson, 18, S.E. 44th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 25 by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on felony charges of possession of marijuana with intent to sell and possession of marijuana over 20 grams. He was also charged

with the misdemeanor of possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$5,500.

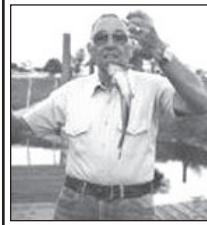
- William Humphrey, 54, was arrested Jan. 26 by Deputy Greg Popovich on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felony of violation of probation - petit theft. He is being held without bond.

- Walter Roy Powell, 41, N.E. Ninth Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 26 by Deputy Patricia Massung on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - possession of oxycodone. He is being held without bond.

- Rodney Allen McClure, 43, N.W. 81st Court, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 27 by Officer Justin Bernst on charges of driving under the influence and refusal to submit to a DUI test. His bond was set at \$1,000.

*This column lists arrests and not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Anyone listed here who is later found innocent or has had the charges against them dropped is welcome to inform this newspaper. The information will be confirmed and printed.*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**Henry W. Underwood**  
Feb. 7, 1924-Jan. 27, 2009



It has been a year since God saw you getting tired. He put his arms around you then whispered for you to come with him. With tearful eyes, we watched you take your last breath. Your golden heart had stopped beating and your hard working hands were at rest. We miss you very much. We love you and "Thank you" for all that you did for us. You are "My Dad".

Love, Donna .....Randy, Bobbie and the Heathens



Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp

## Jewelry and other items recovered

Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office Detective William Suggs with some of the jewelry, DVDs and cosmetic items that were reportedly taken from a local home last week. He said a 14-year-old girl has been arrested and charged in connection with the break-in.

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## Public Forum/Speak Out

*Speak Out has moved online, where it is quicker and easier to share your ideas and converse with others. Go to [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com), click on the community name and your local or state Public Forum. There, you can create new topics or comment on existing topics. What follows is a sampling of some of the discussions currently taking place. Thanks for participating!*

### Shop in Okeechobee

• Crying for another BIG store chain to come is not the answer. There is space here in Okeechobee not being used. It sits vacant because no one can afford the high rent or to buy it. If the owners of some of these places would just take the time to look at the expenses the building carries. Then invite interested entrepreneurs to come and discuss the possibility of working out a plan.

• One thing I have had trouble finding in Okeechobee is clothing suitable for adult women -- not teenagers -- who wear size 4 or smaller. One shop clerk told me they didn't carry anything to fit me and I should just gain weight.

• Maybe if there were a business group, like the Chamber of Commerce perhaps, that could get two or three small towns to all agree on a business, store, or chain, then the stores could move into existing, empty business space. Having more than one store might help them all stay afloat until they were each self-sufficient. Or, maybe it would be better for them to try it alone, hard choice. It just seems that most of the old "mom and pop" stores are gone for good and a business has to be part of a nationwide chain to get the advertising and buying power to stay in business.

• Since Captain D's is gone, I would love to see a Long John Silvers here. I am happy to see we are going to get a Sonic soon.

• Okeechobee needs a Waffle House, open 24-7-365, with hot coffee and reasonably priced food.

• I think Okeechobee lacks good clothing stores. We have some nice western clothing stores, but it lacks on regular clothing stores.

• Let the traffic stay on the coast and keep 'Chobee small. I do not mind driving to the coast. I plan a day over there and shop. Then when I come home, I am happy to be away from the concrete jungle.

• How about something like a Rack Room Shoes.

• I know the clothing store that opened in August does carry men and women polo shirts and they aren't just a western store they do carry some of the bling but have nice dress clothing too for men and women. I have gotten nice dresses and casual clothes there I'm 52.



### Speeding vehicles

• I wish the deputies would run radar on State Road 70 between 67th Drive and 77th Terrace. People trying to pull out from the Lazy 7 area housing developments are endangered every day by the speeders who fly along SR 70. I drive the speed limit, which is 60 mph in that area, and they fly by me like I am standing still. Maybe if the deputies started stopping cars and writing tickets, they would slow down. Many of these speeders probably come from out of the county and they are not paying any attention to the local speed limits in their haste to get to the coast.

### New business

• Let's face it a lot of people are going to complain no matter what comes into town. There are those that don't want Okeechobee to change no matter what. We need good jobs if we want our kids to stay here or come back after college. There are not enough jobs here for those that live here now, let alone kids graduating from high school or even IRSC. We need county officials to look out for our future and make sure that we and our families have jobs for the future.

• For some that really want to work, anything is better than nothing. But the commissioners need to be attracting businesses to Okeechobee other than these that only offer minimum wage salaries. I also know first hand what a pain the county and city are when you are trying to open a business there are no incentives and they really drag their feet. It's more like they are opposing you instead of helping and encouraging you.

• If we want the local economy to survive, we need to shop at home and support those businesses.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

## Yard sale to benefit mission trip

The youth group from First Baptist Church are planning on a mission trip to Drintina, Kosovo, June 26-July 5. They will work with missionaries sent by the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Taking part in the trip will be, left to right, first row, Nicole Hedrick, Katie Walker, Hannah Rooks, second row, Rev. Mark Mc Carter, youth pastor, Nathaniel Catron, Chris Wegmann, Kyle McGee and Dylan Huges. Not pictured: Sarah Lay, Taylor Pritchard, Loren Wegmann and adult leaders Marie McCarter and Steve Walker. On Feb. 6, the church will be sponsoring a yard sale to help finance the trip. The yard sale will be at the church, 401 S.W. Fourth St. beginning at 7 a.m. Anyone who would like to donate something for the sale can call the church office at 863-763-2171.

## Community Calendar

### FRIDAY

**Tops Take off Pounds Sensibly #669** meets at 9 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. The public is invited. For information, contact Ollie Morgret at 800-932-8677.

**A.A.** meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church 200 N.W. Second St. This is an open meeting.

**A.A.** meets from 8 until 9 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St. This is an open speaker meeting.

Compulsive overeaters are invited to a weekly meeting. **Overeaters Anonymous (OA)** meets at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Avenue on Fridays, 6 until 7 p.m. (Use 4th Street entrance.) Overeaters Anonymous is not a diet club. The only requirement for member-

ship is a desire to stop eating compulsively. For more information call Loretta at 863-763-7165 or 863-697-0206.

### SATURDAY

**A.A.** meeting from 8 until 9 p.m. at Grace Christian, 701 S. Parrott Ave. It will be a closed discussion.

### SUNDAY

**A.A.** meeting from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St. It will be an open step meeting.

**A.A.** open 12 step meeting from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m. at the Church of Our Savior, 200 N.W. Third St.

**A.A.** meeting will be held from noon to 1 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. This will be an open meeting.

## Okeechobee Forecast

**Today:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 78. Calm wind becoming east southeast between 5 and 10 mph. **Tonight:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57. South southeast wind around 5 mph.

### EXTENDED FORECAST

**Saturday:** Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 80. South southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent.

**Saturday night:** Chance of showers before 1 am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming northwest. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

## Lotteries

**Florida Lottery** — Here are the numbers selected Wednesday: **Cash 3:** 8-8-6; **Play 4:** 3-7-9-3; **Fantasy 5:** 11-17-26-29-32; **Mega Money:** 6-18-19-42 MB 13; **Florida Lotto:** 1-23-29-39-40-45 X 3; **Powerball:** 6-15-20-26-31 PB9 x5. Numbers drawn Thursday, **Cash 3:** 6-3-2; **Play 4:** 1-5-5-2.

# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

### To Reach Us

**Address:** 107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D  
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**Website:** [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

### To Submit News

The Okeechobee News welcomes submissions from its readers. Opinions, calendar items, stories ideas and photographs are welcome. Call (863) 763-3134 to reach our newsroom. Items may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed.

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### To Place A Display Ad

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**Call** 877-353-2424 to place a classified advertisement from home.

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The Okeechobee News is available three times a week via home delivery and is on sale at rack and store locations throughout Okeechobee County. Call the office to find out if your home is within our present home-distribution boundaries.

Call 800-282-8586 to report a missed newspaper or poor delivery.

Additional copies of the newspaper are available for 50 cents Wednesday and Friday and 75 cents for Sunday at the office. Home delivery subscriptions are available at \$18.00 for three months.

### Okeechobee News USPS 406-160

Published 3 times a week: Sunday, Wednesday and Friday by Independent Newspapers, Inc.  
107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D • Okeechobee, FL 34974  
Periodicals Postage Paid at Okeechobee, FL 34974  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Okeechobee News  
Circulation Administration  
PO Box 7011 • Dover, DE 19903

### Staff

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### Our Purpose...

The Okeechobee News is published by Independent Newspapers of Florida. Independent is owned by a unique trust that enables this newspaper to pursue a mission of journalistic service to the citizens of the community. Since no dividends are paid, the company is able to thrive on profit margins below industry standards. All after-tax surpluses are reinvested in Independent's mission of journalistic service, commitment to the ideals of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and support of the community's deliberation of public issues.

### We Pledge...

- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
- To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues.

- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- To disclose our own conflicts of interest or potential conflicts to our readers.
- To correct our errors and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

### MEMBER



# National Elephant Center plans are progressing

ST. LUCIE COUNTY, Fla. — The National Elephant Center received unanimous approval from the St. Lucie County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, Jan. 26, of its Site Development Plan. Approval of the plan—with multiple amendments—moves the project one step closer to bringing elephants to the Center, located on a 300-acre site on land owned by Waste Management in Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties.

“We deeply appreciate the support of St. Lucie County, officials expressed today, and look forward to becoming an active part of this community,” said Rick Barongi, chairman of The National Elephant Center’s board of directors. “With this important vote, our next step is to finalize building plans that will enable us to begin construction this spring. Elephants could be on the property this year.”

Several Elephant Center board members, representing accredited zoos from around the country, attended the Commissioners meeting including vice chairman Craig Piper, CEO of Denver Zoo. He presented research demonstrating how the Center will be an asset for the community by providing economic development through work for regional businesses; by offering unique education resource and experiences for regional schools; by providing additional protection for the existing wetlands on the property; and by being an active partner in regional wildlife conservation efforts.

“The National Elephant Center will be good for the community, good for this prop-

erty and its environmental features and, most importantly, it will be good for elephants,” said Piper, adding that land adjacent to the Center’s property is home to an abundance of local wildlife.

“These protected areas ensure critical space for these species that are under such press, not unlike elephant populations that are endangered in Africa and Asia,” he said.

With a commitment to excellence in the care of elephants at the Center as well as to training elephant caregivers throughout North America, the Elephant Center will play a vital role in addressing the critical need for elephant population management and will become an international resource in elephant conservation, he explained.

Though not open to the public, The Center will be a new model for elephant care and conservation supported by private donations and by more than 70 partner zoos that are accredited members of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). There are only 221 accredited zoos and aquariums in North America, and each of these organizations, every five years, undergo a thorough review of their entire operations, including animal care and animal welfare. Each of our partners is dedicated to high quality care for all animals including elephants.

Partners have committed more than \$4 million for the first phase of the Center.

The National Elephant Center is a non-profit organization that envisions becoming the global leader in elephant population management. It is committed to ensuring the

future of elephants in zoos and in the wild by advancing science in artificial insemination and breeding; promoting elephant research and conservation programs; providing specialized training for elephant caregivers; and

becoming a voice for elephants nationally and internationally through advocacy and collaboration. For more information about the Center, visit [www.TheNationalElephant-Center.org](http://www.TheNationalElephant-Center.org).



Special to the Okeechobee News

## The Kingsmen Quartet

The Kingsmen Quartet will be in concert Monday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m. at the Church of the Nazarene, 425 S.W. 28th St. A love offering will be received. For more information call 863-763-7113.



Special to the Okeechobee News

## Forgiven Trio

Forgiven, a southern gospel trio from Lawrenceburg, Ind., will sing at the Sunday 10:45 a.m. service on Feb. 7 at Northside Baptist Church, 51 N.W. 98th St. Formed in 1988, Forgiven is comprised of Clold and Debbie Baker, joined by Chris Little, and they have over 65 years experience. Clold sang with the Bill Gaither Trio in the 1970s while Debbie was singing and playing with the Weatherfords. Forgiven has recorded numerous CDs and made several television appearances, in addition to being featured in national southern gospel music publications including SoGospel News.com, Gospel Music Profiles, Streets of Gold, Southern Gospel Music Forum, and Singing News Magazine. A love offering for the group will be taken. Come and enjoy.



Special to the Okeechobee News

## The Proclaimers Quartet

The Proclaimers Quartet will appear at Victory Baptist Church, 500 S.W. Ninth Ave, at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 30.



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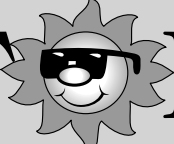
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Special to the Okeechobee News/CES

## Students of the Week

Students of the week for Central Elementary for the week of Jan. 22, are: Kindergarten students: Janie Grant, Jacob Brooks, Mariah Jenkins, Savannah Jones, Niyak Martinez; first graders: Sara Raulderson, Clayton Culligan, Chase Mangold, Tara Hunt, Jamari Corde, Josef Steiert; second grade students: Xavier Peterson, Makaya Whitehead, Jennifer Salas-Garcia, Michael Watson, Bailey Manning; third grade students: Carlos Ayala, Dakota Collins, Rocky Resendiz; fourth graders: Shaun Hood, Dylan White, Dustin Long, Ana Maria Torres, Megan Underwood and Hadeel Abed.



Special to the Okeechobee News/SES

## Students of the Week

Congratulations to the Students of the Week at South Elementary School for the week of Jan. 14. They are: Braelon Pelt, Jessi Rex, Starlene Jackson, Derek Rucks, Elizabeth Lopez, Seth Hendrix, Gauge Chandler, Gage Cashwell, Jalen Pryor, Megan Mitchell, Eric Calderon, Merydian Causier, Saira Sandoval, Mason Adams, Cristian Rios, Daniel Arellano, and Arnoldo Martinez.



Special to the Okeechobee News/EES

## Students of the Week

Everglades Elementary School Students of the Week for Jan. 25-29 include: Kindergarten: Jayla Hayes, Diana Ruiz, Christian Roman, Kayli Guerrero, Yadhira Yanez; first grade: Brennan Sell, Gisselle Delgado, Ashton Harper, Layne McPeak, Destiny Kirkland; second grade: Taiyler Graig, Victor Hernandez, Araceli Ruiz, Sarah Newton, Joshua Roberson, Emily Barnes; third grade: Shian Kobernik, Lyndsey Tribbitt, Arturo Longoria, Luz Rivera, Monica Luna, Reece Agnew, Carolina Trejo; fourth grade: Sahley Bourgault, Wyatt Todd, Caleb Throope; fifth grade: Deoante Garner, Dilmer Larowe, Jarren Hall and Aurelio Urbina. Congratulations!

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## ABWA plans annual Golden Oldies Dinner-Dance

The Women of Tomorrow Chapter of the American Business Women's Association will hold its annual Golden Oldies Dinner -Dance on March 6, from 7-11 p.m. at the KOA Convention Center in Okeechobee. Live 50s/60s music by Nightlife; buffet style sandwiches and finger foods will be available all night. Come prepared to eat and dance. Costumes are optional. Tickets are \$25 per person, \$200 per table of 8. Business or organizations buying tables will have their group's name displayed as table sponsors. For more information and ticket purchase, contact Kathleen Shatto at 863-467-4663 or Marilyn Rinear at 863-697-1807. Tickets are also available at Chloe's Closet at 109 SW Park St.



Special to the Okeechobee News  
**Ivy the panther and bobcats Ivy and Rufus are among the animals at Arnold's Wildlife Center.**

# Wildlife center plans evening of star gazing

Star Gazing with Creatures of the Night will be held at Arnold's Wildlife Center on Feb. 13 from 7 to 10:30 p.m.

Explore the dark night sky at Arnold's in Okeechobee with Christopher Stephan, an amateur astronomer for over 30 years. He will teach fun facts about the Milky Way galaxy including constellations, planets and the moon.

An added treat, visitors can watch the rehabilitated panthers, bobcats and owls on the prowl in their cages.

For information, contact Sue Arnold at [suearnold@hughes.net](mailto:suearnold@hughes.net) or 863-634-6804. Rain date is March 13.

Tickets are \$10 for adults. Family rate is \$20. RV campers are welcome (call for rates). Bring your own flashlights. Telescopes will be set up for observing the night sky. Coffee and cookies will be served.

For more information check online at <http://www.arnoldswildlife.org/stargazing.htm>. Arnold's Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, is at 14895 N.W. 30th Terrace. From Okeechobee, taken Hwy. 441 and head north for approximately 10.2 miles. Make a left at the NW 144th Dr. red light and follow to NW 30th Terrace and make a left. Arnolds is at the end of the street on the right.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Big Lake Missions

## KOA helps Big Lake Missions

Bruce and MaryAnne Swinford, directors of Big Lake Missions Outreach present a certificate to the residents of KOA Campground for their Christmas 2009 toy and food drive. Thanks to all who participated.

## Family Health and Safety Expo planned for Jan. 30

On Saturday, Jan. 30, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., a Family Health and Safety Expo will be held at the Okeechobee Agri Civic Center. Come out and see police officers, sheriff's deputies, fire trucks, ambulances and other first responder vehicles, demonstrations, equipment and staff; helicopters and coast guard; blood mobile; emergency management equipment; health department staff and displays; free health screenings; blood mobile, bicycle safety, banks and many, many other service providers, vendors and giveaways. The expo offers free admission, free parking, free entertainment, free health screenings, free lunch (while supplies last), free prizes, free raffles. It will be a fun filled, educational day for everyone from young children to senior citizens. For more information, call 863-462-5781, 863-634-6464 or 863-462-5000 ext. 257



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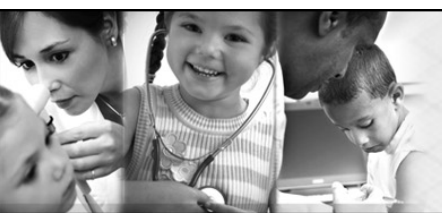
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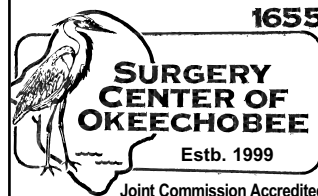


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# LOTS

Continued From Page 1

of a party and in perpetuity. In other words, the easement stays with the property until the person who granted the easement re-assigns it.

In the case of Mr. Hancock and Ms. Cepero, who did not return phone calls seeking comment, the easements across their King's Bay lots are in the forms of roads that lead to other properties.

For Ms. Cepero, the easement across her property—Lot 5, Block 7 A—at the end of S.E. 43rd St. leads to property owned by Michael and Karen Wells. The easement across Lot 3, Block 6 B, leads directly to property owned by Herschel Miller.

Records with the King's Bay Homeowner's Association show that until recently Ms. Cepero has been current on paying her assessments. However, as of Thursday, Jan. 28, she owed \$80.54.

Okeechobee County records indicate that both lots were originally owned by Addison Development, Inc., of Fort Lauderdale. In May 1985 the company granted the easements to Lawrence B. Isgette, who was also the president of Addison Development.

According to the Florida Department of State - Division of Corporations, Addison Development was involuntarily dissolved in November of 1988. And since Mr. Isgette has since died, the easements cannot be easily re-assigned or ended.

However, in the case of Lot 3, an attorney representing King's Bay may challenge the easement in court.

Colin Cameron is considering court action because he feels the granting of the easement by a company to one of its officers would render the easement invalid.

"If invalid, the easement would be terminated by court action and if it is supposed to be a residential lot, it would be available for building," he said.

While Lot 3 has had several owners throughout the years, the current owner—Mercury 1 LLC of Aventura—currently owes over \$3,700 in assessments levied by the King's Bay Homeowner's Association. A records check at the Okeechobee Tax Collector's Office also shows that the Aventura company owes \$207.03 in taxes on the property.

Mercury 1 LLC purchased the tax deed to

the property in 2007.

And even though King's Bay may choose to foreclose on the property due to the unpaid assessments, Mr. Hancock can only place a lien on the property. That lien must stay in place for a period of two years. When that two years has passed, Mr. Hancock, as the holder of the tax certificate, could foreclose on the lot.

"If an individual lets it go, they will lose the money they put up, but they won't lose it until after seven years have gone by," said Okeechobee County Tax Collector Celeste Watford. "Then, if it's not foreclosed on, the certificate becomes null and void after seven years. If they choose not to foreclose, it stays as it is until someone sees a need to do something with it and the taxes roll on."

The county, she added, cannot foreclose on property owned by an individual unless that individual sells it to the county.

"When a certificate is purchased, the county gets their money," said Ms. Watford. "If the county holds the certificate and no one buys it, then the county doesn't get paid until the certificate is purchased."

She went on to say if the property appraiser continues to assess it, then the property will stay as it is until the taxes are paid.

And as long as there is an owner, the property will be assessed, said Mickey Bandi, assistant property appraiser for Okeechobee County.

"The property still has value," he said, of lots 3 and 5 in King's Bay.

That value, he continued, has been decreased greatly since these lots can't be used for anything. In Ms. Cepero's case, Mr. Bandi said her property assessment has dropped to about \$450 and her taxes are now around \$7. However, she still is paying \$50 in fire assessment.

He added that while foreclosures can be filed on the property, they won't change anything.

"Foreclosure on the property has nothing to do with, and will have no effect on, an easement," he said. "The easement stays with the land."

Mr. Bandi then suggested that before land is bought at a tax sale, potential buyers should spend some time researching the property.

Otherwise, it's buyer beware.

# Unemployment numbers show slight improvement

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

The latest unemployment news was positive for Okeechobee as fewer people were out of work in December in Okeechobee and Glades County.

The Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Labor Market Statistics Center, found that 2,425 residents were out of work in Okeechobee, a rate of 13.2 percent. There were 2,490 people unemployed during November when 13.6 percent of the workforce was jobless.

Glades County had 9.4 percent of the work force without a job, 470 residents. In November the rate was 9.9 percent or 492 people.

One year ago Okeechobee's rate was 9.7 percent and Glades County had 7.3 percent unemployment.

Okeechobee was 11th highest among the states 67 counties while Glades County had lower unemployment rates than all but 15 Florida counties.

Around the area Hendry County had 13.5 percent unemployment, Martin 12.4 percent, Palm Beach County 11.5 percent, St. Lucie County 14.2 percent, Highlands County 11.1 percent, and Osceola County 13.3 percent.

The State rate rose slightly from 11.5 to 11.6 percent.

## Valentine's Day is Feb. 14

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WED. JAN 27 - SAT. JAN 30

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FREE GIVEAWAYS FAMILY FUN ZONE FREE ADMISSION FAMILY FUN ZONE FREE GIVEAWAYS

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

LAKESIDE ACTIVITIES  
Takeoff: Daily at 7 a.m.  
C. Scott Driver Marina

WEIGH-IN  
Wednesday - Friday: 3 p.m.  
C. Scott Driver Park  
10100 W Highway 78  
Okeechobee, FL

FAMILY FUN ZONE  
SATURDAY: 12 - 4 P.M.

Gilbert Chevrolet  
3550 Highway 441 South  
Okeechobee, FL  
gilbertchevrolet.com

SATURDAY WEIGH-IN  
Begins at: 4 p.m.

CHEVY

VERSUS VS

# Soccer team wins district match

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School Brahms extended their season by at least one match as they got two goals apiece from Marcos Fonseca and Erick Garcia in a 5-1 victory over Boynton Beach in the District 14-4A boys soccer tournament Monday at Jensen Beach High School.

Okeechobee advanced to meet top seed Suncoast on Wednesday night.

"Boynton Beach wasn't that good and we made a few mistakes. We aren't getting the job done on defense right now," Brahms Coach Lonnie Sears said. "The big thing with us is discipline in all aspects of the

game. We need to make smart decisions on defense and in this game we passed the ball right to one of their players and he scored a goal."

Sears said his defenders have a bad habit of keeping their head down and not watching what other players are doing. He said they need to be more aware when they clear the ball.

On offense Sears also wasn't satisfied. Despite the five goals, Sears said his team could have scored 12 goals. Okeechobee had 16 shots on the Boynton Beach net.

"I wasn't pleased with our offense. We had some great opportunities right at the net and it wasn't pretty. We kicked the ball right

to their goalie a couple of times," he added.

Sears said on the positive side his midfielders have begun to play better. He said his team did a good job of creating scoring opportunities against Boynton Beach and must continue to do that against Suncoast.

"We can beat anybody we play but we must capitalize on our opportunities and our defense must tighten up," Sears said. "We are just as good as any team we have played this year."

If Okeechobee can upset Boynton Beach they will secure a trip to the state regional playoff for the second straight year. Fort Pierce Central battled Jensen Beach in the other semifinal Wednesday night.

# Girls basketball team sweeps private schools

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School Brahman girls basketball team improved to (14-8) on the season as they won games Monday at Summit Christian, and Tuesday at Berean Christian in West Palm Beach.

On Monday Okeechobee held off a game Summit Christian squad 52-45. Markeisha Youmans had 14 points, Jewel Buck added a double-double with 11 points and 10 rebounds, and Essence Williams added nine points.

Okeechobee and Summit Christian were tied at the half 26-26 and the Lady Brahms held a slim 40-38 lead as they entered the

final quarter. Summit Christian hit seven baskets behind the three point arc in the contest.

On Tuesday the Brahms had another tough game with Berean Christian as they took an early lead and then held off a stubborn Berean Christian squad. Okeechobee led 21-15 after the first quarter and 29-27 at the half. Okeechobee led 44-36 after three quarters.

Jewel Buck had another double-double with 14 points and 12 rebounds. Essence Williams had 16 points and seven steals while Markeisha Youmans and Monica Koger both had 13 points. Williams had three, three-point baskets in the game.

## Adult Flag Football league registration open

All players and managers interested in the 2010 Adult Flag Football League are encouraged to attend an organizational meeting Thursday, Feb. 4, at 6 p.m. at the Civic Center on U. S. 98 N.

Team fees are as follows: Men's League - \$350; Women's League - \$300.

To register a team, visit the Recreation Department at 640 N.W. 27th Lane (Sports Complex), Monday-Friday between 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Fees are due no later than 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12. For more information, call the Recreation Department at 863-763-6950.

## Taylor Creek Condominium • Okeechobee


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**WATERFRONT 2/1 CONDO ON THE RIM CANAL WITH LAKE OKEECHOBEE ACCESS.** 2nd story garden apartment with enclosed (sliding glass windows/screens) patio with great views. Totally remodeled. Kitchen has been upgraded to granite countertops, new cabinets, refrigerator, microwave, dishwasher, tile flooring. Bathroom has been upgraded with granite countertops, tub tiles, tile flooring. All new upgraded windows, new hot water heater, new stacking Kenmore washer/dryer. Newer Trane A/C. Plantation blinds. Walk-in closet in master has new shelving. Easy to see. Call Falco (561) 358-2423

Call Falco (561) 358-2423

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	<b>1006-H:</b> Oak Tree Place 2-Story townhouse in town. 2 Bedrooms 1.5 Bath, porch w/new panel roof and wooden fenced also incl stackable washer & dryer unit. \$77,000 MLS# 203227		<b>2000-M:</b> Taylor Creek 3/2 home split bedroom plan, Island Kitchen, extra shed, detached carport w/workshop, fenced back yard, appliances, etc. MLS #203096
	<b>2003-M:</b> Taylor Creek Mobile home split bedroom plan, furnished, enclosed & screened porch with workshop, fenced lot. \$59,000 MLS #202195		<b>5005-H:</b> King's Bay 3 Bedroom 2 Bath home with rear screen in porch, attached garage, Breakfast Bar, and more. \$135,000 MLS #203579
	<b>5027-M:</b> Spot in the Sun 3/2 MH, front & back porch, fenced large Lot. Nice and quiet located at the end of the street. \$75,000 or better offer. MLS #92463		<b>5033-M:</b> Spot in the Sun 3bdr/2bath DW MH on 1 Acre. Chain link fence, storm shutters. Could be sold furnished. 12 x 16 shed. MLS #203445

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FULL SERVICE REALTOR patgoolsby@embarqmail.com

FOR THESE LISTINGS, CALL VICKI ANDERSON 863-634-4106.

**THIS IS AN ADORABLE ONE ROOM WINTER OR WEEKEND RETREAT.** It is a large corner lot with a beautiful view of the water and many trees. It has a nice carport. MLS #200971, \$85,000.

**BRING YOUR HORSES** 2/2 frame house on 5+ acres. 2nd kitchen w/separate entrance. Updated elec service, pole. New pump. Shed in backyard. Spacious area with wild life. Fully furnished. MLS #93200, \$118,000.

**WELL-MAINTAINED 2/2 2-STORY TOWNHOUSE** located on the golf course on the "14TH TEE BOX." Active community with clubhouse, pool, and many other activities. Maintenance free. MLS #202816, \$120,000.

**2/1 HOUSE ON 20 ACRES** with many fruit and pine trees. Annual income from cell tower. Two nice ponds 20' deep stocked with fish. Fenced with Pole Barn. Possible neighbors five acres. MLS #202744, \$599,000.

**HUGE SWMH WITH MANY AMENITIES** - 3/3 SWMH with huge FL rm. Two car garage, workshop, Hurricane shutters Electric on front deck, fish house, and garage. Has its own BOAT RAMP. MLS #202857, \$118,000.

**WATERFRONT 3/2 MH**, close to shopping etc. Appliances including washer & dryer. Shingle Roof in 2005. Big pantry 4x7. Double roofed and double sided for extra insulation. PRICED RIGHT! MLS #202925, \$49,900.

**863-763-5588 • 21442 E. SR 78, BHR**  
Across Kissimmee River next to Fire Station & Glades County Building.

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## Announcements

Important Information: Please read your ad carefully the first day it appears. In case of an inadvertent error, please notify us prior to the deadline listed. We will not be responsible for more than 1 incorrect insertion, or for more than the extent of the ad rendered valueless by such errors. Advertiser assumes responsibility for all statements, names and content of an ad, and assumes responsibility for any claims against the Delaware State News. All advertising is subject to publisher's approval. The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject any or all copy, and to insert above the copy the word "advertisement". All ads accepted are subject to credit approval. All ads must conform to Delaware State News style and are restricted to their proper classifications. Some classified categories require advance payment. These classifications are denoted with an asterisk \*.

For more listings, go to  
[www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

## Garage/ Yard Sales

**Garage Sale; 1/30/2010**  
Saturday Only. 1111 NW 5th Street.

Time to clean out the attic, basement and/or garage? Advertise your yard sale in the classifieds and make your clean up a breeze!

Need a few more bucks to purchase something deer? Pick up some extra bucks when you sell your used items in the classifieds.

**OKEECHOBEE FEED** - 1579 State Rd. 70 E., Sunday, January 31st, 7am-2pm. Multi Family, household items, clothes, furniture & much more!!



## Employment

For more listings, go to  
[www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

## Employment Full Time

**QUALITY CONTROL**  
Earn up to \$100 per day. Evaluate retail stores, training provided, No experience required. Call 888-615-5249

Reading a newspaper helps you understand the world around you. No wonder newspaper readers are more successful people!

## Employment Medical

## PATIENT CARE ASSISTANTS

Raulerson Hospital has immediate openings for Pt. Care Assistants, applicants must have FL certification and current CPR certification. Please log on to [www.raulersonhospital.com](http://www.raulersonhospital.com) to complete an online employment application. Raulerson Hospital, 1796 Hwy. 441, N., Okeechobee, FL 34973

One man's trash is another man's treasure. Turn your trash to treasure with an ad in the classifieds.

## Employment Part Time

**P/T JANITORIAL MAINTENANCE**  
Retirees welcome. Complete application in person at 269 NW 9th St. Okeechobee, FL

How do you find a job in today's competitive market? In the employment section of the classifieds



## Financial

For more listings, go to  
[www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

## Business Opportunities

## NOTICE

Independent Newspapers will never accept any advertisement that is illegal or considered fraudulent. In all cases of questionable value, such as promises of guaranteed income from work-at-home programs - if it sounds too good to be true, chances are that it is. If you have questions or doubts about any ad on these pages, we advise that before responding or sending money ahead of time, you check with the Better Business Bureau at 772-878-2010 for previous complaints.

Some 800 and 900 telephone numbers may require an extra charge, as well as long distance toll costs. We will do our best to alert our reader of these charges in the ads, but occasionally we may not be aware of the charges. Therefore, if you call a number out of your area, use caution.



## Services

For more listings, go to  
[www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

## Excavation

**CLEARING & HAULING**  
Dump Truck, Back Hoe & Bobcat Services... by Jason Summerford (863)634-7771

When doing those chores is doing you in, it's time to look for a helper in the classifieds.

## Top Soil

**JACK'S TOP SOIL**  
Fill Dirt/Shell Rock & Bob Cat work.  
Call 863-467-4734



## Rentals

For more listings, go to  
[www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

## Apartments

**EFFICIENCY on 441 & 15 A**, Fully remodeled. All appliances. Single occupancy. Furnished. \$125 wk. + \$300 sec. dep. Utilities included. Call 863-610-1027

**NW OKEE:** 2br, quiet St. Pets ok, \$650/\$750, 1st, last & \$500 sec. 561-346-1642

**VIKING/PRAIRIE** Efficiency. Very clean! \$500/mo. Incl. utils. No pets. Call 561-329-8205

## Commercial Property

**CONCESSION STAND**  
FOR LEASE - At the Trading Post Flea Market. For details call 863-763-4114

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## Condos/Townhouses Rent

**Newly furnished**  
2BR/1BA Townhouse in Kings Bay. Also, 2BR/1BA Duplex in the city. (863)634-8331

**Taylor Creek Condo**  
2/1, furnished. Pool, Dock. \$875/mo + 1st & sec. Avail 2/15/10 (863)634-8757

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

## Houses - Rent

**OKEECHOBEE** - 4br, 2ba, great neighborhood, tile throughout, \$975 & up/mo, 1st & sec move in (561)248-3888 or (863)599-0156

## Office Space Rent

**OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT**  
(863)763-8565



## Real Estate

For more listings, go to  
[www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

## Houses - Sale

**CBS** - 4/2 + efficiency, completely remodeled, in ground pool, fenced, metal roof, .48 acres, 2,000 + s.f., 20X30 steel shed, \$149,900 (561)801-3002

Shop here first!  
The classifieds ads

**CBS** - furn., det. Hse 2BR, 2BA, garage, screen porch, 352-895-8376 Must Sell

**NEW CBS** - 4br, 2ba, \$129,900 price includes closing costs. Call (863)467-5188



## Mobile Homes

For more listings, go to  
[www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

## Mobile Home Rent

**FOR RENT:** 3/2 and 2/1 Cottages. Newly remodeled. 12 miles north of Okeechobee on beautiful ranch. Water, trash & lawn maintenance included. NO PETS! M-F. (863)467-2982

## Mobile Home Rent

**FT. DRUM AREA** - furn, older mobile home, 1.5 br, 1ba, \$425 dep., \$425 mo. rent (912)925-2147/ (912)224-4658 or (734)637-2697

Grab a bargain from your neighbor's garage, attic, basement or closet in today's classifieds.

**OKEECHOBEE** - 2br, 1ba with large back porch & front porch on large scenic, wooded, fenced lot, W/D \$700 mo. Call 863-634-3451

## Mobile Home Sale

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**OKEECHOBEE- 1981**  
dbl wide on water, porch, lg edition, boathouse, \$100,000 (863)763-0474

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## Automotive

For more listings, go to  
[www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

## Automobiles

**BUICK REGAL 2000** - Grey, Auto., Air. Excellent condition. \$1800 (812)989-3022

How fast can your car go? It can go even faster when you sell it in the classifieds.

## Pickup Trucks

'96 Silverado, 350 v-8, ext cab, all factory options, extra clean \$3800 417-848-6360



## Public Notices

For more listings, go to  
[www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

## Public Notice

### To Whom It May Concern:

You are hereby notified that I will offer for sale and sell at public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash the following described livestock: one white female goat, at 12:00 o'clock, pm. On the 22nd day of June 2009, at Okeechobee County Animal Control, 1480 NW 25th Drive, Okeechobee, FL 34972 to satisfy a claim in the sum of \$35.00 for fees, expenses for feeding and care and costs hereof.

Animal Control of Okeechobee County, Florida  
345017 ON 1/29/10

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
CASE NO. 2009-CP-252

**IN RE: ESTATE OF DOROTHY D. CATES**  
Deceased

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of DOROTHY D. CATES, deceased, whose date of death was November 16, 2009, and whose social security number is 405-72-9191, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The names and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTH AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is January 29, 2010.

Personal Representative:  
WILLIAM S. CATES  
8964 Hwy 441 SE  
Okeechobee, FL 34974  
Attorney for Personal Representative:  
COLIN M. CAMERON  
200 N.E. 4th Avenue  
Okeechobee, FL 34972  
(863) 763-8600  
Fla. Bar No. 270441  
344881 ON 1/29;2/5/10

## Public Notice

### PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE WILL MEET WITH THE AREA LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION FOR A LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2010, AT 8:30 A.M., IN ROOM 227 IN THE SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM, THE CAPITOL, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA. ANY PERSONS SEEKING TO APPEAL THE DECISIONS OF THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS MADE.  
345026 ON 1/29/10

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Case No.: 2010-DR-042  
Division: DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Ruben Hernandez,  
Petitioner  
and  
Graciela Ryeda  
Respondent

### NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

TO: Graciela Ryeda  
Last Address: Texas

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Ruben Hernandez whose address is P.O. Box 1646, Okeechobee, FL 34973 on or before 2-28-10, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Court Operations 1st Floor, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972 before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Notice of Current Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915). Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed to the address on record at the clerk's office.  
**WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.**  
Dated: January 26, 2010.

SHARON ROBERTSON  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

By: /s/ HEATHER THOMAS  
Deputy Clerk  
344914 ON 1/29;2/5,12,19/10

Your next job could be in today's classifieds. Did you look for it?

**Public Notice**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Okeechobee Utility Authority will meet in regular session on Tuesday February 9, 2010 at 8:30 A.M., at the Okeechobee Utility Authority Offices, 100 SW 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Okeechobee Utility Authority will hold a Public Hearing as soon after 8:30 A.M. as possible to consider the adoption of Resolution 10-01 dealing with general policy and procedures for the Okeechobee Utility Authority. A copy of the proposed Resolution is available for viewing at the office of the Executive Director, Okeechobee Utility Authority Offices, 100 SW 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

All interested parties for or against the proposed modified Resolution or Rates can be heard at said time and place. The needs of hearing or visually impaired persons shall be met by contacting the Executive Director's Office at 863-763-9460 at least 48 hours prior to the Public Hearing by any person wishing assistance.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Authority with respect to such meetings, he or she will need a record of proceedings and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. Such person may provide a court reporter, stenographer, or tape recorder for such verbatim record.

BY ORDER OF THE OKEECHOBEE UTILITY AUTHORITY

John F. Hayford, P.E.  
 Executive Director  
 344278 ON 1/29/10

**Public Notice**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE**  
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Okeechobee will meet in Regular Session on **Tuesday, February 2, 2010, 6:00 p.m.**, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.  
 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that no stenographic record by a certified court reporter will be made of the foregoing meeting. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at said meeting upon which any appeal is to be based. Please contact City Administration at 863-763-3372, or website [www.cityofokeechobee.com](http://www.cityofokeechobee.com), to obtain a copy of the agenda.  
 In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Clerk's Office at 863-763-3372 for assistance.  
 by: James E. Kirk, Mayor  
 Lane Gamliotes, CMC, City Clerk  
 344998 ON 1/29/10

# FLW series event fishing Lake Okeechobee

**By Rob Newell**  
**FLW Outdoors**  
 John Cox of Debary, Fla., landed five bass weighing 25 pounds, 1 ounce Wednesday to



**FLW/Rob Newell**  
**John Cox of Debary, Fla., sight-fished 25 pounds, 1 ounce for the day-one lead in the FLW Series on Lake Okeechobee.**

lead day one of the FLW Series Eastern Division tournament on Lake Okeechobee.

"I started on one fish in the morning and it ate my first pitch," said Cox, who is fishing in his first FLW Series event. "I caught two other 3-pounders and a few other nice ones about 11 o'clock. After that, I just went around and tried to find new areas."

Cox said he was sight fishing for larger bass and attributes his success on the first day of competition to being in the right place at the right time.

"I'm going to do the same thing on Thursday, but I'm going to start in a different area and try to put 15 or 20 pounds together," Cox said.

In FLW Series competition, pros are competing for a top

award of \$50,000 plus valuable points in the hope of qualifying for a shot at the 2011 Forrest Wood Cup, the world championship of bass fishing.

Overall there were 371 bass weighing 607 pounds, 5 ounces caught by 117 co-anglers Wednesday. The catch included 32 five-bass limits.

Co-anglers are competing this week for a Ranger 177TR with 90 horsepower engine as well as valuable points that could help them qualify for the 2011 Forrest Wood Cup.

Anglers will take off from C. Scott Driver Park located at 10100 W. Hwy. 78 in Okeechobee at 7 each morning. Friday's weigh-ins will also be held at the marina beginning at 3 p.m. Saturday's final weigh-in will be held at Gilbert Chevrolet Com-

pany located at 3550 Hwy. 441 S. in Okeechobee beginning at 4 p.m.

Fans will be treated to a Family Fun Zone at Gilbert Chevrolet prior to Saturday's weigh-in from noon to 4 p.m.

There will be a drawing for a \$500 Cabela's gift card and drawings for rod and reel combos will be held every 30 minutes during the event.

Activities in the Family Fun Zone include a Ranger boat simulator and assorted fishing-themed games.

All activities are free and open to the public.

Coverage of the Lake Okeechobee tournament will be broadcast in high-definition (HD) on VERSUS. "FLW Outdoors," will air May 2, from 12:30 to 1:30 ET.

## Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

<p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <p>1 Cab fare calculator</p> <p>6 Old saw</p> <p>11 Jazz style</p> <p>14 One at ___</p> <p>15 ___ dancer</p> <p>16 Game with Skip and Reverse cards</p> <p>17 Golfer's java-dispensing target?</p> <p>19 "If I Ruled the World" rapper</p> <p>20 Woman with a habit?</p> <p>21 Motorists' org.</p> <p>22 "Saturday Night Live" bit</p> <p>23 Build</p> <p>25 Distance runners</p> <p>27 "Who cares?"</p> <p>30 Sesame Street grouch</p> <p>31 Discount rack abbr.</p> <p>32 Correct, as text</p> <p>34 Dispenser of theater programs</p> <p>37 Open or pigeon add-on</p> <p>39 Curved sword</p> <p>41 What to do just before the surprise party starts</p> <p>42 Calendario page</p> <p>44 Stunning weapon</p> <p>46 Golfer's position</p> <p>47 Guitar parts</p> <p>49 Detected, as a rat?</p> <p>51 Cascades peak</p> <p>53 Port-au-Prince's country</p> <p>54 Bodybuilder's pride, briefly</p> <p>55 Lingerie buy</p> <p>57 Command used when creating a new file name</p> <p>61 Dory propeller</p> <p>62 Drawing of the area next to the fairway?</p> <p>64 "___ Got a Secret"</p> <p>65 Nurse, vis-à-vis medication</p> <p>66 Wear away</p> <p>67 Avignon article</p>	<p>68 "I'm with you, Reverend!" shouts</p> <p>69 Lip-___: mouths the words</p> <p><b>DOWN</b></p> <p>1 Apples with screens</p> <p>2 Needle case</p> <p>3 Server's rewards</p> <p>4 Hammed it up</p> <p>5 Football official</p> <p>6 Blood classification letters</p> <p>7 Skim, as soup</p> <p>8 ___ Romeo: sports car</p> <p>9 Sparkles</p> <p>10 Storm center</p> <p>11 Mound near a sand trap?</p> <p>12 Studio sign</p> <p>13 Internet forum messages</p> <p>18 Skin softeners</p> <p>22 Symbol after "http:"</p> <p>24 Soccer player's shoes</p> <p>26 Post-op section</p> <p>27 Light meal</p>	<p>28 Golfer's choice</p> <p>29 Really large putting surface?</p> <p>30 Ukrainian port</p> <p>33 Org. for Bucks and Bulls</p> <p>35 Pop singer Brickell</p> <p>36 Sax or oboe</p> <p>38 Bride's purchase</p> <p>40 Careless</p> <p>43 Halloween mo.</p> <p>45 Hollywood do-overs</p> <p>48 Explosion sound</p> <p>50 Horse stable</p> <p>51 Go bad</p> <p>52 Throw with strain</p> <p>53 Golf legend Walter</p> <p>56 Bit of deception</p> <p>58 Harrow rival</p> <p>59 Elec. designation</p> <p>60 "___ Gotta Have It": Spike Lee film</p> <p>62 Nutrition abbr.</p> <p>63 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., e.g.</p>
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**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

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M	A	U	L	S		C	A	M	E	L	I	R	E	
O	R	B	I	T		S	K	I	T		S	A	N	K

[xwordeditor@aol.com](mailto:xwordeditor@aol.com)

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By David W. Cromer  
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## Website features Okeechobee teams

The Okeechobee News invites you to check out the innovative new Okeechobee Sports Network on the internet.

Youth, adult recreation leagues, and school sports teams now have an online sports page and resource they can call their own.

Team representatives can post their schedules, game stories, statistics, standings and photos on dedicated web pages on the site. There is absolutely no charge for teams and leagues to participate in Okeechobee Sports Network. Local businesses interested in finding out how to become a sponsor can contact their local Okeechobee News advertising representative or call Judy Kasten at 863-763-3134 or by email at [jkasten@strato.net](mailto:jkasten@strato.net). Interested teams and leagues can contact Renee Hawley by e-mail at [rhawley@communitysportsdesk.com](mailto:rhawley@communitysportsdesk.com). To participate and find out how your team can win a free pizza party! Okeechobee Sports Network will also be giving away a \$25 gift certificate from the Ultimate Gamer for the best local sports photo posted on the site by Jan. 31. Call Renee toll free at 888-853-7904 for a demonstration or to get started right away.

To visit the Okeechobee Sports Network online, go to [newszap.com](http://newszap.com), click on the Okeechobee homepage, then click on the Sports tab at the top right side of the page.

## Soccer referee clinic set

All those interested in becoming an official referee under the United States Soccer Federation are encouraged to register online at [www.fsr-inc.com](http://www.fsr-inc.com). Half of the clinic will be completed online and the other half will be a classroom session held at Yearling Middle School Jan. 30, and Jan. 31. For information, call 863-610-0084.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:**

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You are hereby notified that your eligibility to vote is in question. You are required to contact the Supervisor of Elections, in Okeechobee, Florida, no later than thirty (30) days after the date of this published notice to receive the information regarding the basis for your potential ineligibility and the procedure to resolve this matter. Failure to respond may result in a determination of ineligibility by the Supervisor, and your name will be removed from the statewide voter registration system. If further assistance is needed, please contact the Okeechobee County Supervisor of Elections Office.

Published one time in Okeechobee News  
 Gwen Chandler  
 Okeechobee County Supervisor of Elections  
 307 NW 2nd Street  
 Okeechobee, FL 34972  
 (863) 763-4014  
 Publish: 01/29/2010  
 344882 ON 1/29/10

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**Case No.: 2009-DR-208**  
**Division: Domestic Relations**

JOHN WESLEY TOMMIE,  
 Petitioner,  
 and  
 MELODY TOMMIE,  
 Respondent

**NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION**

TO: Melody Tommie

**YOU ARE NOTIFIED** that an action for Dissolution of Marriage, including claims for dissolution of marriage, payment of debts, division of real and personal property, and for payments of support, has been filed against you. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to this action on Travis W. Trueblood, Petitioner's attorney, whose address is P.O. Box 1270, 24704 U.S. Hwy. 27, Moore Haven, FL 33471, on or before Feb. 8, 2010, and file the original with the clerk of this court at Okeechobee County Courthouse, 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, either before service on Petitioner's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

**WARNING:** Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleading.  
 DATED this 4th day of January 2010.

SHARON ROBERTSON  
 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
 By: Arlene Nealis  
 Deputy Clerk  
 342929 ON 1/8,15,22,29/10

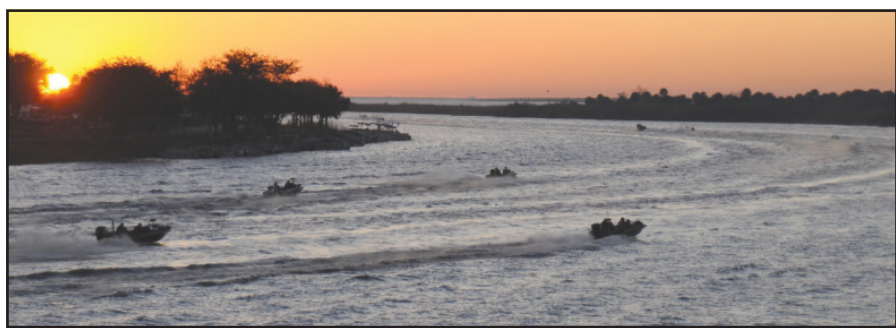
**LEGAL NOTICE**

Public Auction will be held at Johns Towing Service storage lot located at 704 Northeast 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34972 on FEBRUARY 16, 2010, at 9:00 A.M. Pursuant to Florida Statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage charges. Year, make, model and VIN are as follows.

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FLW/Rob Newell

## FLW tournament under way

Anglers run into the sunrise on day two of the FLW Series on Lake Okeechobee Thursday. The tournament continues through Friday and Saturday and launches from the Scott Driver Boat Ramp. For more on the tournament, see page 15.

## Yearling boys fall in defensive battle

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

Felton Johnson had 12 points and Marshall Tommie added 11 points in a losing cause as the Yearling Middle School boys basketball team fell to Sebastian, 33-27 on Tuesday at home.

Yearling and Sebastian played tough aggressive defense all day long and neither team seemed to get untracked on offense.

A late push by Sebastian proved to be the difference. Brandon Jackson, a 6'2" eighth grader, led the way with 14 points for the Cowboys.

Yearling Coach Efrain Ochoa said he was disappointed that his team didn't play team ball and said too many times his players were out of control, trying to win the game by themselves.

"This just shows that team ball is always better than individual ball. That was our weakness tonight and this season. Sebastian showed that team ball leads you to victory," he said. "We didn't have the chemistry to jell together and finish."

Sebastian led 8-4 after the first quarter as Jackson scored two buckets inside. He was a tough assignment for the smaller Yearling players.

"He's big and helps with the rebounds but we didn't do our assignments and follow our roles. We made him look good," Ochoa said.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Isiah Rutherford (right) drives to the hoop during Yearling's loss to Sebastian Tuesday.

Felton Johnson had a three-point play and a jumper and Tommie scored two baskets in the second quarter as Yearling pulled to within 17-16 at the half.

Yearling tied the score on a lay up by Johnson and took a 21-19 lead on a basket by Tommie in the third quarter. Sebastian led 25-21 after three quarters.

Yearling twice cut the lead to three on baskets and free throws by Johnson and Tommie in the fourth quarter but could get no closer. Yearling appeared impatient on offense and didn't get very many open shots down the stretch.

"We have an offense, but we fall apart when the kids try to do everything by themselves. We were out of position too much and not thinking. Any team can beat us when we don't play team ball," Ochoa said.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Treshon Pierre shoots a long range jumper against Sebastian Tuesday.

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