

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 102 No. 12

Friday, January 28, 2011

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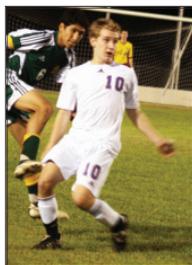
Man convicted of possession of child porn dies in prison ... Page 20



FWC questions future of fishing tournaments ... Page 4

Science Fair winners ... Page 5

OHS Soccer team in district finals ... Page 11



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Injured bald eagle rescued ... Page 2



Sheriff stamps OK on jail mail policy

Inmates limited to postcards except for legal correspondence

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Although a new mail policy will save the Okeechobee County Jail around \$9,000 a year in postage, it has not been received favorably by inmates.

The new policy goes into effect Feb. 1 and will limit all general correspondence to plain pre-stamped postcards. Only privileged or legal mail will be allowed to be sent via envelopes. This means an inmate will still be able to correspond with his/her attorney, but the envelope will have to have the legitimate address of the legal firm.

Any other mail contained in envelopes will be returned to the sender.

Besides the cost savings, Jail Administrator Ronnie White said the policy will also cut down on the amount of illegal items coming into the jail.

A petition from inmates who oppose the change has been given to Mr. White. A copy of that petition, along with a letter, was sent to the Okeechobee News by inmate David Reed. The petition contained 21 signatures, including Reed's. All of the inmates who signed the petition are in the same high-risk dorm as Reed.

When interviewed for this article on Wednesday, Jan. 26, Mr. White said there were 231 inmates in the county jail.

The petition asks that the new policy be altered to allow inmates who pay the proper postage to put their correspondence into envelopes. It goes on to say if Mr. White and Sheriff Paul May refuse

See MAIL — Page 20

New chamber draws crowd

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

One of the two new chambers of commerce in Okeechobee got off to a good start Wednesday, Jan. 26 when approximately 150 people gathered at the Williamson Conference Center for a kick-off celebration for the Chamber of Commerce of Okeechobee County. This chamber is closely aligned with the Business Development

Board (BDB) and Okeechobee Main Street.

Chamber president Terry Burroughs said that some time around last September some business leaders approached him to see if the BDB would create a chamber of commerce. The Business Development Board, Inc. will be doing business as the Chamber

See CHAMBER — Page 19



J. D. Mixon, president-elect of the Chamber of Commerce of Okeechobee County, explains the operations of his organization to a crowd of business and professional people gathered at the Williamson Conference Center on Wednesday, Jan. 26.

Traffic stop nets over 8 lbs. of pot

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Alabama couple was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail after local detectives allegedly found over 8 pounds of marijuana in their vehicle.

Juan Carlos Quintana, 40, Walden Quarters, Ala., was arrested Wednesday, Jan. 26, on felony

charges of possession of marijuana with intent to sell and possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony. He was also charged with the misdemeanor of possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$15,500.

Also arrested was his wife, Mercedes Leon, 42. She was charged

See ARREST — Page 19

Pet Rescue to host vaccination clinic

The Humane Society Pet Rescue will have their monthly low cost vaccination clinic on Saturday, Jan. 29 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. At the clinic you can also purchase low cost heartworm, flea and tick preventatives. Also, collars, and leashes available for purchase. Visitors can also have pets' nails trimmed for

any donation made to the rescue.

Pet/Rescue asks that everyone please leave sick pets at home and leash or crate all pets.

While at the event, consider adopting a rescued pet.

Okeechobee Humane Society Pet Rescue

operates from the generosity of your donations and the wonderful volunteers who donate their time.

For more information online, go to www.animalrescueokeechobee.org. To review pets available for adoption, go to <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/FL846.html>.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Diana Huston
FWC Officer Chris Douglas captured an injured bald eagle which was discovered by the Cypress Hut Fraternal Order of Eagles on Monday. The Eagles club plans to conduct fundraisers to pay for the bird's care and rehabilitation.

Cypress Hut Eagles help rescue bald eagle

On Monday, Jan. 24, Cypress Hut Fraternal Order of Eagles 4509 discovered an injured bald eagle on their property.

The bird's right wing was badly injured, but the cause of the injury is unknown.

The Florida Wildlife and Conservation Commission was called to rescue the bird. Sue Arnold of Arnold's Wildlife Center was also called.

Eagles members carefully herded the bird into an abandoned, fenced-in compound and kept a careful watch on the eagle while they waited for the wildlife rescue professionals.

FWC Officer Chris Douglas responded and captured the eagle. Cypress Hut Eagles plan to adopt this bird as a mascot and conduct fundraisers to pay for its care and rehabilitation. They hope someday the eagle will be able to return to the wild.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Mark Trammell Quartet in concert

Southern Gospel artists the Mark Trammell Quartet will be in concert Friday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Church of the Nazarene, 425 S.W. 28th St. A love offering will be taken. For more information call 863-763-7113.

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Okeechobee News

Planners consider transportation needs

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

At their meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 25 the Okeechobee County Planning Board discussed the county's long-range transportation plan. This plan suggests road improvements and new roads ten and twenty five years into the future based on population projections and traffic patterns.

At a workshop last month planning official Bill Royce asked board members to rank proposed projects. At Tuesday's meeting the board discussed those rankings. The proposals for 2020 included the four-laneing of S.R. 710 from S.R. 70 E. to S.E. 40th Avenue, the extension of S.R. 710 to U.S. 441 N. and

the four-laneing of S.R. 70 W. from U.S. 98 to S.W. 24th Avenue. The plan for 2035 called for a beltway, to be built around the city in segments, from 441 S.E. northwest to 441 N. then southwest to S.R. 78, four-laneing of S.R. 710 to the Martin County line, extension of S.E. 16th Street to S.W. 40th Avenue and extension of S.E. 18th Terrace to S.R. 70 E.

The board asked Mr. Royce to print up maps showing their rankings to be reviewed at next month's meeting. At that time the board is expected to make recommendations for future improvements to the county commissioners.

Turning to other business, the board granted a request from E & E Automotive Clinic, Inc. for a special exception to allow

for a garage in a commercial zoning district at 3431 U.S. 441 N. The applicant currently operates a garage at 3585 U.S. 441 N.

In the other item on the agenda the board recommended that the county commissioner grant a change in zoning from the current residential mixed to neighborhood commercial-2 at 9857 U.S. 441 N. The applicants, the William Jason Tomlinson Living Trust, indicated on the application that the reason for the change was "future development." A second public hearing for this zoning change will be held before the county commission on Feb. 10.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Pete Gawda can be reached at pgawda@newszap.com.

Mental health programs available for children

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Jo Norris of New Horizon's Mental Health Center spoke about the programs they offer Okeechobee at this week's Community Collaborative Council meeting. She presented a video of the substance abuse and mental health programs they offer to children. They recently opened the Frances Langford Children's Treatment Center on the Treasure Coast on Sept. 16, 2010. This allows children to get assistance locally and is much more convenient for Okeechobee families in need of services.

Ms. Norris said the services to children have improved dramatically over the past few years. In the past children in crisis had to go to Orlando, Melbourne or Palm Beach County. There were just three beds in the four county Treasure Coast region before the new Langford facility. Transportation was also an issue.

The center is a crisis stabilization unit. It is for youths ages 5-17. It handles Baker Act children and children with addictions to drugs. Okeechobee also has youth counselors for after care treatment.

Okeechobee County held a fund raiser to help raise \$18,000 that named a room at the new facility after Dr. Brown. Another \$40,000 was raised from Okeechobee after that fund raiser.

Ms. Langford was a wealthy actress who lived on the Treasure Coast. Her family donated a huge endowment up to \$3 million for the new center. They match dollar for dollar all the donations up to \$3 million.

The facility now has 10 beds for children. "It is sad to see the beds are full, but good to see that we projected that there was a need and the need is being met," she said.

Okeechobee sent 33 children to the facility from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. A total of 223 children were served by New Horizons. They also provide a drug counseling program at New Endeavor High School.

Local teen pregnancy rates are fifth highest in the state

Mike Davis of the Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition presented the latest teen pregnancy statistics for Okeechobee County. There were 73 births to teens ages 15 to 19 in 2010. There was 102 in 2009, 99 in 2008. In 2009, Okeechobee was fifth in the state at

2.8 percent birth rate among teens this age.

In 2009 there was one birth to a 14 year old, and five to 15 year olds. Repeat teen births totaled 24 in 2007, 22 in 2008, 20 in 2009, and nine in 2010.

"What we are doing is making an impact because you can see the decrease," he added. Okeechobee dropped from 12th to 54th in the state in the past three years in repeat teen births.

The annual Tween Summit, educational baby showers, life skill instruction classes, and other events involve Healthy Start each year. Mr. Davis said the On Track program to help teen parents make better choices in re-

lationships and set goals. They hold monthly workshop that discusses goal setting, college and career prep and other things.

They provide tutoring services, connect teens to community resources and services, and provide educational planning, and other programs. Over 64 percent of students graduate from high school in this program, slightly below the state average.

Jesse Smith, who handles the Teen Dads program said teen dads only neglect their responsibility because they feel overwhelmed and unprepared for fatherhood. Infants without an involved father are 2.3 times more likely to die in the first year.

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY AGRI-CIVIC CENTER

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Charmayne James Barrel Racing Clinic	February 3rd - 6th

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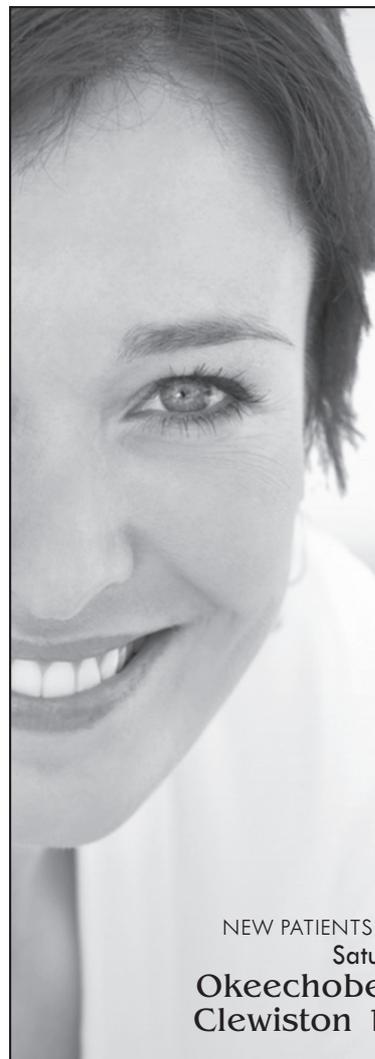
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Public Forum/Speak Out

Speak Out has moved online, where it is quicker and easier to share your ideas and converse with others. Go to www.newszap.com, 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!

Flying mattress

• I witnessed a queen size mattress flying through the air with a 250 pound man on it. The man hit the road just in front of me—he was clinging to the mattress just before his body hit the road. It seems the game plan was to load a queen size mattress on the back of the truck and use the man to hold it down during transport. This might work well if the weight to air speed had been checked. There should have been a warning label on the mattress warning that the mattress will fly and that it should be secured with something that ties down the mattress.

• Maybe the high school kids could try this for a science project. How much weight does it take to keep a mattress on the back of a pickup truck at varying speeds? Of course I would hope they would not use people as the weight! I am wondering about the wisdom of the driver who was going 50 mph with a guy on the mattress in the back of the truck!

• How is it legal for someone to ride in the back of the pickup unsecured, on top of a mattress ... but if he had been in the cab of the truck he could be ticketed if he doesn't wear a seat belt?

Fines and enforcement

• Another way to earn much needed money. Sit outside the schools and daycares and see how many children have no seat belts or car seats. Maybe hefty fines will cause them to secure their children.

Mount Trashmore money:

\$1.5 million

• The money was given instead of land as part of the long-term deal where waste management took over the county landfill. So I think the county should keep the money in the bank earning some interest until they actually need land and have a particular site in mind that they have a need and a use for. I don't think it should be used for anything else.

Food stamps

• It is like anything else—the government cannot regulate common sense. But I agree they need to take some things off the list of things you can buy. My biggest pet peeve is sugared drinks, sodas and candy. I see parents load their kids up on junk food and then wonder why their teeth are decayed.

• Food stamps at restaurants is absolutely idiotic. I have them and when it comes to food shopping I do my absolute best to make every cent go as far as I can. Clip coupons, BOGO at our three major stores, sale items, and freeze things for later. I am so grateful for this program. It is people that are taking advantage of it and will ruin it for the ones who cannot make it without it. It has been a miracle for my son and I. I have seen people buy subs, bakery cakes, ice cream cakes, cases of soda, and expensive deli meats/cheeses. It is not right. How many other people got denied that need it to feed their children/families? Because you were wasting money on items that are over-excessive and indulgent. Shame on you.

• I don't like standing in line at the store watching them load up on a cart full of crab legs and then pay with food stamps. They eat better than I do. Now they are going to allow fast food, the most unhealthiest food there is. And all the kids will get even fatter. My goodness, what a joke. Up goes obesity and health care bills for Medicaid.

• I've always thought food stamps were fattening.

Driver's licenses

• When I read the story in the Sunday paper about the new requirements for identification to renew a driver's license, I was glad to hear the government is doing something to combat all of the fake IDs being used. It's about time they made it tougher to get a driver's license. People who are not in the country legally should not be given a license to drive.

• It was just a little crazy when my husband went to renew his license last month. He had gotten a birth certificate from his state of birth when he applied for his Social Security. They accepted it without a problem but the driver's license office would not accept it. They said it was not a certified document so he had to once again apply for a certified birth certificate. It would seem that if one government agency accepts something that another would do the same. Social Security accepted the document as certified but driver's license would not.

Future of bass tournaments questioned

By Bob Wattendorf
FWC

In surveying anglers about a proposed Long-term Black Bass Management Plan, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Division of Freshwater Fisheries Management learned that people have opposing views about fishing tournaments.

Ray Scott, founder of the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, brought a network of large, competitive bass tournaments to reality and attracted millions of anglers to the sport, enhancing their understanding and enjoyment of what has become America's most-sought recreational fish. Along the way, tournament groups helped promote catch-and-release fishing and educated the public about conservation issues. However, many anglers feel tournaments exploit the resource and cause congestion at ramps. They are also concerned with bass that die after release and, especially, the impact of interfering with bedding bass.

One angler said tournaments shouldn't be continued if they don't overwhelmingly benefit the state. Someone else held the opposite view: that high-profile tournaments draw worldwide attention to Florida's fisheries, boost local economies, and provide great public relations to the bass fishing Florida offers.

A third survey participant said that during and after weigh-ins, bass are kept out of the water far too long. "Go to a tournament site the next morning and look at all the dead bass floating in the water," the participant said.

FWC staff, in drafting the Black Bass Management Plan, is considering another aspect of holding tournaments: the pros and cons of allowing bass tournaments to be temporarily exempt from size limits. A summary of those discussion points are provided below.

Continue tournament permitting

Competitive bass tournament angling is very popular in Florida and has profound economic impacts locally and statewide. For example, the 2005 BassMaster Classic on the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes generated an estimated \$25 million for the community during the three-day event. Some premier largemouth bass fisheries in Florida (e.g., Istokpoga, Orange, Walk-in-Water) have protective slot limits (15-24 inches) that would restrict tournament anglers from maximiz-

ing their daily weight.

Because most tournaments, including small clubs, penalize anglers for dead fish, tournament anglers try to take very good care of their fish. Therefore, the FWC provides exemptions to size restrictions (but not bag limits) to allow tournament anglers to temporarily possess these fish. Permitted tournament anglers must follow strict permit requirements, including releasing all fish after weigh-in and any dead fish must be donated to charity or research. Tournament angling depends on temporary exemptions to be competitive. So, for economic and social reasons, exemptions should be continued, since they don't hurt the resource, compared with allowing these same anglers to harvest their catch.

Discontinue tournament permitting

Many anglers think it is unjust for tournament participants to get even a temporary exemption from designated size limits. Harvest restrictions are set to manage a fishery based on a stated objective. Research from the University of Florida and elsewhere has shown that tournament-associated mortality could harm a fishery and prevent managers from meeting objectives. Tournament-associated mortality has been found to average 26-28 percent, and modeling effects of this mortality show that, under certain circumstances, it could affect the sizes of fish available for anglers. Thus, all anglers should follow size restrictions to ensure objectives are met.

Given that both sides have valid points, the FWC continues to review the impact of tournaments. It studied them in the 1980s and again in the '90s and found no significant impacts. An FWC subteam is looking at the tournament issue again, as is its technical assistance group of stakeholders representing various groups that use these fisheries or are affected by management decisions.

The FWC's No. 1 objective is to ensure sustainable bass populations. Tournaments won't affect that, but they could alter the quality of a local fishery. Moreover, this is a resource-allocation issue, so sharing of public resources in an equitable manner and economic and social considerations need to be weighed.

Recommendations have not been finalized, and people can still contribute by completing a brief survey about tournament bass fishing at www.surveymonkey.com/s/BBMP_tournaments.

KEECHOBEE NEWS

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- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
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Middle and high school students compete in Science Fair

On Jan. 20, the Okeechobee County School District held its County Science and Engineering Fair at Osceola Middle School. Throughout the morning, over 450 students presented their experiments, and our twenty-four judges worked tirelessly to determine the award winners. The following students received awards at the fair.

Behavior and Social Sciences: 3rd place -- Hunter Pritchard, Kylie Shirley, Destiny Fonseca; **2nd place** -- Byran Claypool, Aubrey Robertson, Daron Jones, Elizabeth Santelices; **1st place** -- Brandon McKee.

Biochemistry 3rd place -- McKenzie Fountain, Tyler Elliott; **2nd place** -- Brenon Brooks, Kirby Dobbs; **1st place** -- Bailey Kirton.

Botany 3rd place -- Angelica Lopez, Rosendo Navarro, Jessica Wisener, Glenn Jarriel, Saraya Vanderhoff, Rachel Williams; **2nd place** -- Alexis Calvillo, Hunter Berggren, Jake Menendez, Cayuna Williams, Danyelle Sheffield, Michael Muros, Sofia Medrano, Saul Rios; **1st place** -- Irfan Chaudhary, Mitchell McCoin, Jessica Humphrey, Nicolas Suarez, Audrey Metcalf, Payton Byrd, Yekaterina Kolbassinskaya, Fabiola Guzman, John McGehee.

Chemistry 3rd place -- Mary Ngo, Sarah Davis, Hunter Pelham, Emily Worth, Khrysta Herndon, April Hogenkamp, Britany Sain, Kylie Daniel, Chandler Vanadore, Nadir Aguirre, Kelli Chapman, Rashianna Humphries, Jesus Ordonez, William Wehde, Maria Ruiz, Leticia Soriano-Rios, Katie Sandoon; **2nd place** Tyler Chartier, Dallas San Miguel, Brandon Alvarez, Kaylee Tumoszewicz, Jaisalyn Santiago, Madysun Causier, Emily Crews, Joshua Lopez, Luis Perez, Logan Baylee Evans, Krystle Harris, Matthew Coleman, Hunter Bosworth, Shayla Pendry, Christen Sheffield, Timothy Shablom, Otto Ramirez; **1st place** Kirsten Doney, Bethany Stuart, Ryan Daniel, Caitlyn Albers, Emmanuel Gaona, Rebecca Snyder, Michael Daniel, Logan Laskey, Jacob McGehee, McKayla Snow, Cavin Platt.

Consumer Science 3rd place -- Sierra Shuey, Brianna Nunez, Taylor Williams, Anu Baby, Dylan McClanahan, Natasha Williams, Jacqueline Phares, Sandro Fernandez, Lucero Jaimes; **2nd place** -- Cody Walker, Cody Marsh, McKenzie Richey, Matthew Asmussen, Aalia Murphy, Rebecca Priest, Jacalyn Sutton, Sonia Lopez, Alexis Muller, Celia Palacios, Patricia Ruiz; **1st place** -- Cain



Receiving Best in Show trophies include (left to right) Kirsten Doney, Aubrie Reister, and Ross Laskey. Also receiving a Best in Show trophy, but not pictured, is Jessica Humphrey.

Elliot, Brooke Snyder, Jenna Rath, Dalton Pickering, Julia Weldon, Sarah Hurst, Courtney Murphy, Rachel Huddleston.

Computer Science 3rd place -- Jennifer Arellano.

Earth and Space 2nd place Ana Huerta; **1st place** -- Ares Hernandez.

Engineering 3rd place Dakota Bond, James Bell; **2nd place** -- Damian Womble, Lynn Romer, Kendall Baker; **1st place** -- Casey Hurst, Alejandro Campos, Braydon Kassella, Kelsey Orr, Alex Pluskot.

Environmental 3rd place -- Samantha Rivero, Sierra Story, Hannah Raulerson, Anupsinh Sean Chauhan; **2nd place** -- Angelina Bucio, Macy Gamiotea, Angel Alvarez, Alexandra Stripling; **1st place** -- Ryan Reister, David Blount, Jordan Bolan, Shania Bays, Meredith Hilliard.

Mathematics 2nd place -- Mercedes Washington.

Medicine and Health 3rd place -- Rafe Fisher, Rebekah Bennett, April Floyd, Cody Prescott; **2nd place** -- Ashton Armstrong, Casidy Watford, Tyler Winner; **1st place** -- Jessica Suit, Lisette Medrano, Jacie Harvey.

Microbiology 3rd place -- Tara Rock; **2nd place** Selena Bowman, Allicia May; **1st place** -- Monica Hernandez.

Physics 3rd place -- Tad Norman, Alec Emmonds, Ben Levins, Kutter Crawford, Claresha Blair, Taylor Pearce, Disan Hernandez, Emily Clay, Connor Clements, Samantha Plummer; **2nd place** -- Roman Mattson, Tristan Dubois, Karyna Villalpando, Chase Quesinberry, Tammie Ward, Miguel Chan, Carley McCoin, Elisa Garcia, Brady Rogers; **1st place** -- Pedro Cervantes, Ethan Revels, Tuff Durrance, Felipe Jr Soto, Alex Guido, Carson Harris, Brandon Rucks, Cheyenne Dunaway, Lucas Pinedo, Caleb Crews, Ross Laskey, Jarred Morgan.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Wednesday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 4-7-8; **Play 4:** 4-3-1-0; **Fantasy 5:** 5-9-16-17-21; **Mega Money:** 26-28-30-36 MB 22; **Florida Lotto:** 7-18-19-23-35-52 X 3; **Powerball:** 4-5-36-47-58 PB 6 x3. Numbers drawn Thursday, **Cash 3:** 1-1-2; **Play 4:** 1-5-9-4.

Special to the Okeechobee News

Zoology 3rd place -- Summer Douglas; **2nd place** -- Kelsie Chartier; **1st place** -- David Cardona, Adilene Hernandez, Adriana Donis, Aubrie Reister, and Johnathan Fox.

There were a few special awards presented at the ceremony. Adilene Hernandez (Sr. Division) and Aalia Murphy (Jr. Division) each received a \$50 cash award (from an anonymous donor) for showing tremendous effort in "doing science" under less than ideal circumstances. The Florida Water Pollution Control Operations Association selected the following projects for Scientific Honors in the study of water as it affects Environmental Science Ryan Reister received \$100, for the Sr. Merit Award; David Blount received \$200 for the Top Sr. Scientific Award; Shania Bays received \$100 for the Jr. Merit Award; and Meridith Hillard received \$200 for the Top Jr. Scientific Award.

The judges choose four Best in Show awards from all of the first place projects in the Senior and Junior Divisions for Biological and Physical Sciences. Jessica Humphrey

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s. West winds 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight: Clear. Lows around 40. West winds around 5 mph in the evening becoming light.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Sunny. Highs in the lower 70s. Northwest winds around 5 mph becoming northeast in the afternoon.

Saturday night: Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. Light winds becoming south around 5 mph after midnight.

Sunday: Partly sunny. Highs in the mid 70s.

Sunday night: Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. East wind around 5 mph.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 52. East southeast wind around 5 mph.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 80. Southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

received the Best in Show for Biological Sciences in the Senior Division; Kirsten Doney received Best in Show for Physical Sciences in the Senior Division; Aubrie Reister received Best in Show for Biological Sciences in the Junior Division; and Ross Laskey received Best in Show for Physical Sciences in the Junior Division.

Helping a few of our current and retired science teachers judge projects were several people from our community. We would like to thank the following people who donated their time to be a judge Debbie Clements, Jaime Gamiotea, Sara May, Matt Stanley, Rich Swogger, John Hayford, Wayne Blythe, John Harlow, Tom Potts, Melissa King, Gary Ritter, Magi Cable, Joe Arnold, Vanessa Bessey, Sharon Suits, and Marcos Montesdeoca. Without your help and support, we would not be able to have the fair!

The schools would also like to thank the following businesses in Okeechobee that donated food to help us feed the judges: Winn Dixie; Pizza Heaven; Golden Corral; Beef O'Brady's; and Domino's Pizza.

All students receiving a first place award have qualified to attend the Heartland Region Science and Engineering Fair, which will be held at the Sebring Agri-Center on Feb. 17, with the award ceremony on the evening of Feb. 18, at the same location.

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the fair this year. You should be proud of your accomplishments as you Achieve Excellence!

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Hazardous Waste Amnesty Day planned for April 2

Household Hazardous Waste Amnesty Day is a free service for Okeechobee County residents and held bi-annually at 306 N.W. Ninth Ave. Okeechobee.

The next scheduled Household Hazardous Waste Amnesty Day is Saturday, April 2, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Up to four passenger tires per person can be dropped off during Amnesty Day.

Community Events

Friday night steak dinner at Eagles

The Fraternal Order of Eagles, #4137, at 9985 Hwy. 441 N. will be serving steak dinners including salad, baked potato, garlic bread and dessert for \$12 on Friday, Jan. 28. Live entertainment and karaoke, at 7 p.m. by the "Harpers" is planned.

Moose Lodge to hold fish dinner

Okeechobee Moose Lodge will host a fish dinner on Jan. 28, from 5 until 6:45 p.m. for \$6 done by Ray followed by a variety show starting at 7 p.m. The show will feature an Elvis show with skits and songs by local entertainers along with some special guests by invitation.

Eagles to host benefit dinners

Cypress Hut Eagles will host dinner on Friday, Jan. 28 offering a 16 oz ribeye steak dinner with all of the trimmings for \$12 each or \$16 split. Or choose deep fried Haddock, hush puppies, and potato logs for \$8 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Live music until 10 p.m. A great meal at a great price and you'll be helping our Aerie to continue helping wonderful charitable causes. Cypress Hut Eagles is located at 4701 U.S. 441 S.E. For information, call 863-467-1154.

Blue Heron will host fundraiser golf tourney

Scramble to benefit 11 under Team Varsity Baseball Team on Saturday, Jan. 29. Come and have some fun. Included in the event will be a 50/50 drawing; a lunch will be offered for \$5 and the fee for teams will be \$120 - 4 person teams. For more information Call Keller at 863-467-1651 or Greg 863-634-8785.

Musical program at library

A program on the great Broadway composers and performers will be presented at the Okeechobee County Library on Saturdays, Jan. 29, and Feb. 5, 12 and 26, at 1 p.m. R.B. Nairnsey, who is very knowledgeable, is the speaker for the program and will present slides and musical illustrations. The topic for the Jan. 29 program will be J. Ross and R. Adler, writers of "The Pajama Game."

OCRA plans sign ups

OCRA will hold sign ups for youth sports on Saturday, Jan. 29 and also on Saturday, Feb. 5 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Sports Complex. Youth ages 5-14 are invited to sign up. Must have birth certificate. Cost is \$60 for first child - \$40 each additional. For information, please call 863-634-0515.

Students to hold fundraiser

The OHS International Club will host a yard sale on Saturday, Jan. 29, to raise funds for the student who are traveling to Paris, France in April. The sale will be located in the parking lot of the Tractor Supply Co. store on S. 441 in the Publix Shopping Center starting at 7 a.m.

VFW to host chicken dinner

Chicken dinner with mashed potatoes, gravy and vegetables will be ready from 2 until 6 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 30, for just \$5 at the VFW Post 9528 Buckhead Ridge. Five card BINGO starts at 5 p.m.

Church to have special speaker

Dr. Joe Davis will be preaching at Fountain of Life Church, 1302 S.W. 32nd St., at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 30. Dr. Davis is head of the Department of Apologetics at Southeastern University in Lakeland. He is an ordained Assemblies of God minister and a renowned Bible scholar.

Front provides spike in January rainfall amounts

Despite Tuesday night rainfall boost, deficit remains for 2010-2011 dry season

WEST PALM BEACH—A fast-moving cold front that pushed across South Florida on Tuesday night provided much-needed rainfall to the region, with some areas receiving nearly 1.5 inches overnight.

Rainfall for the last 24 hours averaged 1.11 inches across the 16-county region of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The Southwest Coast and the Kissimmee Basin recorded the highest rainfall totals over that time.

With five days left in the month, January's rainfall total now stands at 2.36 inches, which is 131 percent of the historical average for this point in the month.

Lake Okeechobee received more than an inch of rain during the last 24 hours. The lake is currently 12.41 feet above sea level, or about two feet below its historical average for this time of year.

The dry season remains in an overall rainfall slump, with 4.78 inches registered since the beginning of November, or only 74 percent of the historical average. The dry season was preceded by the driest October since the District began record keeping in 1932, with only 0.55 inches of rain for a deficit of more than 3 inches for the month.

With a significant La Niña effect still in place, the long-term rainfall forecast calls for a continuation of drier-than-average conditions for the remainder of the dry season. The district continues to closely monitor water levels and is urging residents and businesses to conserve water and follow landscape irrigation conservation measures in effect.

Water-savings tips and more information about irrigation limits by area are available at www.savewaterfl.com.

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Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Train stop shelter nearing completion

Work continues on the Okeechobee train stop shelter. When completed it will have a platform extending to the edge of the rails with a railing and a brick partially enclosed shelter designed to resemble train stations of bygone years.

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OHS honors employee



Traci Wilderman is OHS School Related Employee of the Year

not only organizes her own schedule, but she keeps most of us in the office on track too.

Mrs. Wilderman's interpersonal skills are her strong point. She interacts with many people, and her friendly, approachable manner makes it easy to talk to her.

Traci moved to Okeechobee in 1993 and immediately began working in the school system. She says she enjoys working with children because she is fulfilled and rewarded

when she helps a student. Traci spent eight years at Seminole Elementary School in the Pre-K program, and she worked at the high school for nine years as the receptionist before accepting the position as the principal's secretary.

What a pleasure it is to work with someone who has devoted and dedicated her professional career to the education of young children.

The Okeechobee High School faculty and staff are excited to announce that Traci Wilderman is the School Related Employee of the Year.

Mrs. Wilderman is the principal's secretary, and having worked in that position for six years, she has gained valuable knowledge of OHS and how it runs on a day-to-day basis, making for a comfortable and safe classroom environment in which our students learn and our teachers teach.

As the principal's secretary, Mrs. Wilderman is the backbone of Okeechobee High School. She happily performs countless tasks while maintaining the office and assisting the principal.

Mrs. Wilderman has amazing technical skills. She is proficient with computers, fax machines, copiers, scanners, and comfortable using various other pieces of technology. She's extremely organized as well. She

Balance is important for overall good health

Have you ever marveled as a gymnast nimbly flips across a balance beam? It seems amazing that an athlete can master such a narrow piece of equipment and still look so graceful.

Maintaining good balance is not just for gymnasts, however. Balance is as critical to your health as flexibility and core strength, and it's vital for preventing falls, avoiding injuries, and keeping you strong.

You use balance every day: to carry in the groceries, hoist up your toddler, or go up steps. You probably take your sense of balance for granted, but if you didn't have it, you'd find that basic tasks would become very difficult.

Good balance begins with your spinal cord. Information is carried up and down the spine, resulting in voluntary and involuntary movements. The better your balance—the better your reflexes.

You may begin to lose your sense of balance as you age, or you may find it compromised due to an injury. Whatever the case, it's important to try to regain it. Here are some suggestions.

Stand on one foot: With your feet shoulder-width apart, slowly lift one leg as high as you comfortably can. Close your eyes and try to maintain this position for at least 30 seconds; then switch legs. Use a

wall for support if you need to.

Walk heel-to-toe: Hold your arms out to the side, shoulder height, and walk heel-to-toe across a room. You can start with just a few steps if necessary, and it helps to stare at an object straight ahead of you.

Use a stability ball: There are many exercises you can do while using a stability ball. Regular practice will increase your balance and strengthen your core. You can also try sitting on one of these balls while you watch TV or work on a computer.

Try yoga, tai chi, or Pilates: These activities incorporate many moves that test and improve balance. Try a beginner's class if you're unsure of proper movement and alignment.

If your loss of balance is problematic, you may want to investigate balance retraining, which is offered at many rehabilitation centers. Talk to your doctor about what's right for you. You'll find that improved balance will help in sports such as golf, tennis, skating, and basketball. It will also help you stand on a ladder or carry a laundry basket!

This column was provided by Raulerson Hospital.

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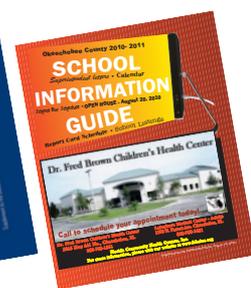
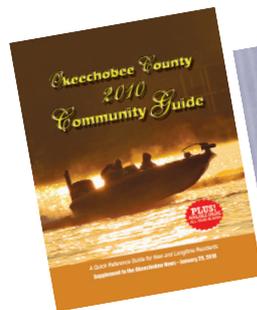
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OCSO deputies, dispatchers earn job-well-done honors

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) deputies and dispatchers were honored recently for their handling of a dangerous situation that ended with the arrest of a man who had loaded guns within his reach. In recommending the recognitions, OCSO Lieutenant K.J. Ammons said members of OCSO road patrol Squad A and the dispatchers on duty "... exercised great control and professionalism dealing with a suspect."

The suspect—Corey J. Hanzow, 32,—is being held in the Okeechobee County Jail on felony charges of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and introduction of contraband (weapon) into a state correctional facility. He is also charged with the misdemeanors of resisting a law enforcement officer without violence and leaving the scene of an accident with property damage.

Jail records show that his total bond is \$53,500.

On Nov. 21, 2010, Hanzow reportedly rammed his pickup truck into the gate at the Okeechobee Correctional Institute. He then fled to the Level 10 juvenile facility where he stopped in the parking lot around 1 a.m., according to an OCSO arrest report. He was later arrested at the scene.

In a Jan. 21, 2011, ceremony at the sheriff's office Sheriff Paul May recognized Squad A members: Deputy Sergeant Brian Hagan, Corporal Paul Ferrell, Deputy James Hartsfield, Deputy Ann Durbin, Deputy Yamil Astacio and Deputy John Hazy. Communications personnel who were honored were: Corporal Liz Kelly, Duty Officer Karla Pittman, Kelly Lancaster and Natalie Taylor.

"The above named communication personnel remained calm and professional throughout this situation and had all pertinent information on hand before being asked for it," wrote Lt. Ammons.

After Hanzow had stopped, Deputy Hartsfield approached the truck and knocked on the driver's side window. Hanzow's only response, stated OCSO reports, was to mock the deputy by knocking on the window. He refused to get out of his pickup when told to do so, stated the report.

Sgt. Hagan, Cpl. Ferrell and Deputy Astacio then approached the vehicle by using a shield. Several times they ordered Hanzow to open the vehicle's door and get out, but he reportedly refused.

Finally, an order was given to break out the passenger-side window and unlock that door. When the deputies broke out the window, Hanzow allegedly revved up the truck's motor and tried to put the vehicle into gear. But he forgot to depress the brake pedal first, so the truck wouldn't go into gear, stated the report.

The report goes on to state that Hanzow was tased, then taken into custody by deputies Durbin and Hartsfield.

Inside the truck, the deputies allegedly found a loaded .223 caliber rifle and a .22 caliber rifle. Both guns were within Hanzow's reach, the report stated.

"The members of A squad exercised restraint and conducted themselves in a very professional manner in dealing with this crisis," Lt. Ammons penned in his recommendation.

A records check showed that Hanzow served nearly five years in prison after being found guilty in Broward County of attempted robbery, attempted burglary of an occupied conveyance and two counts of grand theft. He began his prison sentence on Oct. 29, 2002, and released from prison on Sept. 1, 2007.

In honoring the deputies and communications personnel, Sheriff May said: "I would like to thank you for a job well done and for your loyal dedication and commitment to the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office."



Submitted photo/Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office

Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office Deputy Sergeant Brian Hagan (right) accepted a certificate from Sheriff Paul May (left) on Jan. 21 that recognized him and other members of Squad A for the way they handled a dangerous situation and a subsequent arrest on Nov. 21, 2010. The certificate also honored the communications officers "who remained calm and professional" and provided valuable information to those deputies.

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Brahmans blank Suncoast; advance to finals

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Hunter Pritchard scored in the first few minutes and Diego Rodriguez scored late in the second half, both on unassisted goals, to lead Okeechobee High School to the finals of the District 14-4A Tournament with a 2-0 victory over Suncoast Wednesday night.

Okeechobee will face Fort Pierce, a 3-2 winner over Jensen Beach in the other semi-final in a match at Brahman stadium Friday night at 7 p.m.

Brahman Coach Lonnie Sears said the team has played with a lot of energy in this tournament and really showed off the talent they possess, "Suncoast was a team I was worried about. The guys really have played like everything is on the line. If we play with that kind of energy we are talented enough to defeat anybody."

Okeechobee had gone through a lull in early January but has picked it up in the past 10 days. Coach Sears said it appeared his team has peaked at the right time.

"Our three defense men led by Javier Garcia have been leading the way. Our mid fielders have also done a great job on defense. It's been a great combination," he added.

Sears also praised Rodriguez who survived a demotion to the junior varsity team earlier in the year to regain his starting role at forward. He said Diego showed a lot of heart and character and has played unbelievable in recent matches.

Serafin Espinoza had two saves in the Brahman net. It was a physical battle as the referees allowed some rough play at both ends of the field.

Okeechobee insured themselves of a regional match for the second year in a row and for the third time in four years with the victory on Wednesday. They will play a school from the Space Coast region.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
(Above) Hunter Pritchard scored in the opening minutes of Wednesday's match to give Okeechobee some momentum in the District 14-4A semifinals.



(At right) Marcos Fonseca attempts a header off a pass during the first half of Wednesday's match between Suncoast and Okeechobee. The Brahmans prevailed 2-0.

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OKEECHOBEE SPORTS NETWORK

OHS wrestling team defeats Sebastian River

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee High School wrestlers celebrated their senior night with a come-from-behind 49-30 victory over the Sebastian River Sharks Wednesday at the Brahman gym. Seniors Vance Wilkerson, Donald Bryan, Brant Harden, and Harrison O'Connor led the way with victories as Okeechobee (16-5) ended the regular season on a high note.

"A couple of things didn't go our way at first but the boys put it together," Brahman

Coach Bruce Jahner said, "I told the seniors, let's go out with a bang and finish the way we should. All of the seniors came through with big wins tonight."

Vance Wilkerson pinned Sage Mitchell in a competitive match at 125 pounds after Alex Schmidt pinned Okeechobee's Ben Levins to start the match. Bryan Levins added a victory on points, 12-2, over Eddie Finnetti after Okeechobee fell behind 24-6.

Bryan got Okeechobee within six points with a pin over Chris Mayers. He said it felt

good to get a win in his final match at home, "I just had to fight back. Districts, regional and state are where it's at. I have one more week to prepare for districts."

Jahner also praised some of his younger wrestlers who provided a lift for the team. Justin Morgan won his match at 160 pounds by pin, and John Kemp pinned Curtis Crenshaw at 189 pounds.

Okeechobee also got wins by Cody Griffith at 106 pounds via pin and Daniel Jansen at 112 pounds by forfeit.

Brant Harden pinned Daniel Avila at 215 pounds and Harrison O'Connor nipped Gordon Taylor 3-2 in the heavyweight bout.

Coach Jahner said there was a lot of emotion as the seniors said goodbye to the gym they've wrestled in for the past four years. "It was a real good time. I like to see the seniors come out and show that leadership. I'm really proud of them."

Okeechobee wrestles in the District Tournament next Friday at Fort Pierce Central. Coach Jahner predicted Okeechobee will compete with some tough squads like Fort Pierce Central and Jensen Beach. "We'll go out there and you never know. It you put a good weekend together I've seen crazier things happen. At this time of year it comes down to who is ready to wrestle."

Bryan and Wilkerson probably have the best chances of qualifying for the regional tournament although several Brahmans will likely be in the mix.

Bryan said he has beaten everyone in the district that he has wrestled this year. He said senior night turned out just like he had dreamed and that he will have a lot of great memories of his high school career. "Everybody wrestled really hard for the last match of the season. They left it all out there. It definitely is a bittersweet feeling."

OHS wrestlers celebrate senior night



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Harrison O'Connor accepts a senior participation award from Coach Bruce Jahner.



Brant Harden shows off his senior award from wrestling coach Bruce Jahner.



Donald Bryan receives his senior award from OHS wrestling coach Bruce Jahner.



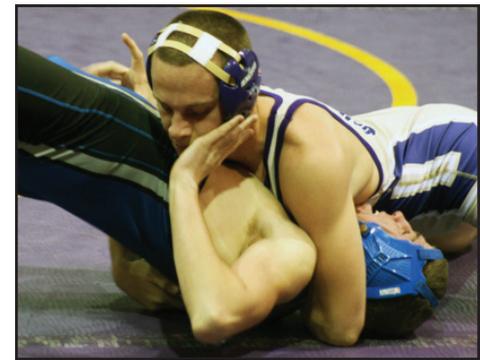
Vance Wilkerson accepted a senior participation award from OHS wrestling coach Bruce Jahner Wednesday at senior parent night.



Tony Bowers accepts a senior award from OHS wrestling coach Bruce Jahner at senior parent night.



Four year letter earner Tabitha Smith accepts a senior award from OHS wrestling Coach Bruce Jahner during senior parent night festivities on Wednesday at the OHS gym.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Donald Bryan got a first round pin over Chris Mayers of Sebastian River Wednesday.



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OHS boys basketball team plays Port St. Lucie

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

Okeechobee played neck and neck with Port St. Lucie for one half of play Tuesday night but fell victim to a Jaguar run in the quarter as the Brahmans fell 66-46 in high school boys basketball action at Port St. Lucie.

Michael Hernandez led Okeechobee with 11 points while Frank Martin had 22 points for PSL, (8-10). Martin hit a key three point basket at the first half buzzer to give the Jaguars a 26-23 half time lead.

Brahman Coach Bryan Van Camp said his team fell behind by 10 points in the first quarter but battled back to tie the score at 23-

23 late in the first half. He said Martin's basket gave PSL momentum and Okeechobee couldn't respond in the second half.

"It was hard to match their intensity. I think the team looked tired. It was a game where we really fought against ourselves and didn't have enough energy," he said.

Van Camp said the Brahman defense kept his team in the game in the first half. He said he was proud the team fought back from a 10 point deficit.

"Our defense kept us in it. Port St. Lucie

is a good basketball team. They had a lot of size," he added.

Alonzo Coleman returned to the lineup after a five-day layoff due to illness and grabbed some key rebounds for Okeechobee. Colby Frank also had a nice game inside. Okeechobee played without starting forward Jesse Thomas.

Okeechobee hosts Jensen Beach on Friday and will travel to South Fork on Saturday. The Brahmans travel to Lake Placid on Monday night.

OHS girls hoops plays Berean Christian

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

Berean Christian built a 10 point lead in the first quarter and went on from there to defeat Okeechobee 45-30 in girl's high school basketball action Monday night in West Palm Beach.

Jaide Micco had a career high 14 points to lead Okeechobee. Ami Edwards had eight points and nine rebounds and Bethany Stuart had 10 rebounds for Okeechobee. Lynn Barber led BC with 11 points.

The Brahmans trailed 30-10 at the half but played much better in the second half as they outscored the Lady Bulldogs 20-17 in the second half.

Brahman Coach Erin Morrow said her team continues to have issues in the first half, "We came out slow and lackadaisical.

The first half looked like we were going in slow motion."

Morrow said the Bulldogs were hot from the field in the first half as the hit well over 50 percent of their shots. Okeechobee also didn't rebound like they should and didn't pass the ball well on offense.

"We came out in the second half and outscored our opponent. We switched to a man to man defense and that helped us produce some steals and fast break opportunities," she added.

Morrow praised Micco who has only a few games of varsity experience. She hit a couple of jumpers and the team looked to drive to the hoop more.

"We sure played with a better rhythm in the second half. Unfortunately it was too little, too late. We'll look to come out stronger in our next game," she said.

OHS girls hoops beats Clewiston

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

Okeechobee High School girl's basketball won for the sixth time this season with an impressive effort at Clewiston High School on Tuesday night, 56-27.

Jaryaca Baker had 14 points and eight rebounds and Ami Edwards added 12 points and 14 rebounds for the Brahmans.

Okeechobee also played tight aggressive defense all night long and held the Tigers to one shot on most of their possessions.

Brahman Coach Erin Morrow also praised her team for being more aggressive on the offensive end of the court, "We did a much better job offensively of getting the ball down the court quickly and attacking the hoop."

Morrow said the team worked on passing the ball and working the offense. Still she noted the team forces too many low percentage shots.

OHS girls hoops beats Clewiston

"We have really been trying to emphasize using a ball fake to create a pass to an open teammate," she added.

Thaddricka Sanders continued her fine play with eight points. Shamarah Shanks had three points and five rebounds. Jodi Raulerson chipped in with six points, Bethany Stuart had four points and Jaide Micco added five points and three assists. Emily Worth had four points.

Morrow said the entire team got to play and get valuable experience in this game, "We played with a lot of effort for the whole game tonight. The take also played four quarters. No matter who was in the game, we were hustling and playing hard. A coach always likes to see that."

The Brahmans open up the District 14-4A Tournament next Wednesday night against Boynton Beach at Suncoast High School. Game time is 5:30 p.m.



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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).

- Tanya L. Law, 25, S.W. 30th Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 21 by Deputy Tammy Serafini on warrants charging her with the felonies of violation of probation - grand theft (three counts) and violation of probation - possession of carisoprodol. She was also arrested on a misdemeanor warrant charging her with battery. She is being held without bond.

- Cassie Claire Bell, 26, S.R. 78 W., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 21 by Deputy Corporal Aric Majere on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with aggravated battery with a deadly weapon. Her bond was set at \$50,000.

- Juan Garcia Delacruz, 31, S.W. Second Way, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 21 by Deputy Eliberto Carmona on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with attempted second degree murder and two counts of shooting a deadly missile. He is being held without bond.

- John Phillip Holloman, 29, Clewiston, was arrested Jan. 21 by Deputy Bart Potter on a warrant charging him with violation of probation - driving under the influence and violation of probation - possession of a controlled substance. His bond was set at \$4,000.

- John Crane, 44, N.E. 80th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 12 by Deputy Greg Popovich on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - fraud. He was released on his own recognizance.

- Clinton Austin Girtman, 19, Reservation Road, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 21 by Sergeant Russell Cale on a Glades County warrant charging him with violation of probation - burglary of an unoccupied structure. He is being held without bond.

- Michele Allen Ripley, 48, S.W. 14th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 23 by Officer Bryan Enderle on a warrant charging her with obtaining a controlled substance by fraud (three counts). Her bond was set at \$4,000.

- Louann Thomas McArthur, 54, S.W. Third St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 23

by Officer Lawrence Parzygnat on a charge of driving under the influence. Her bond was set at \$750.

- Tyler Jurich, 20, Ranch Nursery Road, Immokalee, was arrested Jan. 24 by Deputy Greg Popovich on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felony of failure to appear - possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$10,000.

- Kayla Culbertson, 13, N.W. 262nd St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 24 by Deputy Robbie Lamb on a charge of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. She was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail then taken to the St. Lucie Regional Detention Center in Fort Pierce.

- Nicole Lataye Futch, 18, N.W. Ninth Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 24 by Officer Scott Morgan on a warrant charging her with violation of probation - battery on a law enforcement officer, violation of probation - resisting a law enforcement officer with violence and violation of probation - possession of marijuana under 20 grams. She is being held without bond.

- Kip Allen Lyons, 29, N.W. Eighth Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 24 by Deputy John Hazy on felony charges of burglary and possession of burglary tools. He was also charged with the misdemeanor of trespass of a conveyance. His bond was set at \$105,000.

- Coleen Kelly Brewer, 43, Gulfview Court, Fort Pierce, was arrested Jan. 25 by the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office Street Crimes Unit on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with failure to appear - interference with custody and failure to appear - contributing to the delinquency of a child. She is being held without bond.

- Marcel D. Bates, 34, N.E. 16th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 25 by Deputy Patricia Massung on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with failure of a sex offender to register with the sheriff's office. His bond was set at \$2,500.

- Houston Tyler Foulke, 19, N.W. 358th Blvd., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 26 by Deputy Adrian Rogers on charges of driving under the influence and leaving the scene of an accident. His bond was set at \$750.

- Ruben Eric Collins, 36, Azealia Place, Tavares, was arrested Jan. 26 by Deputy Cpl. Aric Majere on a DOC warrant charging him with violation of probation - battery by strangulation. He is being held without bond.

- Emma Jean Thigpen, 50, East Center St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 26 by Deputy Tammy Serafini on an Okeechobee

County warrant charging her with violation of probation - driving under the influence. She is being held without bond.

- Rhonda Louise Vaughn, 45, U.S. 441 S.E., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 26 by Deputy Corporal Timothy A. Higgins on Okeechobee County warrants charging her with obtaining or attempting to obtain a controlled substance by fraud (two counts). Her bond was set at a total of \$3,000.

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.

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2 FAMILY
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7 am till 2:30
950 SW 20th Ave.
Books, Clothes, Furniture
& Kitchen items.
Lots of house things.

Garage/Yard Sales

FAMILY YARD SALE
Fri. 28th & Sat. 29th
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5148 SE 42nd Trace
KINGS BAY
Household items, Baby
items, some furniture
and what nots. Come
check it out!

Garage Sale
Sat. 29th 8am - ?
1430 SE 21st St
(Blue Heron)
Household items

Moving Sale
Fri. 28th and Sat. 29th
8:00 am till??
Center console fishing
boat and lots of misc.
items. 10947 East State
Road 78 Lake Port.

Yard Sale
Fri. & Sat Jan. 28 & 29
8 am - 2 pm
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Workplace, EOE. Please
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863-763-5191 or call
863-763-7337

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Business Opportunities

Business Opportunities

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Some 800 and 900 tele-
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**WANT TO BUY LAPTOP
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OKEE - 2BR, 1BA New
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OKEECHOBEE- 1 br,
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Move in for \$800.
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ing and paint, \$700/mo.,
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Barn. \$1400/mo
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2 br/1ba, Tiled floors.
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Large 4bd/1&1/2 ba.
Brick home, newly reno-
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master suite. Non
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a month with security
deposit. (561)445-8281.

OKEECHOBEE 4br, 2ba,
tile throughout, \$975
mo. & up. 1st & sec.
moves you in.
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Upstairs unit. Partially
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move in to! Includes ac-
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cure swimming pool,
laundry, tennis courts,
boat docks and condo
fees include lawn, wa-
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insurance on outside of
building. \$53,000 Call
(863)532-9222 week-
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Acre vacant lot, fenced.
Oak trees. House or
Mobile Home okay (or
just for storage). Owner
finance. \$26,000
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Grab a bargain from your
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pets. Yearly lease plus
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2br/2ba, Furnished.
W&D on-site.
Small pets welcome.
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sale \$35,000 Call
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COMMUNITY**

LaBelle 3br/2ba manu-
factured home in lovely
55+ park. Pets welcome
\$800/month, includes
water, sewer, garbage,
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remodeled. 12 min. from
Town Center on beauti-
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available. NO PETS! Call
Mon-Fri. (863) 467-2982

OKEECHOBEE - Cute
2br unfurn. waterfront
single. Lrg. Lot, Rm. for
Motor Home, Boat slip,
Sea wall. \$450 mo.
863-226-3436 Rent
with option to buy.

Mobile Home Sale

2004 Chariot 34x14
park model, 10x34 ad-
dition, partly furnished,
double lot, 10x16 Woo-
ley shed, full RV hook
up on 2nd lot, at Big O
RV Resort asking
\$124,900 OBO Call
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33'Park Model
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room,screen room &
carport. Lots of plants
and landscaped. Com-
pletely furn.,with lots of
extras. Priced to sell
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Starting at \$15,000
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Recreation

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Very good condition.
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1999 COACHMAN
TRAVEL TRAILER w/Su-
per Slide. Sleeps 8,
Front bedroom, rear
bunks beds, center
kitchen. Excellent con-
dition. Fully loaded.
Asking \$6500 Call
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Public Notices

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Public Notice

CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the February 1, 2011, City of Okeechobee City Council Meeting has been cancelled. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 15, 2011, 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.city-ofokeechobee.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 Gamioeta, CMC, City Clerk
377379 ON 1/28/2011

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY,
FLORIDA**
PROBATE DIVISION
Case No.: 47200CP000136
Judge: Hon. Larry Schack

IN RE: ESTATE OF
DAN THOMAS RUTHERFORD
Deceased.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
SUMMARY ADMINISTRATION**

Administration of the estate of DAN THOMAS RUTHERFORD, deceased, file number: 472010CP000136, has been filed in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, located at 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972. The Petitioner and surviving spouse, DIANNE RUTHERFORD, is publishing this notice. The name and address of her attorney is ROGER AZCONA, ESQ., 313 NW 4th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972.
All persons having claims or demands against the estate are notified of this pending administration. The total cash value of the estate is

Recreation

For more listings,
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Motorcycles

(2) 2008 Mini Choppers
200cc. \$1,500 each or
2 for \$2,500 can be seen
at 2011 SE 8th Ave,
Okee.

Travel Trailers

**KZ Spree 2008- LIKE
BRAND NEW!!!!** 31', 2
SLIDES, SLEEPS 9,
OUTSIDE SHOWER, MI-
CROWAVE, TOO MANY
EXTRAS TO LIST!!!
HOOK UP & GO!
\$ 1 8 , 0 0 0 . 0 0 .
(863) 634-7832

Public Notices

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Public Notice

\$5,000.00 assigned to DIANNE RUTHERFORD, of 213 SW 11th Ave., Okeechobee, FL 34974.
All objections that challenge the validity of the venue or jurisdiction of the court, by filing a Petition or other pleading requesting relief with this court, in accordance with the Florida Probate Rules.
All claims against the estate must be filed within the time periods set forth under Florida Statutes 733.702, to wit: within the later of 3 months after the date of the first publication of the notice of administration or, as to any creditors required to be served with a copy of this notice, 30 days after the date of service of such copy of the notice on the creditor or be forever barred.
The date of the first publication of this Notice is 1/21/2011.
Submitted by:
ROGER AZCONA, ESQ.
Attorney for Petitioner
FL Bar No. 27453
313 NW 4th Avenue
Okeechobee, FL 34972
Tel: (863) 763-4166
Email: azconalaw@gmail.com
376593 ON 2/1,28/2011

CHAMBER

Continued From Page 1

of Commerce of Okeechobee County.

"It's all about economic development," Mr. Burroughs said. "This is about you, the business-ees," he told the assembled business people.

Mr. Burroughs said the BDB looked at several different chambers and took the best parts of each. He also emphasized that members would be allowed to see the financial records at any time.

The board of directors has nine members who are currently members of the BDB. Each year three of the seats on the board will be up for election by chamber members. The board members, in turn, elect the executive board.

Current BDB members can transfer their membership to the chamber.

Brian Cartland will be executive director of the chamber as well BDB executive director.

Mr. Burroughs said that the new chamber will work closely with the tourist development council, Okeechobee Main Street and the economic council.

Mike Costopolous, of the firm of Costopolous & Helton, P.A. is the treasurer and chairman of fiduciary committee. He said the chamber will seek accreditation on the state and national levels.

"We want to do this cham-

"We have the opportunity to get in on the ground floor to mold the chamber this town deserves."

Greg Thogerson

ber thing right," Mr. Costopolous said.

Charlie Hukriede, of the Golden Corral, is chairman of marketing and events. He said the chamber will be working with Okeechobee Main Street to produce the Speckled Perch Festival and the Christmas Festival.

"We have the opportunity to get in on the ground floor to mold the chamber this town deserves," said Greg Thogersen, of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, the membership chair. "We can only be as successful as our members," he added.

J. D. Mixon, president-elect, explained the benefits members would derive from the chamber's website. In addition to furnishing information about the business, the website could produce E brochures, maps showing the location of a particular business and post job openings. The website would also have a community calendar.

Later Mr. Cartland said that 20 businesses joined the chamber after the meeting.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com.
com. Reporter Pete Gauda can be reached at pgawda@newszap.com.

ARREST

Continued From Page 1

with the felony of possession of marijuana with intent to sell and the misdemeanor of possession of drug paraphernalia. Her bond was set at \$10,500.

An arrest report by a detective with the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force stated that a gray Chevrolet pickup truck was stopped near mile marker 183 on the Florida Turnpike for an obstructed tag. The detective then asked the driver, Quintana, for permission to search the vehicle.

According to the detective, when the back door of the truck was opened a plastic bag containing a green leafy substance

was seen. When field tested, the substance indicated a positive result for the presence of marijuana, the detective stated.

The detective went on to

state that several more clear plastic bags containing suspected marijuana were found. All of the bags were vacuum sealed, the report added. A vacuum sealing machine was also found in the truck.

In all, 15 bags of suspected marijuana were found. Together, the bags weighed 8.25 pounds.

Quintana reportedly told the detective that he sells the pot for \$1,500 a pound.

As the detective was searching the truck, a .40 caliber Springfield handgun was found next to the driver's seat.

The detective's report added that Quintana and his wife were on their way to Miami.



Juan Carlos Quintana



Mercedes Leon

Reading a newspaper leads you to the best products and services.

No wonder newspaper readers earn more money!

Manton dies in prison

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man convicted last year on a charge of child pornography has died in prison, according to the Department of Corrections (DOC).



Thomas Manton

A DOC statement indicates that Thomas Brewster Manton, 71, "... was taken to the hospital for medical reasons, where his condition deteriorated and he died." An autopsy is to be performed and an investigation into his death will be conducted by the Inspector General's Office. Manton was being held in the Liberty Correctional Institute. According to a DOC spokesperson Manton died Jan. 19 at 3:55 p.m. at the Calhoun County Hospital.

Manton was sentenced Aug. 6, 2010, to serve 15 years in prison after entering into a plea agreement with the state by which the original 33 counts of possession of child pornography would be reduced to one count in exchange for his plea.

"Fifteen years, in my opinion, is fair and just considering his age," said Assistant State Attorney Ashley Albright shortly after sentencing proceedings. "Those were some of the most disturbing images I've ever seen in my career." Mr. Albright has been practicing law for 14 years.

Manton was arrested Oct. 16, 2007, by Detective Lieutenant Brad Stark of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO)

after the man had taken his computer to a local business for repair. The computer technician found the child photos and immediately contacted the sheriff's office. That computer, along with a second one found in his N.E. Eighth Ave. home, were seized and given to Detective David Broughton of the Martin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) who is a computer expert. Mr. Albright said the MCSO detective was able to find even more photos and videos of children. Some of the photos were described by Mr. Albright as erotica.

At Manton's sentencing, Mr. Albright told Circuit Court Judge Robert Belanger that 115 of the pornographic photos found on Manton's computers were sent to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Of those, 40 children were identified.

Judge Belanger told Manton that the photos were very disturbing to him. "Sometimes, words just don't seem sufficient," he said from the bench. "I'm struggling looking at these images—they are horrific. This kind of behavior is evil."

Prior to Judge Belanger handing down his sentence, Manton told the judge that he had met with the Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon in Washington about an alternate route by which supplies could be carried to U.S. troops in Afghanistan. He also told the judge that Benazir Bhutto, the first female prime minister of Pakistan, was his "adopted sister." She was assassinated Dec. 27, 2007.

Manton said because of a heart attack and quadruple bypass surgery done in 2009, he feared he could not get the proper medical care in prison to keep him alive.

Mr. White added that birthday cards have been sent to inmates that contained either tobacco products or marijuana.

A detective with the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force said any drug that can be liquified can be sent in this manner.

"They can soak letters in basically anything," the detective said.

The new policy becomes a cost-saving measure primarily because indigent inmates will no longer be getting two free .42-cent stamps each week. Instead, they will now get two postcards every other week.

Mr. White explained that an inmate who doesn't have at least .50 cents in their canteen account falls into the indigent category. On average, he added, about one-third of the jail population is indigent.

Inmates are beating the current system, said Mr. White, by spending their canteen money shortly after it's put into their canteen account. Then, because they no longer have money in their canteen account, the jail has to pick up the tab for stamps. The local jail is not alone in changing this procedure. Mr. White said jails in St. Lucie, Lake, Pasco, Alachua, Monroe and Charlotte counties have adopted similar policies. Mr. White went on to say that family members upset with the change went so far as to contact Florida State Senator Joe Negron (R-District 28). A portion of Okeechobee County is in District 28.

But, that hasn't changed anything and the new policy will still go into effect next week. "The sheriff signed it (the new policy) and he sent it to our lawyer in Fort Lauderdale who OK'd it. We're going to stick with the policy," said Mr. White.

MAIL

Continued From Page 1

the inmate's request, "we will file a civil action against the sheriff's office in the federal courts..."

"I've seen the petition," said Mr. White. "This is something we're doing to save money for the county, improve safety for our officers and sanitation for the facility. I personally went to every dorm and told the inmates we were doing this."

He went on to say that he has not talked to Reed about the petition.

"I knew he (Reed) had some problems. He has filed a couple of grievances with me, the sheriff and Mr. White," said Major Noel Stephen of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO).

The major went on to add that the policy is "all about cost—this is just another cost-saving measure."

Sheriff May was out of town at a conference and not available to comment.

As for the other items being sent inmates, Mr. White said his employees continue to find contraband in the mail on a daily basis—including perfume, powder, tobacco and drugs.

"The most serious things are drugs," he said. "People are soaking letters in methamphetamine and putting them in the mail. We've even intercepted phone calls where the inmates are telling persons to put drugs under the stamp."

He explained that the inmate then chews on the letter to extract the meth.

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