



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 103 No. 9

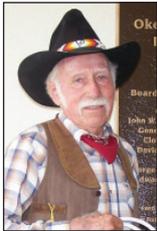
Friday, January 20, 2012

50¢ Plus tax

School funding sources decline
... Page 3

OHS girls soccer team beats Ft. Pierce
... Page 12

Cowboy program at the library ...
Page 10



Lake Levels

13.42 feet

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Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsen

American Legion Free Fair

The American Legion Free Fair opened last week at the American Legion grounds near City Hall on State Road 70. The fair continues through Jan. 22. The midway opens at 5 p.m. on Friday, 2 p.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. on Sunday. For more, see page 12.

Branham back as OHS football coach

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

It isn't Don Shula returning to coach the Dolphins but for Okeechobee football fans the announcement Tuesday night was very close. Chris Branham has agreed to return to coach and direct the Okeechobee Football program.

Coach Branham remains one of the few Okeechobee football coaches to have a winning record during his career. His teams went 18-14 in his three years with two trips to the regional. He also encouraged athletes to achieve in the classroom, attend all star games, and earn college scholarships. Several of his players made All-State Teams.

Tuesday was another big night for a former Branham baseball and football coach Mike Radebaugh who was named the new Principal at South Elementary School. Mr. Radebaugh transfers from Director of Vocational Training on Jan. 25.

Superintendent Ken Kenworthy said Mr. Radebaugh is very worthy of the position and did well in his interview. Most of the district office duties will be absorbed by other employees and the position of Adult and Vocational Director will remain vacant.

Chairman Kelly Owens said she is excited to see interest in administrative positions in education. She said accountability is be-

See SCHOOL — Page 8



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
(Left to right) Assistant Principal Dylan Tedders, OHS Football Coach Chris Branham and OHS Principal Toni Wiersma are looking forward to the 2012 football season.

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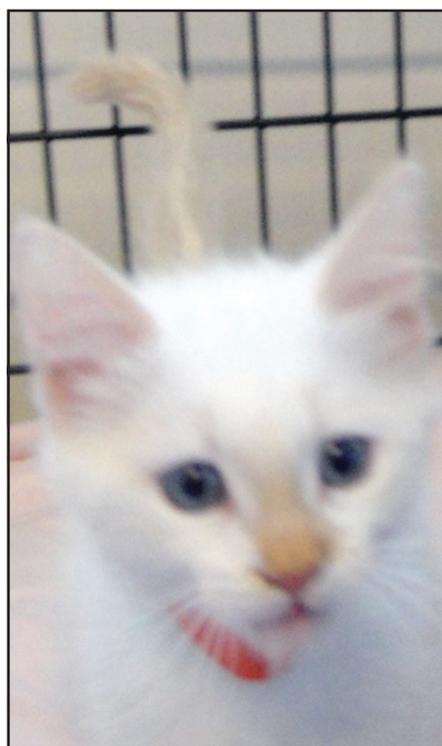




Special to the Okeechobee News/Justin Hazellief

Firefighters help Martha's House

The Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of Okeechobee have teamed up with Florida Professional Firefighters and Okeechobee County Commissioner Bryant Culpepper to donate \$500 to Martha's House of Okeechobee. The funds are from the Florida Firefighter Charities raised by the sale of "Florida supports firefighters" licence tags in Okeechobee. Martha's House Inc., does receive grant funding, but that does not cover all operational costs. To find out how you can help Martha's House, contact Executive Director Jonathan Bean at 863-763-2893. Present at the presentation are (left to right) Local 2918 President Justin Hazellief, Martha's House Executive Director Jonathan Bean, Martha's House Board President Jon Folbrecht, and County Commissioner Bryant Culpepper.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Humane Society Pet Rescue

Pets of the Week

Opal (left) and Pearl (right) are cute female kitties, shy but playful and litter trained. The adoption fee of \$95 includes spay and vaccinations up to date of adoption. They are available for adoption at Okeechobee Humane Society/Pet Rescue on Highway 98, next door to the Livestock Market. For more information, contact Humane Society Pet Rescue Florida, at 863-357-1104. To see more available animals go to petfinder.com. Homes are also needed to "foster" animals who are waiting for a permanent adoptive home.

Okeechobee Forecast

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after 4 a.m. Otherwise, partly cloudy, with a low around 51. East southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Patchy fog before 7 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 79. Calm wind becoming south southeast between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 56. East southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 83. Calm wind becoming east around 5 mph.

Sunday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 56. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

Weather forecast for Okeechobee County from the National Weather Service

Local Forecast



Friday: Patchy fog before 7 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 77. Calm wind becoming east southeast between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday night: Patchy fog

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School district anticipates shrinking budget

Student population and tax base decreasing

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

With a decrease of 493 students, a decline in tax base, and a loss of \$9.2 million in annual funding, is the Okeechobee County School Board headed towards tough financial times?

That's the question Okeechobee School Superintendent Ken Kenworthy wanted to answer when he addressed the School Board at a special budget workshop Tuesday evening.

The trend of fewer students is expected to continue and could result in 1,000 fewer students in Okeechobee schools over the next decade. The base student allocation from the state has also decreased annually.

"We are counting on declining student enrollment according to the latest trend," Mr. Kenworthy said.

The tax base declined by \$966 million in the past five years, a significant decrease

for any agency trying to provide services, he added.

The revenue decreases are the result of a super majority millage that voters rejected at the last election. That resulted in the loss of \$400,178 in local funds and \$496,238 in state dollars. Add to that federal stimulus dollars that included \$2.27 million in 2009-2010 and \$2.12 million in 2010-2011. Other funds lost include IDEA grants of \$1.64 million, \$901,927 in Title I funds, \$1.36 million from EduJobs funds, and the decrease in student enrollment, down 67 students, and basic student enrollment \$144.54 per student.

"We knew all of these things prior to building our budget but it impacted significantly the budget process and how we had to modify the budget to compensate for these losses," he added.

The School Board had \$9.5 million in fund balance when the budget began on July 1, 2011 but Mr. Kenworthy said the notion that this figure is money in the bank is a fallacy.

"It is important that people not believe this is cash in the bank ready to spend," he noted.

For example, in this year's budget, appropriations exceeded revenue by \$6.8 million, something Mr. Kenworthy compared to burning your "rainy day" funds. Less student enrollment alone cost the district some \$507,000 this year. The district also reduced their number of unfilled vacancies. Life insurance, property insurance, retirement contributions and worker's compensation insurance costs are expected to increase.

There is also a pending lawsuit against school boards that could result in more retirement payback to former employees that would affect each district by \$1.04 million.

Governor Rick Scott proposed \$1 billion more for schools. However, few of those dollars will affect local schools, Mr. Kenworthy claimed. "Never look a gift horse in the mouth. This replaces what we gave up if our tax base decreased."

Much of the money will go toward more reading training and performance pay for teachers that will not impact the Okeechobee school budget significantly. Some money will go toward districts with more students, but again, Okeechobee is not growing, and likely won't see those dollars.

"These are not new dollars we are just replacing what we gave up. I welcome these things but when one looks at it, you make the assumption it is new money, unfortunately I don't really believe that is the case," he added.

Add to these worries are a suspension of Race to the Top Funds for Okeechobee County that total \$937,851 over the next four years. Since the union and district have not collectively bargained a deal at this point, the district faces the loss of \$253,817 in 2012, \$214,402 in 2013, and \$214,402 in 2014, or a total of \$682,623. Should the district and union reach agreement by June 1, these funds can be reinstated.

"We're not where we want to be on FCAT, we can debate the test a long time, but the reality of it is that is where we are at, we might as well embrace Race to the Top, get more training and staff development for our teachers," he added.

Budget priorities will be to keep as much resource in the classroom as possible, decrease administrative costs, and protect transportation services provided students.

City council approves two land use ordinances

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Land use, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), and committee appointments occupied the Okeechobee City Council at their Tuesday, Jan. 17, meeting.

The council passed two ordinances dealing with land use. The first regarded amendments to the city land development regulations. City planner Bill Brisson said that there were few substantial changes in the ordinance. He said it was mostly housekeeping and clarification.

The other ordinance changed the zoning on Okeechobee Church of God property at 301 N.W. Fourth Avenue from residential sin-

gle family one to commercial professional office. This zoning change allows the church to operate a cafe.

The council also appointed members for the grievance committee. Representing the police department on the committee is Skip Eddings and alternate Larry Parzygnat. Jeff Baugh represents the fire department with Adam Crum as alternate. The finance department is represented by Nathan Pippin and alternate India Riedel. Robin Brock is the active member and Melisa Jahner the alternate for the administration department. Marvin Roberts represents the public works department with Clint Gould as alternate.

Because Frank Irby was appointed to the

county commission he had to resign from his positions on the city code enforcement board and the Okeechobee Utility Authority (OUA) Board. Since Mr. Irby's term on the code enforcement board expires April 30 this year the council agreed to let Mr. Irby's code enforcement board seat remain vacant until that time. Rev. Randy Huckabee had been serving as an OUA Board Alternate Member for the county. He was named to fill Mr. Irby's regular city OUA Board seat with a term expiring March 30, 2013.

The board approved grant consultant Nancy Phillips' ranking of households to receive CDBG grants for home improvements. Ms. Phillips explained the CDBG grant procedure.

The board voted to deny a proposed ordinance regarding a natural gas franchise with Florida Public Utilities Company. The board was not necessarily against a franchise. However, they had some misgivings about the ordinance before them. Commissioner Devin Maxwell noted that a number of things could be included in a rewritten

franchise ordinance.

Consideration of a settlement agreement regarding the Carter Pritchett litigation was removed from the agenda.

Creative skill and crafts contest participants sought

The Okeechobee County Fair Association is seeking adult and youth contest participants for the upcoming fair March 13-18. The contests consist of quilting, sewing, leatherwork, painting, drawing, photography, horticulture, and woodworking. There will also be food competitions such as home baking and canned goods, as well as a vegetable competition featuring garden vegetable, fruit and vegetable and largest vegetable categories. This year the Lego Building contest will be open to both youth and adult exhibitors.

This year the fair will again be having the educational posters and educational displays competitions. Individual youths may enter the Educational poster contest and 4-H

Clubs or FFA Chapters may enter the Educational Display contest. The top three club/chapter displays will win awards of \$250, \$150 and \$100 for their programs. New for this year's fair there will be four new categories: scrap booking, jewelry making, cake decorating and heirloom quilts.

You may download the entry forms and rules at the Okeechobee County Fair Web site, www.okeechobeeountyfair.com or pick up copies of the 2012 Premium Book at the Okeechobee County Extension Office at 458 Highway 98 North. The deadline for entries is March 2.

If you have questions, please contact Diane Spann at 863-634-3327.

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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!

Burglaries

- Light those houses up! Buy yourselves the gift of security—MOTION LIGHTS. One \$25 investment a month into YOUR SECURITY makes good sense. For a little more \$ you can buy fluorescent flood lights. Before long your house will be surrounded in light only when someone/thing is there. I love my lights. I installed my first ones after I was burglarized.

Thoughts to ponder

- Murphy's Law of Lockers - If there are only two people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.
- Law of Physical Surfaces - The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor, are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.
- Law of Logical Argument - Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.

Drugs at school

- Instead of drug dogs searching the kids as they arrive at school, how about parents getting involved in their children's lives and making it their business to know what their kids are up to? Isn't that what parents are for?
- I know there are a lot of parents who probably don't check their kids for this kind of thing. Maybe they are too busy or just not paying attention or maybe they don't think their child is doing or trying anything. But I will tell you this. I check my kid for dip when he leaves the house and a few hours later he is suspended for dip. They get it at school. So although I agree EVERY parent needs to be involved, we can't always blame the parents right off the bat.
- I know a kid that used to leave all his stuff in the culvert at the end of his road so his parents wouldn't find it. They have all kinds of places to hide things if they want to do it they will find a way.
- Kids do have parents that are involved. But, kids are pretty smart. In today's world, parents can't do it alone.

- Consider, most parents have on average 2 to 3 children. So that comes out to about one child per parent. Secondary school teachers have about 150 students per semester. You do the math and figure out who should take the bulk of the responsibility.

The next president

- Certain murdering persons (from other countries) attacked us on 911. And I do believe Ron Paul stated that we should stay out of other country's affairs. Also, many from other countries are in the U.S. We mollycoddle them and worry about offending them or their religion, while they build these huge mosques on large properties, and plan to overcome us with Sharia law. While many will argue that foreigners are what made America great, it is not so today. Foreigners of past times tried to meld into our society, while foreigners of today want us to meld into their society, their religion and the whole shebang. Whatever politician it was that said we must take America back, I agree with.

- Much homework was done before the last election but the majority of Americans preferred to have a president who was great on oratory, promising changes (which we have to admit, he really did deliver). It is practically impossible to "really know" about a candidate when great amounts of money can hide things that the ones pulling the strings want hidden. Obama is nothing more than a front man for the union bosses and big companies who throw around big money to get their way, from the "commander in chief."

- Whenever you have a spectrum of beliefs/standards/lifestyles most people will fall somewhere around the middle but generally a little to the right or left. In the case of U.S. politics that means we have Republicans to one side and Democrats to the other. Then you have the outliers, what the media and people who like to flame one another generally call extremists or crazies or far left or right wing. There are obviously extremists on both the right and left. They can be a bit annoying because talking to them is like checking your common sense at the door and then beating your head against said door. I tend not to take the outliers too seriously. They only have one vote, there really aren't many of them, and they tend to waste the votes they do have. PLUS they're generally pretty entertaining in a car crash kind of way and every once in awhile they bring forth a real issue and start a provocative and useful discussion for the mainstream.

Letters to the editor

Okeechobee celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy

A city remembers Dr. King.

What an MLK weekend! Just a quick thank you to Mr. George Robinson, Mrs. Rita Jones, and family and staff who did try to implement the theme: Unity in the Community.

Also, to Pastor Livatt and members of St. Stephens AME Church/Hope Ministry Church and youth who took part in the MLK March on Monday, Jan. 16. What a time!

Banquets, church, speeches—celebrating King's legacy.

Also, a media shout out to the Okeechobee News, Charles Murphy who covers everything in Okeechobee County, baby photographers from Okeechobee The Magazine, Sheriff Paul May and staff, who navigated the marches on the parade route—Thanks! To the Douglas Brown community. Next year, another MLK Weekend, 2013. New year, new level of expectations. Come out and be the change. You want to see...Love ye one another. The 2013 theme/idea—"Keeping the vision, Living the dream."

Brenda Scott

IRS offers reasons to file your 2011 tax return electronically

IRS e-file: It's safe. It's easy. It's time. Most taxpayers—nearly 80 percent—file electronically. If you haven't tried it, now is the time! The IRS has processed more than 1 billion individual tax returns safely and securely since the nationwide debut of electronic filing in 1990. In fact, last year, 112 million people—78 percent of all individual taxpayers—used IRS e-file to electronically transmit their tax returns to the IRS. The number of people who use a paper tax return or who mail a tax return dwindles each year—and for good reason.

1. Safety and security. E-file providers must meet strict guidelines and provide the best in encryption technology. You receive an acknowledgement within 48 hours that the IRS received your return. If the IRS rejects the return, the receipt will explain why so you can quickly correct and resubmit.

2. Faster refunds. An e-filed tax return normally means a fast refund. If you combine e-file and direct deposit the IRS can typically issue your refund in as few as 10 days. About three of four taxpayers receive a refund and last year the average refund was approximately \$2,900.

3. More payment options. If you e-file you can file early and set an automatic payment withdrawal date for any date on or before the April due date. You may also pay by paper check or even by credit card.

4. It's easy. You can e-file through your tax preparer, use commercial tax preparation software or through Free File, the free tax preparation and e-filing service available exclusively at www.irs.gov.

Starting in January 2012, any paid preparer or firm that reasonably anticipates preparing and filing 11 or more Form 1040 series returns, Form 1041 returns or a combination of both generally must use IRS e-file. These tax return preparers must be authorized IRS e-file providers so they can transmit tax returns electronically. More information for paid preparers is available at www.irs.gov.

Clarification

An article appearing on page 13 in the Wednesday, Jan. 18, edition of the Okeechobee News under the headline "Code magistrate fines owners of two properties" needs clarification. All the items on the agenda were acted upon as reported in the newspaper. Then the special magistrate adjourned the hearing. After the adjournment and the Okeechobee News reporter had left the meeting, county attorney Laura McCall re-examined the case of Angela Cunningham, the owner of property on S.E. 35th Lane that had been determined to be overgrown. She did not feel that the property owner had been given proper notification of the violation. The special magistrate re-convened the hearing, and, upon the advice of Mrs. McCall, rescinded her previous ruling on the case of a fine of \$25 a day for every day of non-compliance, and tabled it until next month. The Okeechobee News apologizes for any inconvenience caused by this confusion.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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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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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.

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- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
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- 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.
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Volunteers sought for UF weight loss study

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Losing weight sometimes seems like a losing battle; most people who drop pounds by restricting the number of calories they eat eventually regain the lost weight. That's because hormonal changes associated with weight loss prod people to eat more as the body tries to defend itself against the perceived "hardship."

Researchers at the University of Florida Institute on Aging are studying whether a plant-based supplement can aid long-term weight loss by controlling hunger levels and food intake. The study is now recruiting healthy nonsmokers ages 50 to 70, who are overweight or obese. The work is funded through a \$600,000 grant from the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine of the National Institutes of Health. After diet-induced weight loss, hormonal changes and the release of certain proteins signal the brain to prompt an increased food intake. In addition, a slowing down of the metabolism reduces how much energy the body uses up, making it harder to keep lost weight at bay. Dietary supplements that allow people to feel satisfied after eating fewer calories have the potential to counteract those changes, researchers say.

"It's a biological challenge that people are up against, that simply following a calorie-restricted diet and exercise regimen doesn't seem to overcome," said lead researcher Stephen Anton, Ph.D., an assistant professor

in the College of Medicine department of aging and geriatric research and a member of the UF Institute on Aging. "So many people struggle with increased hunger after weight loss."

A large body of research shows that people can achieve good short-term weight loss results by eating fewer calories. But maintaining that weight loss requires a 20 percent to 40 percent reduction in calorie intake, and most people have difficulty sticking with such a regimen. As a result, about 95 percent of people regain lost weight within five years, studies show.

More than half of adult Americans are overweight or obese, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Being overweight increases the risk of conditions such as cancer, diabetes and heart disease, and hastens the effects of aging on the body. Healthful eating and physical activity are cornerstones of good health and weight management. But when being overweight leads to restricted movement or a condition called insulin resistance that prevents the body from processing food properly, people might turn to medications and supplements for additional help.

"What we're finding is that one size doesn't fit all — we need more tools to help clinicians give more patients the help they need," said Corby Martin, Ph.D., an associate professor at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center. "Compounds and products

that help patients feel full or reduce intake is a viable way to help."

One FDA-approved medication prevents the intestines from absorbing some of the fat from food. But that drug can cause distress of the gastrointestinal tract, diarrhea and other side effects. Several plant-based compounds are on the market, but most have not been rigorously tested.

The product being studied at UF is called hydroxycitric acid, and is from a plant called *Garcinia Cambogia*. It is thought to affect how hormonal signals are sent to the brain. The researchers will study how safe the compound is, and how effective it is at reducing the amount of food people eat, increasing feelings of satisfaction after meals, boosting weight loss and reducing molecular level damage known as oxidative stress.

During the 30-week study, participants will take capsules three times a day for six weeks at a time. Use of the supplement might lead to temporary stomach sensitivity. After each six-week test period, participants will spend a day at the test center where they will eat breakfast, lunch and dinner, complete questionnaires, give blood samples and be weighed. Analyses of the measurements will yield needed information on how these supplements might fit into a healthy weight loss regimen.

To learn more about the study or to enroll, call 352-273-5919 or, toll-free, 866-386-7730, and ask about the "ReBORN study."

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).

- Thomas Colby Fralix, 23, W. Sixth Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 17 by Deputy Cari Arnold on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with failure to appear - child neglect. He is being held without bond.

- Catherine L. Frost, 34, N.E. 16th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 17 by Dep-

uty Cari Arnold on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with felony petit theft. Her bond was set at \$5,000.

- Jessica Marie Jenkins, 29, N.E. 13th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 17 by Deputy Marcus Collier on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with violation of probation - possession of cocaine. She was released on her own recognizance.

- Christina Bruno, 18, N.E. 39th Blvd., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 17 by Deputy DeMarcus Dixon on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with child abuse. She was released on her own recognizance.

- Nancy Lynn Smith, 26, Hines Drive, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 17 by Deputy DeMarcus Dixon on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with battery

on a law enforcement officer. Her bond was set at \$2,500.

- Jerry Don Whatley, 37, was arrested Jan. 17 by Detective Javier Gonzalez on a Texas fugitive warrant charging him with aggravated sexual assault on a child. His bond was set at \$150,000.

- Terry Donald Woodrum, 40, S.E. 32nd Lane, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 17 by Deputy Matthew Hurst on a warrant charging him with grand theft. His bond was set at \$5,000.

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.

Your right to reply.



We are pledged to operate our newspaper as a public trust. Fairness is extremely important to us.

We admit our errors promptly and we don't "bury" the corrections. (If error appears on the front page, that's where we print the correction.)

Sometimes people don't like what has been written about them. In those cases, we offer a "right to reply" and allow them to tell their own side of the story.

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THEATRE II: "WE BOUGHT A ZOO"
Fri., Tues. & Thurs. 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun., & Wed. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 **PG**

THEATRE III: "THE DEVIL INSIDE"
Fri., Tues. & Thurs. 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun., & Wed. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 **R**

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Community Events

Moose Lodge announces weekend plans

The Loyal Order Of Moose, 159 N.W. 36th St. invites you to stop by Friday for Bingo at 6:30 p.m., with Bonanza Start at 5 p.m. Saturday they will be having Chicken or Shrimp Alfredo 5:30-7:30 p.m., with Music by Alice & Lisa. Sunday, XXL (Capt. Dennis) will be hosting karaoke 3-7 p.m. Be sure to stop by.

VFW North announces weekend plans

The North VFW located at 300 NW 34th St. would like to invite you to join them for good food and entertainment. Friday the Grill will be open at 5 p.m., with Steve on a Stick hosting karaoke 7-10 p.m. Saturday there will be burgers on the grill noon-2 p.m., Fish & Shrimp Dinner at 5 p.m., with Sandoone hosting karaoke 7-10 p.m. On Sunday, Lori will be serving up her delicious Liver & Onions or Cubed Steak 2-4 p.m., with karaoke hosted by Lisa 6-9 p.m. Be sure to stop by and enjoy some delicious food and some great entertainment. Hope to see you there.

Eagles North to host steak night

Eagles North will host Friday steak night on Friday, Jan. 20, from 5:30-9 p.m. Music by Al Jones. Put on your dancing shoes. All proceeds go to the F.O.E. 4137 community benefit fund, 9985 Hwy. 441 North, Okeechobee

Cypress Hut Eagles to host steak night

Friday, Jan. 20, from 5:30-8:30 p.m., the Cypress Hut Eagles, will be serving steak for \$12, fish for \$8 or shrimp for \$12. Music will be by Phil Eddings. All proceed go to Community Charity Fund. The public is welcome.

Women's business group to meet

The Okeechobee Business Women's Referral Network will meet Friday, Jan. 20 at 11:30 a.m. at The Lodge at the Lake Restaurant, 1111 S Parrott Ave. The group's purpose is to allow women to meet, exchange ideas and learn new concepts in a relaxed, friendly gathering. Further information available at 863-610-2176.

B.R.A.T. Club plans January Teen Dance

Come and start off the new year with friends at the January Teen Dance Party set for Saturday, **Jan. 21**, at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus from 7 until 10 p.m. Tickets are just \$7 each and includes pizza, soda, chips and entertainment. Ages 12-16 are welcome. Music by DJ "Dunk" games and more. For more information, call Teresa Chandler at 863-801-4996.

Eagles to host card bingo

Eagles North will have Card Bingo on Saturday, **Jan. 21**, starting at 4 p.m. Come play and have fun with us. Proceeds go to the F.O.E. 4137 Community Benefit fund, 9985 Hwy. 441 North, Okeechobee.

Gilbert Chevrolet to host child safety seat check

Gilbert Chevrolet & Safety Kids Palm Beach County proudly present the Child Passenger Safety Seat Check-Up Event on **Jan. 21**, at Gilbert Chevrolet. The event will begin at 11 a.m. and conclude at 2 p.m. The event is free. There will be free food, kid activities, hands on demonstrations to keep kids safe in and around vehicles and there will be car seats available to purchase for \$25.

Fundraiser breakfast to support Martha's House

A traditional breakfast with good home-cooked food to benefit Martha's House will be held Sunday, **Jan. 22**, from 8-11 a.m. at the Okeechobee Masonic Lodge No. 237, at 107 N.W. 5th Ave. Eat in or take out for a donation of \$6. For ticket information call George at 863-467-0038.

Orchid and Garden Club to meet

The Orchid Club will meet a 7 p.m. in the extension Center at 451 98 N at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 23. The Garden Club will meet at 6 p.m. Please bring your favorite orchid to show or a problem orchid to discuss. For more information please call 863-763-6469.

Eagles North to host bingo

Eagles North will have Bingo on Tuesday, Jan. 24, starting at 1p.m. Ya'll come play. Proceeds go to the F.O.E. 4137 community benefit fund. 9985 Hwy. 441 North, Okeechobee

CCC meeting planned

The next meeting of the Community Collaborative Council, a part of the Shared Services Network of Okeechobee, will be Tuesday, Jan. 24, at 10 a.m., in the board room of the School Board Office.

OKMS plans first mixer event

Okeechobee Main Street's first Mixer of 2012 will be sponsored by the Grand Oaks-a VNA Assisted-Living Facility on Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2012 from 5 until 7 p.m. Grand Oaks is located at 203 S.E. 2nd Street. The public is invited and current members are encouraged to bring a friend!

GAL needs local volunteers

Join a local volunteer of the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) program at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, at Mom's Kitchen, Hwy 441 S., over a cup of coffee and learn how you can become part of the solution."

Shrine Club spaghetti dinner

The Okeechobee Shrine Club, S.R. 78 W., members will host their Tuesday evening Jan. 24, Spaghetti dinner from 4 until 9 p.m. Music starts at 5 until 9 p.m. Donation is just \$6 per person. For information call the club at 863-763-3378, Mac Simpson at 863-763-8650 or Elma Yates at 863-697-2765.

Library presents Broadway programs

Ian R. B. Nairnsey is presenting a series of talks in January and February on "Broadway Musicals Decade by Decade." The programs are held on Wednesdays at noon at the Okeechobee County Library, 206 S.W. 16th St. Admission is free. Those attending are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch. The programs last about 75 minutes and are illustrated with slides and musical selections. The Jan. 25 program covers the 1960s and 1970s.

OKMS to hold general membership meeting

Quarterly General Membership meeting for Okeechobee Main Street will be held on January 25, at noon at the Golden Corral Restaurant, 700 S. Parrott Avenue. Please plan to attend to network with fellow citizens and business owners, greet new members and welcome our guest speaker Ms. Alta Mosley, Director of the Agri-Civic Center.

Considering adoption?

Anyone interested in learning more about adoption is encouraged to join the Children's Home Society of Florida, Treasure Coast Division at our monthly Adoption Orientation session. The next meeting is scheduled to take place at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, **Jan. 26**, at the Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County office, located at 804 S. 6th Street in Fort Pierce. This informative, casual and free open house-style orientation will provide an overview of foster care adoption and answer all questions related to adoption and CHS' adoption process. To RSVP or for more information, contact Children's Home Society's Adoption Information Line at 772-429-2001.

Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted to the Okeechobee News by e-mailing obits@newszap.com. Customers may also request photos and links to online guest books. A link to the obituaries is available at www.newszap.com.

Edward R. Kassner, 80

OKEECHOBEE — Edward R. Kassner, age 80, of Okeechobee, died Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2012, at his residence.

He was born Aug. 2, 1931, to Albert and Marie Anthe Kassner in Hamilton County, Ohio. He proudly served in the United States Army during the Korean War. He was a member of the Moose Club, VFW, EMS Council and was of the Methodist Faith. He was an avid fisherman, loved cigars, traveling and cruising. In addition he loved the Buckhead Ridge Community.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Marie Kassner; and a brother, Elmore Kassner.

He is survived by his loving wife of 45 years, Barbara Kassner of Okeechobee; daughters, Belinda Driskell (Mike), Bonnie Liuang (Chip Randall), all of Atlanta, Ga., and Kathy Perry of Ohio; sons, Mike and Tony Kassner of Ohio; and grandchildren, Lauren Driskell and Matt Liuang of Atlanta, Ga.

Graveside services will be held on Sunday, Jan. 22, 2012, at 2 p.m. in the Memorial Garden Cemetery, Macon, Ga.

All local arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee, Florida. On-line condolences may be made at www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

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Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

(Left to right) Superintendent Ken Kenworthy, Stella Fullea (Fourth grade teacher at Central Elementary) and Joseph Stanley, Coordinator of Information Technology for Okeechobee Schools. Fullea was the winner of the Golden Mouse Award for her use of new technology in her classroom.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

OHS Band Director Clint LaFlam and senior members of the band were recognized at the Okeechobee School Board meeting on Tuesday. Those students included Andi Baker, Taylor Davis, Brandon Elkins, Lauren Fusco, Angel Garcia, Elizabeth Hans, Danielle Crane, Matt Saucier, Savannah Simpson, Andi Stark, Anna Warren, and Tyler Williams. Other seniors in the band unable to attend the meeting were Omar Alvarado, Mark Falkenberg, Patricia Floystrop, Tiffany Murray, Abigail Robledo, Amaris Samuel, and Zadoc Simmons. Stormin Youngblood was honored later in the meeting and was not in the photo. The band is continuing to raise money for their trip to Washington D.C. to perform in a parade there. On Jan. 24, band members will be "celebrity servers" at Golden Corral Restaurant. In February they will hold a chicken dinner and a yard sale. The band will also be in the park at the Speckled Perch Festival.



Rell Clark of the Freshman Campus, Laura Fonseca, Okeechobee Achievement Academy, Debra Fraser of North Elementary, Jackie Skinner of Central, Joi Tuberville District Director, and Margaret Copeland of Everglades Elementary, were all honored Tuesday. The district bookkeepers earned perfect internal audits in 2011.

SCHOOL

Continued From Page 1

coming more intense and she thanked Mr. Radebaugh for accepting the position.

In other business, the school board expelled four students for disciplinary problems that included possession of prescription drugs at the high school, battery on another student at the Okeechobee Achievement Academy, possession of alcohol and disruptive behavior at the OAA.

Senior members of the Okeechobee High School Band were honored for their careers which included a recent superior rating by the Florida Bandmaster's Association.

Members included Omar Alvarado, Andi Baker, Taylor Davis, Brandon Elkins, Mark Falkenberg, Patricia Floystrop, Lauren Fusco, Angel Garcia, Elizabeth Hans, Tiffany Murray, Abigail Robledo, Amaris Samuel, Matt Saucier, Zadoc Simmons, Danielle Crane, Savannah Simpson, Andi Stark, Anna Warren, Tyler Williams and Stormin Youngblood.

The band has raised \$40,600 toward a trip to Washington, D.C. where they will perform in a Memorial Day National Parade on the National Mall. The Children's Services

Council of Okeechobee recently announced a \$15,000 grant to the band to increase the total to \$55,600. The goal is to raise \$65,000 for expenses related to the trip.

Mr. LaFlam said the support of the community has been overwhelming and that the trip is going to be possible due to their generosity. More fundraising events are already planned.

Stella Fullea, a fourth grade teacher at Central Elementary School, won the first ever Golden Mouse Award which honors an educator for their use of technology in the classroom. She has taught for 10 years at Central. Her class recently was part of a webinar from Costa Rica. She said technology is becoming more and more important in the classroom.

Several bookkeepers for local schools were honored for perfect audits. Jackie Skinner, Central, Margaret Copeland, Everglades, Debra Fraser, North, Laura Fonseca, Okeechobee Achievement Academy, and Rell Clark, Okeechobee Freshman Campus received accolades from the Superintendent and School Board.

Superintendent Kenworthy received a strong evaluation from the School Board. Attorney Tom Conely said he received strong grades from the Board.

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Okeechobee

Planned wildlife refuge to span 150,000 acres

KISSIMMEE—As part of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar Jan. 18, accepted the first donation of land in south-central Florida to officially establish the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area – conserving one of the last remaining grassland and longleaf pine savanna landscapes in eastern North America.

The new refuge and conservation area – the 556th unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System – is being established with the support of local ranchers, farmers and landowners who are working cooperatively with Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conserve the wildlife values on their lands while retaining their right to raise livestock or crops, an approach championed by the Obama administration.

If fully realized, the refuge and conservation area will span 150,000 acres north of Lake Okeechobee. Two-thirds of the acreage, or 100,000 acres, will be protected through conservation easements purchased from willing sellers. With easements, private landowners retain ownership of their land,

as well as the ability to continue farming or ranching the land. The easements would ensure the land could not be subdivided or developed.

"This is an outstanding example of the 21st century approach to conservation envisioned by President Obama when he unveiled his America's Great Outdoors initiative last year," Mr. Salazar said. "Working in close partnership with landowners, we are taking a major step to safeguard the long-term health of the Everglades in the Kissimmee Valley, while ensuring the area's ranching and farming heritage and economy remain strong. Just as we have done in Kansas, Montana and the Dakotas, our locally-driven, cooperative approach to conserving the Everglades Headwaters will help grow a robust outdoor recreation economy for central Florida, while preserving ranchers' rights to live off the land."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), which manages the National Wildlife Refuge System, is working closely with ranchers and other private landowners, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and other state agencies, conser-

vation organizations, users' groups, Native American tribes and federal agencies in the creation of the new refuge and conservation area.

"We are inspired by the excellent conservation opportunities that exist here as a result of the efforts of our ranching community to protect working lands across generations," said Service Director Dan Ashe. "The extraordinary vision of our many partners will help protect significant wildlife species while supporting a way of life that is vital to our citizens. This effort will restore wetlands in the headwaters area, preserve working ranches, and support a healthy environment for central and south Florida, as well as increase opportunities to hunt, fish, hike, bird watch, and learn about the importance of this landscape."

The establishment of the new refuge and conservation area is one of a series of conservation projects under the Obama administration to work locally with landowners, conservation stakeholders, and state, tribal and local governments to conserve vital habitat on working landscapes. These include:

- The million-acre Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area in Kansas – the first new unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System authorized under the Obama administration, which will help maintain the integrity of tall-

grass prairie wildlife habitat, stream water quality and the agricultural heritage of the Flint Hills;

- The proposed Dakota Grassland Conservation Area, which will conserve prairie landscapes, wildlife resources and working lands in the Prairie Pothole Region, an area that supports more than half of the nation's migratory waterfowl; and

- The successful community-based conservation initiatives taking place in the Crown of the Continent, a vast and intact landscape that includes portions of northwestern Montana as well as British Columbia and Alberta.

The Everglades, which receives water from the Kissimmee River Valley, will benefit from the conservation and restoration of its headwaters through enhanced water quality, quantity and storage.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service held six public meetings in 2011 to gather input on the proposal; collected written comments; and met with representatives of local, state and federal agencies, as well as Native American tribes.

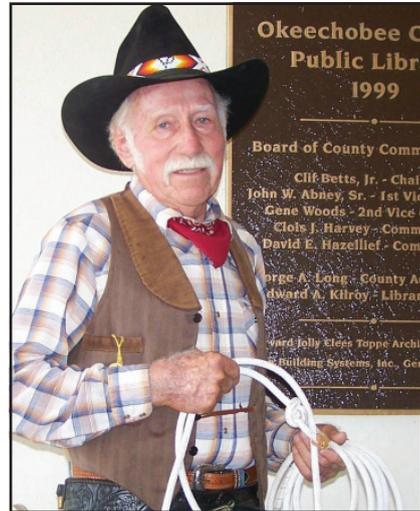
Mr. Salazar announced the Service's intent to evaluate this area in January 2011 and proposed to establish the new refuge and conservation area last September. During 2011, the Service received more than 40,000 comments on the proposal, the overwhelming majority of which expressed support.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Florida Wildlife Corridor Project

Photographer Carlton Ward Jr., biologist Joe Guthrie, conservationist Malory Lykes Dimmitt and filmmaker Elam Stoltzfus paddle into the serene waters of the Everglades on Tuesday, Jan. 17, beginning the Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition. The 1,000 mile expedition is designed to dramatize the goal of connecting the remaining natural lands, waters, working farms and ranches from the Everglades to Georgia. For the next 100 days, the four will travel by foot, kayaks and bikes to raise awareness. The journey will include Everglades National Park, Big Cypress, the Caloosahatchee River, Babcock Ranch, Lake Okeechobee, Seminole Tribal lands and others. For more information online, go to <http://www.floridawildlifecorridor.org>.



Special to the Okeechobee News/
Okeechobee Library

Gordie Peer at the library

Gordie Peer will be at the Okeechobee Public Library starting this week, with a program about cowboys. On Saturday, Jan. 21, at 3 p.m., the topic will be "Ranching in America & the Tools of the Trade." On Thursday, Feb. 9, at 3 p.m., the topic will be "A Comparison of Ranch Cowboys, Rodeo Cowboys & Movie Cowboys." Gordie Peer will be available to answer questions from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the following Saturdays: Jan. 28, Feb. 4 and also on Feb. 18. This program is sponsored by the Florida Humanities Council and is free to the public.



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Special to the Okeechobee News/EES

Students of the Week

Everglades Elementary students achieving excellence in the classroom for the week of Jan. 16-20 include: kindergarten: Giovanni Jaimes, Jasmine Bell; first grade, Dante Maldonado, Samantha Carlson, William Miller; second grade, Diana Ruiz, Bryton Bohannon, Miguel Garcia, Cynthia Serrano; Third grade, James Burnsed, Jacob Lawrence; Fourth grade, Saul Garcia, Lafasia Smith, Rocio Garcia-Montoya, Kevin Dryden, Brenden Christmas; Fifth grade, Jessica Sulzer, Zach Brown and Luz Rivera. Congratulations to our many outstanding students.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OMS

OMS Students of the Week

Congratulations to Osceola Middle School Students of the Week for Jan. 9, including: Antonio Bustos, Marisabel Gomez, Hunter Bryant, Megan Underwood, Marisol Santillan, Ryan Chesser, Justice Kent, Ares Hernandez, Charene Ampong, Steven Mataushek and Drew Davis. They say, "Thank you, Hungry Howies!"



Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsen

American Legion Fair is in town

The American Legion Free Fair continues in downtown Okeechobee off State Road 70 through Sunday.

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OHS girls soccer team blasts Fort Pierce Westwood

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Brittney Ball scored three goals and Ariceli Sanchez and Crystal Garcia added goals as Okeechobee High School blasted Fort Pierce Westwood 5-0 in the opening round of the Lady Brahman District Tournament on Tuesday night in Okeechobee.

Okeechobee won for only the second time this year but saved their best effort of the year for their final home match.

Carissa Licatta, Ivette Vega, and Sanchez had assists for Okeechobee and Jaryaca Baker had seven saves in net for Okeechobee.

The Lady Brahms used a tight defense and a tremendous effort all over the field to defeat Westwood, who had defeated Okeechobee earlier in the year. The two squads had also dueled to a scoreless tie in December in Fort Pierce.

"It felt really good," Garcia said, "We have a very young team but I'm so excited because we played so hard. Everyone put their hearts out there today."

Okeechobee only led 1-0 at the half but really poured it on after halftime. Garcia said they improved the accuracy of their passes but also did a better job of communicating with their teammates.

"We just played our best. We wanted it tonight and we got it," she said.

Coach Sonya Smith said it was rewarding to her to see the girls apply what they have worked on in practice. She noted the first the Lady Brahms were not at full strength during the first two games against Westwood this season.

"It was amazing. The girls played wonderfully and this is by far the best match they've played this year," she added.

Smith said the girls improved their passing skills and found open players which created a number of scoring opportunities. They also played in front of a supportive, appreciative crowd.

"It was very rewarding to see the girls put into play what we've practiced. We were healthy and feeling better and we made sure the girls were ready for this match," she added.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Brittney Ball had three goals in the game of her career as Okeechobee girls soccer prolonged their season at least one more day with a 5-0 win over Westwood in their district tournament Tuesday night.



Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsken

Fun at the fair

The American Legion Free Fair is under way in downtown Okeechobee, in the field near City Hall, on State Road 70. The fair is an annual fundraiser for the Legion's many charitable causes, including local scholarships. For more photos, see the Okeechobee News page on Facebook.



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Speckled Perch vendor applications available

Okeechobee Main Street is currently taking applications for the Annual Speckled Perch Festival, to be held in Flagler Park on March 10 and 11, and the Speckled Perch Parade on March 10 at 11 a.m. Applications for booth space or parade participants are available at the Main Street office, 111 N.E. Second St., directly behind C.V.S., and can also be found on the Main Street website at www.mainstreetokeechobee.com. Main Street is gearing up for this very exciting event, to be held in conjunction with the Spring Rodeo. For further information, please contact Cindy Birdashaw at 863-357-6246.

Okeechobee Landfill receives wildlife recertification

At its 23rd Annual Symposium, People, Partnerships and Pathways, the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) presented Waste Management's Okeechobee Landfill with its Wildlife at WorkSM re-certification. This re-certification is one of Waste Management's 128 WHC certified programs at 110 sites company-wide.

"WHC believes that collaboration among all stakeholder groups is critical to addressing the complex issues facing the sustainability of the planet," said Robert Johnson, WHC president. "WHC members take a leading role in connecting community stakeholders through wildlife habitat enhancement, community outreach and conservation education. Congratulations to Waste Management for their commitment to a healthy natural world and connected communities."

The Okeechobee Landfill, a 4,100-acre facility in rural Florida, continues to provide habitat for a variety of sensitive species, including the sandhill crane, gopher tortoise, eastern indigo snake and American alligator. More than 2,000 acres of the site are managed for wildlife and consist of restored marsh and forested wetland habitat. In addition to habitat enhancement projects, the Okeechobee Landfill also hosts 4-H campers to teach them about environmental conservation. The wildlife team is also working with Boy Scout Troop #964 to allow the scouts to complete the Fish and Wildlife Management Badge on the site.

"There's a saying 'it takes a village to raise a child.' Well, that notion certainly applies

here. Without the active engagement of our volunteer groups earning this prestigious certification may not have been possible," said Teresa Chandler, Community Relations, Waste Management.

"The Arnold's Wildlife Rehabilitation Center congratulates Okeechobee Landfill on its re-certification as a Wildlife Habitat Council "Wildlife at Work" site," said Sue Arnold, president of the center. "We have utilized the wildlife preserve on several occasions to release rehabilitated animals back into the wild, most recently a family of four otters, and we appreciate the preservation of these natural areas in Okeechobee County for their important habit and educational value."

This year's certifications also helped Waste Management meet and exceed two of its company-wide sustainability goals well before the target year of 2020. In 2007, Waste Management pledged to preserve and restore 25,000 acres of wildlife habitat across North America. The company achieved this goal in 2010 and now has 26,000 acres. Waste Management also committed to have WHC certified programs at 100 or more of its facilities with WHC certifications. With the addition of this year's certifications, the company has surpassed this goal.

"At Waste Management our conservation goals are aggressive but achievable. Look at what we've accomplished in just four years," said President and CEO David Steiner. "The success of our WHC programs has driven

us to work harder on developing long-term sustainability and conservation programs that provide a role of everyone in the community to pursue a common goal – making the planet a better place for future generations to enjoy."

Waste Management has been working closely with WHC since 2000. In 2008, the company was the first recipient of the organization's William W. Howard CEO Award recognizing the company's efforts in conservation, education and outreach efforts.

To read more about each program, please visit <http://www.wm.com/wm/community/whc/index.asp>

ABOUT WILDLIFE HABITAT COUNCIL CERTIFICATIONS: Since 1990, WHC has certified 657 Wildlife at WorkSM programs, which help to preserve land as wildlife habitat by ensuring the availability of food, water,

cover and space suitable to animals' needs. It has also certified 138 CLL programs, which promote the use of certified company lands for hands-on environmental education by school and community groups. The certification process recognizes outstanding wildlife habitat management and conservation education efforts at corporate sites, and offers third-party validation of the benefits of such programs. Certification requirements are strict and require that sites apply for periodic renewal.

ABOUT WILDLIFE HABITAT COUNCIL: The Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) is a nonprofit, non-lobbying organization dedicated to increasing the quality and amount of wildlife habitat on corporate, private and public lands. To learn more, visit www.wildlife.org.

Rotary Club plans L.O.S.T. Ride

Anyone interested in cycling or walking is invited to ninth annual L.O.S.T. Ride on March 31, at 8 a.m. The L.O.S.T. (Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail) is a great trek for people of all ages, skills and abilities. With rides of 12, 20, 40 and 54 miles as well as a 5K walk there is something for everyone. The L.O.S.T. trail itself is world-renowned for its stunning vistas and numerous forms of wildlife. It has become a world-wide destination for bird-watching and world class

fishing. This great fundraising event promises to be fun for all. All entrants are provided a goody-bag with a commemorative t-shirt and much more. Also, there is a BBQ meal provided afterwards for all entrants as well as a 50/50 and a raffle with a ton of great prizes. All proceeds benefit the charities of the Rotary Club of Okeechobee. For more information visit www.okeechobeerotary.org or email OkeechobeeRotary@live.com or call 928-4-ROTARY.

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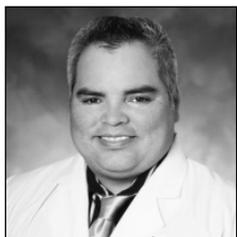
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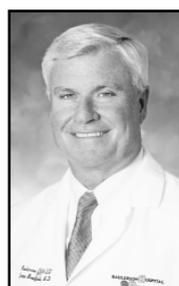


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Public Notice
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO. 2011-CP-191

IN RE: ESTATE OF ALBERT MARIN, Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The name of the decedent, the designation of the court in which the administration of this estate is pending, and the file number are indicated above. The address of the Court is 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are indicated below.

If you have been served with a copy of this notice and you have any claim or demand against the decedent's estate, even if that claim is unmaturred, contingent or liquidated, you must file your claim with the court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF A DATE THAT IS 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER YOU RECEIVE A COPY OF THIS NOTICE.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons who have claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmaturred, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with the court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. EVEN IF A CLAIM IS NOT BARRED BY THE LIMITATIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE, ALL CLAIMS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN FILED WILL BE BARRED TWO YEARS AFTER DECEDENT'S DEATH.

The date of death of the decedent is: September 12, 2011.
The date of first publication of this Notice is January 20, 2012.

Personal Representative: JANET C. PROSPER 3135 SE 26th Street 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 407891 ON 1/20,27/2012

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Public Notice

CITY PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Okeechobee Park Committee will be meeting on **Monday, January 23, 2012** at 6:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter, 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 the City Clerk's Office at 863-763-3372, or website 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 Gamioza, CMC, City Clerk
407937 ON 1/20/2012

School Board Contract Negotiations

The Okeechobee County School Board will resume contract negotiations with the Okeechobee County Education Association #1604 for instructional and classified employees and for Race to the Top/Senate Bill 736 at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 25, 2011 and continue as needed at 4:00 p.m. Thursday, January 26, 2012. Collective bargaining sessions are open to the public and will be held in Room 303 of the School Board Administration Building at 700 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee.

Ken Kenworthy
Superintendent of Schools
407920 ON 1/20/2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
CASE NO: 2011-CA-337

FERNANDO SANTANGELI, individually and as trustee of the Fernando Santangeli Living Trust dated December 12, 2001, Plaintiff,

VS.
JEAN F. DULIEPRE, if living, and any unknown spouse, or if said Defendant is deceased, the Estate of Jean F. Duliepre, deceased, her children, together with all unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, creditors, lienors and trustees, and all other persons claiming by, through, under or against the named Defendant.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: **JEAN F. DULIEPRE**, if living, and any unknown spouse, or if said Defendant is deceased, the Estate of Jean F. Duliepre, deceased, her children, together with all unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, creditors, lienors and trustees, and all other persons claiming by, through, under or against the named Defendant and all other parties having or claiming to have any right, title and interest in and to the real property in the complaint

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Complaint to quiet title on the following described real property, to-wit: **LOT 11, GRAND PRIX RANCHES, PLAT 1, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5 AT PAGE 72 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.** TOGETHER with all the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining.

has been filed against you, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to JOHN D. CASSELS, JR., Attorney for Plaintiff whose address is Post Office Box 968, 400 Northwest 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34973, within 30 days of first publication, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's Attorney or immediately thereafter, otherwise a Default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. This Notice shall be published once each week for four (4) consecutive weeks in the "Okeechobee News".
DATED this 27th day of December, 2011.

SHARON ROBERTSON
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Arlene Nealis
Deputy Clerk
406373 ON 12/30/2011 1/6,13,20/2012

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Public Notice

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Make mention of
 - 5 Bamboo lover
 - 10 Army NCO
 - 14 Eight, in Essen
 - 15 Look forward to
 - 16 Tiger or Twin, briefly
 - 17 Do some palmistry
 - 20 Giant legend Mel
 - 21 Chick's digs
 - 22 Fine distinction
 - 23 Tavern tussle
 - 25 Delaware senator who sponsored IRA legislation
 - 26 Groundbreaking 1970s sitcom
 - 33 Excessively ornate
 - 34 Sensitive skin spots
 - 35 Not operating
 - 38 "Midnight Cowboy" hustler
 - 40 ___ Kan: Alpo alternative
 - 41 Welsh dog
 - 44 Soviet anti-spy group in some James Bond novels
 - 47 Link on a writer's Web site
 - 51 "___, old chap!"
 - 52 Laura's cry on "The Dick Van Dyke Show"
 - 54 Small gun
 - 57 Western tie
 - 60 Stag party attendee
 - 61 Hillary Clinton bestseller
 - 64 One who might 17-Across
 - 65 Begat
 - 66 Top draft status
 - 67 Music boosters
 - 68 When repeated, start of an old shout that ends with the starts of 17-, 26-, 47- and 61-Across
 - 69 Cold War initials
- DOWN**
- 1 Billiards bounce
 - 2 Summer refresher
 - 3 "___ be the day!"
 - 4 LAX datum
 - 5 Window section
 - 6 Leaves speechless
 - 7 Condé ___ Publications
 - 8 "What's the ___?"
 - 9 Numerous
 - 10 Armstrong's nickname
 - 11 Turn on an axis
 - 12 Lady's partner
 - 13 Low card
 - 18 NBC correspondent Roger
 - 19 Hayworth and Moreno
 - 24 Wrapper for Santa
 - 25 Obstacle for Moses
 - 27 Hide-hair link
 - 28 In poor taste
 - 29 Blackjack request
 - 30 Aggravate
 - 31 Grassy expanse
 - 32 French designer's monogram
 - 35 Andean stew veggie
 - 36 Watch chain
 - 37 To's opposite
 - 39 Tulsa sch. named for a televangelist
 - 42 Rock instruments
 - 43 "Not to worry"
 - 45 Seat that often swivels
 - 46 1968 loser to RMN
 - 48 "Honor Thy Father" author
 - 49 Instruments with many pedals
 - 50 Cheek colorers
 - 53 How some learn music
 - 54 Tuscany tower site
 - 55 Agenda unit
 - 56 Twelve-___ program
 - 57 Homer's son
 - 58 In excess of
 - 59 "___ Rose": "The Music Man" song
 - 62 Common dinner hour
 - 63 Comic Costello

SUDOKU

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Level: Beginner

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ANSWER:

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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By Bruce Venzke and Gail Grabowski
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Celebrate Arbor Day in Florida by planting trees

Florida's Arbor Day has arrived, and the best way to observe the holiday is by planting trees. Arbor Day in Florida will be celebrated Friday, Jan. 20. While National Arbor Day is held on the last Friday in April, several states, including Florida, observe the holiday at a time best suited for tree planting.

It is important to plant the right tree in the right place and, as trees serve many purposes, to determine which functions are most important. The main functions of a tree are:

- **Shade:** Trees are an excellent source for cooling because they both block the rays of the sun and add water to the air through transpiration. Plant where the biggest shadow is desired during the hottest time of the year.

- **Beauty:** Trees add color and can enhance any home depending on where they are planted.

- **Windbreak:** These are most effective when planting trees in a dense, step-like arrangement of both conifers and deciduous trees.

- **Boundaries:** Trees can help delineate property lines.

Once a tree's function is determined, the next step is finding the best place to plant it. Here are a few things to consider:

- **Short flowering trees** are ideally planted under power lines. These trees will not clash with the lines and will add color and beauty to a yard. Some examples of short flowering trees are redbuds, dogwoods and crabapples.

- **Large deciduous trees** are best used to shade a home and yard. These trees should be planted on the southeast, southwest and west side of the home to provide cooling shade in the summer and won't obstruct the low winter sun. Examples of large shade trees are maples, oaks, spruce and many pine species.

- **To slow strong winter winds**, many use evergreen trees, but large deciduous trees work well, too. Windbreaks should be planted on the north side of the home, a fair distance from the nearest structure. Spruce, fir and pine trees make fine windbreaks.

Before planting, it is also worth researching which trees grow best in Florida. This information can be found in the Arbor Day Foundation's Hardiness Zone Map at arborday.org/treeinfo, or by contacting a local nursery or arborist.

Once a tree is planted, proper care is essential.

When planting a containerized tree, six steps must be followed:

1. Call before digging. Call the 811 hotline to have underground utilities located.

2. Handle the tree with care. Always lift it up by its root ball and keep its roots moist until you plant it.

3. Dig the proper hole. Dig 2-5 times wider than the diameter of the root ball with sloping sides.

4. Dig to the proper depth. The trunk flare of the tree should sit slightly above ground level.

5. Back fill the hole with native soil. That is, unless the soil is all clay. Tamp soil gently to fill large air spaces.

6. Mulch the new tree. Add 2-3 inches of mulch around the planting area, but keep it 1-2 inches away from the trunk.

The Arbor Day Foundation is offering a how-to graphic on proper planting techniques and planting the right tree in the right place. These graphics are available for download at arborday.org/treegraphic

Planting instructions for bare-root trees and ball and burlap trees can be found at arborday.org/trees/tips/treePlanting.cfm.

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Backyard Safari

Legends of the crow

By Jessica Basham
FWC

It's not a typical winter morning in Florida. Most of the state is 70 degrees and it's January! Everything outside is brown, bare and dull. The only noise is the rustling of leaves and the coo of mourning doves. Then, loud and clear in the distance I hear the caw of a crow. As the morning continues, other crows join and the lone call becomes chatter. Are they telling each other about a nearby predator or laughing about something funny? These all-jet-black birds (from beak to feet) are crafty, intelligent, social creatures that live in family groups.

Crows, ravens and other black-plumaged birds are often seen as dark, scary or mysterious. However, there are many positive

legends about these clever birds that people don't know. In many Native American legends crows are messengers to the gods and carry prayers. Ravens, a species similar to the American crow but much larger in body and beak, are important legends of the English Crown. They are as famous as the Tower of London. Legends say if the ravens ever leave the Tower, it and the monarchy will fall.

While crows are found in Florida year-round, the best places to see them is an open space that offers a few trees to perch in and a reliable source of food. This is almost anywhere: fields, parks, lakes, backyards and near bodies of water. Learn more about American crows and other birds by downloading the free iPhone application "Nature Viewing Along the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail" or by visiting floridabirding-trail.com.

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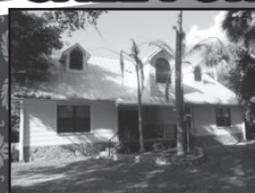
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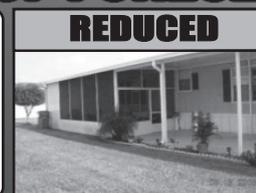
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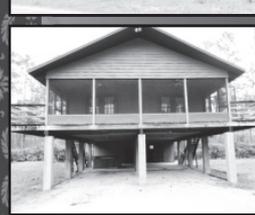
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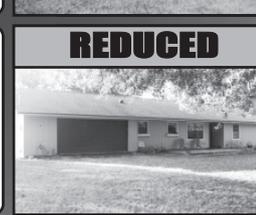
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OHS girls basketball team defeats Fort Pierce Westwood

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Carley McCoin had 21 points and Ami Edwards added 17 points as Okeechobee High School defeated Fort Pierce Westwood 58-46 in girls basketball action on Tuesday night in Okeechobee.

The Lady Brahmans (8-11) built a nine-point lead in the first half and led by double digits in the later stages of the fourth quarter. No matter what the Okeechobee lead was, Westwood didn't give up and kept the score close through the first three quarters.

Maci Simmons had 18 points and Trudy Walker added 15 points for Westwood with most of their baskets coming on open jumpers. Okeechobee did an excellent job limiting the Lady Panthers transition opportunities. The Lady Brahmans also showed improved in the half court offense.

Bethany Stuart had seven rebounds off the bench while Cavell Campbell had seven points for Okeechobee.

Brahman Coach Erin Morrow said it was a close game throughout but she was proud that the team pulled it out at the end and executed well on offense.

"We moved the ball well and cut to the basket really well. Carley and Ami took the ball to the hoop and the other girls got open for layups," she added.

Morrow said the team still has some work to do on defense. She pointed toward Friday's home game with Treasure Coast as a good barometer on how much the team has improved. Treasure Coast blew out Okeechobee in December.

Edwards, who took a hard fall at center court in the third quarter, but bounced right back up, said she felt Okeechobee can accomplish a lot this year if the team continues to work together.

"Westwood has beaten us every year since I joined varsity so it was good to beat them this time. I've been playing well but I feel there is always room for improvement," she added.

Edwards, who stands close to 6' tall, also spends a lot of time playing the steel drums for the Chobee Steelers. She said she enjoys both of her hobbies basketball and music. Edwards and Coach Morrow hope the beautiful music continues on the basketball court.

"We had a lot of new girls in the program

this year but this is the best I've felt about the team because all of the girls are ready, they have good attitudes, and know its not about them, its about the team," Morrow added.



Taylor Trent drives against Maci Simmons of Westwood (left) during Okeechobee's victory in girls basketball on Tuesday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Ami Edwards looks to pass from the high post during Okeechobee's victory over Westwood on Tuesday night.



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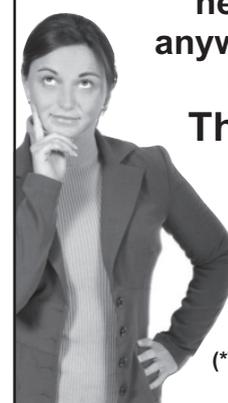
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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Orchid and Garden Club to meet Monday

The Orchid Club will meet at 7 p.m. in the extension Center at 451 98 N at 7 p.m. on Monday, **Jan. 23**. The Garden Club will meet at 6 p.m. Please bring your favorite orchid to show or a problem orchid to discuss. For more information please call 863-763-6469.

ARC Thrift Store requests donations

The ARC of Okeechobee Thrift Store is currently requesting donations of household items, dishes, kitchen appliances, furniture and clothing. Your tax deductible donation will be used to help further the mission of the agency to provide social, educational and vocational opportunities to the developmentally disabled. The store is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All items can be dropped off at the thrift store location, 403 N.W. 2nd Ave. in Okeechobee. For further information, call 863-763-2419.

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