

# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 104 No. 5

Friday, January 11, 2013

50¢ Plus tax

**Filing taxes early helps prevent identity theft ... Page 2**

**OUA to seek grant funding ... Page 3**

**Health dept. encourages flu shots ... Page 11**

**OHS boys soccer team beats Clewiston ... Page 12**

## Lake Levels

**15.01 feet**

Last Year: 13.52 feet

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

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## SFWMD 'transparency' questioned

Purchase of 638 acres tied to 30-year lease extension on other public land for Duda

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

Despite the opposition of several environmental groups, water managers Thursday got the go-ahead to enter into negotiations to pur-

chase property from A. Duda & Sons in Glades County.

Approval of Resolution 2013-105 by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) governing board paves the way for the district to possibly purchase 638 acres of Glades County property for \$1.9 million (\$2,984 per acre), which is a 56 percent discount from the appraised value of \$6,800 per acre.

That purchase, however, is contingent on Duda receiving a 30-year extension on two of

its land leases with the state.

The district will also have the option of buying an additional 2,489 acres of Glades County property from Duda for \$16.9 million, which is not a discounted price. Water managers will have four years in which to exercise that option, according to the resolution.

"This puts us in a little bind," Jane Graham, an Everglades policy associate with Audubon

See SFWMD — Page 5



Special to the Okeechobee News/Rob Newell

## Big 'O' hosting EverStart tourney

The EverStart Series Southeast Division is fishing Lake Okeechobee this weekend. On Thursday, Jacob Wheeler was having fun on the Big O with a Rapala X-Rap Prop. For the story, see page 12.

## County OKs plan to ease flooding

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

In a shorter than usual meeting on Thursday, Jan. 10, Okeechobee County Commissioners took a step toward relieving flooding, approved a zoning change for a dollar store, could find no way to fund an OCRA request and discussed legislative priorities.

Commissioners approved an agreement to ease flooding in the Playland Park area. It

See COUNTY — Page 2

## Local MLK Day events are planned

The Okeechobee community has several events planned in honor of Martin Luther King Day, with hope to bring "Unity to the Community."

The Martin Luther King Banquet will be held at the KOA Resort on U.S. 441 South Saturday, Jan. 19. Requested donation is \$10 per person. Everyone is invited.

See KING — Page 5

# Car Accident?

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# File income tax early to prevent identity theft

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

To receive a tax refund quicker and help guard against identity theft, file tax returns as early as possible electronically and use a reputable tax preparer. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has announced that it will start processing tax returns on Jan. 30 in order to have time to comply with the recently passed American Taxpayer Relief Act (ATRA).

While most taxpayers will be able to file by Jan. 30, the IRS states that some people with more complicated returns including people claiming residential energy credits, depreciation of property or general business credits will not be able to start filing until late February or early March. This delay is to allow the IRS to make form and processing changes to conform to the ATRA. The IRS will announce a date in the near future for those taxpayers to file.

"We have worked hard to open tax season as soon as possible," IRS Acting Commissioner Steven T. Miller said in a press release. "This date ensures we have the time we need to update and test our processing system."

"The best option for taxpayers is to file electronically," Mr. Miller said. Last year more than 80 percent of taxpayers filed electronically.

Sheri Slayton of Jackson Hewitt said that last year the IRS reported one million cases of identity theft on tax returns. She said that when returns are filed electronically, the first time a social security number (SSN) is received it is accepted without question. If a second return is filed using that same SSN it

will be rejected and the filer will have to submit additional documentation. So the earlier a person files the less likely that they will be a victim of identity theft. Once the IRS confirms the identity of a person who has been a victim of identity theft, that person is assigned a pin number. The IRS computer will reject any electronic returns received after that time with that SSN that does not have the pin number.

In addition to helping to prevent identity fraud, electronic filing can speed up the entire process. Ms. Slayton said that within three hours the preparer receives confirmation that the return has been received and accepted. Then the return can be tracked through the entire process. Refunds from electronically filed tax returns are available within 7 to 13 days.

Ms. Slayton recommended that people go to an IRS registered tax preparer for their own protection. This is a new thing that will soon be mandatory for all tax preparers. It requires a two-hour test to be registered and continuing education to keep the registration current. The IRS has all the tax preparer's personal information on file. She said that some people go to a fly-by-night tax preparer. Then when the tax return is questioned by the IRS the tax preparer is nowhere to be found.

Ms. Slayton said that deductions are pretty much the same for 2012 as for the previous year. However, more documentation is now required for earned income credit and to claim dependents. She said it is important to make tax preparers aware of any significant life changes such as the birth of a child.

## COUNTY

Continued From Page 1

seems that part of that area's flooding problem after extensive rains is due to the culverts under the CSX siding at Royal Concrete Concepts. The county has a grant to correct this problem. However, an agreement must be worked out with CSX. Commissioners approved the agreement in concept and gave staff latitude to work out the details pending approval of legal sufficiency by the county attorney. Grant money cannot be used for insurance therefore the county must pay approximately \$1,125 for insurance.

Without comment the board approved a zoning change from residential general and commercial to heavy commercial for property located on the south side of U.S. 441 S.E. near the intersection with S.E. 18th Terrace. Property owner Tantie Properties wishes to bring in a Dollar General Store.

It looks like OCRA might not be able to bid for a state softball tournament. In a matter that was continued from the Dec. 13 meeting, commissioners discussed, but took no action toward, helping OCRA to bring the tournament to the Okeechobee County Sports Complex in July. Parks and Recreation Director Albee Scoggins estimated the cost would be approximately \$17,000. The request involved use of the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center for a banquet, use of the sports complex and assistance to

replace the infield sod on three of the four baseball fields with clay and put sod back after the tournament.

The bid for the state tournament must be in by Jan. 26. In order to place a bid OCRA must have a commitment for the cost of the tournament.

Micki Slayton, president of OCRA, stated that last year 35 teams competed in the tournament. With 12 to 13 players each team, coaches and parents, she said the tournament could have a positive impact on the county's economy.

"There is no money to pay for it," County Administrator Robbie Chartier asserted. Mr. Scoggins said it would be hard to pull \$17,000 from the parks and recreation budget to cover this cost.

Commissioner Joey Hoover stated while he totally supported OCRA's efforts, the county had to borrow money to balance the budget and could not afford to help with the tournament. "Unless you can identify a funding source," the commissioner said, "you should get donations." He said he would personally donate the clay for the infields.

"OCRA is really good at getting donations," Ms. Slayton said. She expected to receive donations but did not have an estimate of the total amount of donations.

Commissioner Hoover suggested OCRA put together a proposal for the 2014 tournament to be included in discussions for next year's budget. That way, if the request were approved for next year's budget, the money would be there to pay for the tournament.

## Okeechobee Forecast

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**Today:** Partly cloudy. High of 81F. Winds from the ESE at 5 to 15 mph.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy. Fog overnight. Low of 63F. Winds less than 5 mph.

### Extended Forecast

**Saturday:** Partly cloudy. High of 81F. Winds from the East at 5 to 10 mph.

**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy. Fog overnight. Low of 63F. Winds from the ESE at 5 to 10 mph.

**Sunday:** Clear. Fog early. High of 82F. Winds from the ESE at 5 to 10 mph.

**Sunday Night:** Clear in the evening, then overcast. Low of 59F. Winds from the ESE at 5 to 10 mph.

**Monday:** Mostly cloudy. Fog early. High of 81F. Winds from the ESE at 5 to 10 mph.

**Monday Night:** Partly cloudy. Low of 63F. Winds from the ESE at 5 to 10 mph.

**Tuesday:** Mostly cloudy. High of 84F. Winds from the SE at 5 to 10 mph.

**Tuesday Night:** Mostly cloudy. Low of 63F. Winds from the SE at 5 to 10 mph.

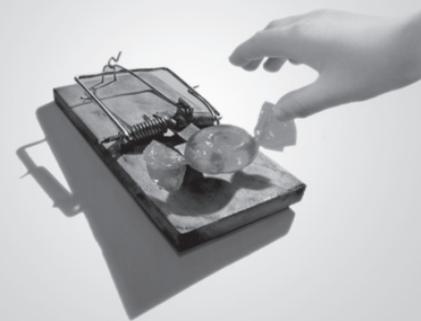
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# OUA sets legislative priorities

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

A project that has the Okeechobee Utility Authority (OUA) and the Okeechobee Economic Council at odds as well as two water main improvement projects took up a good portion of the Tuesday, Jan. 8, meeting of the OUA Board of Directors.

John Hayford, OUA's executive director, informed the board that the Economic Council wants a list of projects for the Okeechobee Legislative Delegation meeting on Jan. 28. As in the past, the Economic Council is preparing a book to be presented to the delegation members listing the legislative priorities of city and county governments, the OUA, and other local civic and government groups. Each participating group will also be allowed to have a spokesperson make an oral presentation on that group's priorities.

Mr. Hayford suggested requesting funding for four projects; Pine Ridge Park Water System improvements, Pine Ridge Park Wastewater System improvements, Eastside Sanitary Force Main, and Treasure Island Vacuum Sewer system. The project that provoked lengthy discussion was the eastside forcemain since the economic council has been vocal in their opposition of that project.

"I think we would be better off to do our own presentation," board member Tommy Hoover said. "We have issues we need to address on our own."

"We are not endorsing every project in that book," said Tara Minton Rawley of the Economic Council. "You are certainly welcome to participate."

"Non-endorsement and open opposition are two different things," stated board Harry Moldenhauer, "You (the Economic Council) have come out vehemently opposed to this project. It may be in our best interest to present it ourselves."

"There is a misconception that this board is angry at the Economic Council," said chairman Steve Nelson. He went on to say that board was annoyed but not angry.

"We should present ourselves as a single entity," he went on to say.

It was brought out in the discussion that the OUA would get a chance to have a spokesperson make an oral presentation of the utility's case.

In the end the board voted to participate in the oral presentation to the delegation and in the preparation of the book. They authorized the executive director to assemble and prioritize projects to be listed in the book and the chairman, Mr. Nelson, to be the spokesperson.

Turning to other business, Mr. Hayford told the board that the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) is planning to widen SR 70E to four lanes from N.E. 34th Avenue eastward. He said there are two places where the OUA water main conflicts with the highway widening project. He said that the DOT has asked the utility to come up with a plan to move those water mains. He put together a request for proposals and received two responses from engineering firms. In connection with this project, the board approved entering an engineering services agreement with Infrastructure Solution Services for an amount not to exceed \$24,960.

In another water main improvement project, the board agreed to move forward with the design proposal and to finalize cost estimates and to prepare contracts in connection with water main improvements on N.W. Ninth Street. There was considerable discussion about having two proposed industrial developments on that street help in the cost.

In other action the board:

- received the finance report for the pe-

riod ending Dec. 31, 2012;

- approved a monthly invoice from government and public affairs consultants Alcalde & Faye LTD in the amount of \$3,261;

- approved an invoice from AECOM for engineering work in connection with the east side wastewater expansion project;

- approved payment of a monthly invoice in the amount of \$14,247 to Melville and Sowerby for legal services; and

- made minor changes to the employee safety handbook approved at last month's board meeting.

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

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Lifeline eligible subscribers may also qualify for reliable home high-speed Internet service up to 1.5Mbps for \$9.95\* per month for the first 12 months of service. Further details are available at [centurylink.com/internetbasics](http://centurylink.com/internetbasics).

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-800-201-4099 or visit [centurylink.com/lifeline](http://centurylink.com/lifeline) with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.

**\*CenturyLink Internet Basics Program** – Residential customers only who qualify based on meeting income level or program participation eligibility requirements, and requires remaining eligible for the entire offer period. First bill will include charges for the first full month of service billed in advance, prorated charges for service from the date of installation to bill date, and one-time charges and fees described above. Qualifying customers may keep this program for a maximum of 60 months after service activation provided customer still qualifies during that time. Listed High-Speed Internet rate of \$9.95/mo. applies for first 12 months of service (after which the rate reverts to \$14.95/mo. for the next 48 months of service), and requires a 12-month term agreement. Customer must either lease a modem/router from CenturyLink for an additional monthly charge or independently purchase a modem/router, and a one-time High-Speed Internet activation fee applies. A one-time professional installation charge (if selected by customer) and a one-time shipping and handling fee applies to customer's modem/router. **General** – Services not available everywhere. CenturyLink may change or cancel services or substitute similar services at its sole discretion without notice. Offer, plans, and stated rates are subject to change and may vary by service area. Deposit may be required. Additional restrictions apply. **Terms and Conditions** – All products and services listed are governed by tariffs, terms of service, or terms and conditions posted at [centurylink.com](http://centurylink.com). **Taxes, Fees, and Surcharges** – Applicable taxes, fees, and surcharges include a carrier Universal Service charge, carrier cost recovery surcharges, state and local fees that vary by area and certain in-state surcharges. Cost recovery fees are not taxes or government-required charges for user-required charges for use. Taxes, fees, and surcharges apply based on standard monthly, not promotional, rates.



### Judges sought for Okeechobee County Science Fair

The Okeechobee County Science Fair is looking for individuals with a science, engineering, or mathematics background to help judge science projects the morning of Jan. 24. No experience is necessary, and we would welcome your expertise in promoting science in our community. If you are interested in helping to judge projects, please contact Cindy Letcher at 863-462-5056.

### Yatchette Club hosts golf tourney

The Okeechobee Yatchette Club is sponsoring a Blind Draw Golf Tournament Scramble at the Blue Heron Golf Course on Saturday, **Jan. 12**, at 9 a.m. to benefit our Okeechobee High School Scholarship Fund and our Senior Citizen's Fund. \$40.00 per person with lunch and prizes following at Good Spirits lounge. Sign up to play at Good Spirits lounge, Blue Heron Golf Course, or at the Big "0" RV Resort lot #44 or lot #201. A Calcutta will be held Thursday, Jan. 10, at Good Spirits lounge at 7:00 p.m. For information, call Tommy at 954-258-3258, or Garry at 863-532-9033, or Suzzie at 352-209-9582.

### Buckhead Ridge Baptist Church

Buckhead Ridge Baptist Church 1731 Hunter Rd. is proud to announce the John Holder Family will be doing a concert Sunday morning **Jan. 13** at 11 a.m. A free will offering will be taken. Everyone is welcome.

### Living Word of Faith Fellowship Concert

The Living Word of Faith Fellowship located at 1902 S. Parrott proud to announce the Country Gospel Concert of Ron and Sharon Frazier. On, Sunday **Jan. 13** at 11 a.m.

## Public Forum/Speak Out

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

### State Road 70

- Trucks don't hurt or kill people. People who pull out in front of trucks and think they can stop on a dime one block later are the reasons why people get hurt or killed. All drivers need to abide by the laws.

- Some people don't have good judgment about what a huge truck can do. These little roller skate cars zip in and out of traffic as though anyone can avoid them within a distance of 50 feet. And in most cases they are being driven by 20 something girls. Even the insurance companies will back this up. Their rates are higher than for any other age group. This has happened often with some of my truck driving relatives. In the past year my son, driving a gravel truck had this happen and only through some very creative driving averted an accident in which several people (cars on all four corners) could have been killed. Little fools. Usually they are busy yapping away with their passengers.

- Insurance companies will back up the age part, but certainly not the gender. Teenage boys are more expensive to insure than girls due to their increased likelihood of causing fatal accidents.

- One of the key ingredients is that SR 70 needs to be completed/four-laned which should help. It's always been a heavily-traveled road, a feeder road for crossing Florida by semis and travelers. I've also always been amazed at the head-on collisions on State Road 710 ... people getting impatient, taking chances at passing. A vehicle traveling at 60 mph is traveling approximately 80 feet per second ... and moving at 80 feet per second, it takes the blink of an eye to cause or contribute to a wreck.

- I drive a motorcycle on an almost daily basis and the majority of people who pull out in front of/almost hit/try to merge on top of/ never see me are the elderly and teenagers. With the elderly it's almost always in a giant land cruiser type car and with teenagers its on the phone in giant lifted trucks (mommy and daddy's truck). In town I obey all traffic laws, use blinkers, and even flash my lights just so people will see me. And yet it's a never-ending battle.

### Why live in Okeechobee?

- Why do you choose to live in Okeechobee? I find it an excellent place to live.

- I am currently saving money to leave and find fortunes elsewhere.

- I have often told my "chirrun" that the best thing to do is to leave the area so they know what it is like "out there."

- I choose to live here because I grew up in Homestead. This town is still like Homestead was in the 70s and mid 80s. I don't speak Spanglish and decided to stay here. Grew up huntin', fishin', pullin' gophers, and when it comes to down to it, "country boy can survive." Love my home town!

- I didn't know many people were still around that knew what "pullin' gophers" was about ... Yum!

- I live here because of my spouse, a fifth generation Okeechobee. But we do all of our shopping, go out to eat, see movies, and we work in other counties. I would like to sell out and move to one of the counties to the west or maybe north Florida. I was born and raised in a town smaller than Okeechobee and I have been blessed with the opportunity to travel the country. There are a lot of small towns all over the USA that I could call home.

- I chose to live here because all my life travelling through Okeechobee visiting family, I have watched this town change in so many ways. I knew as a child, then teen, I would eventually end up here. Sure enough here I am, hunting, fishing, riding, gardening and enjoying the space this area has to offer. Most everyone in this town are good people. My only issue was with a business, when an auto center tried to way overcharge my step daughter for service. I took care of that as anyone around here would and took my business to a more honest mechanic.

- Some days I wonder why I am here but other days I am very proud of Okeechobee. Saturday was one of those days, when community members gathered to 'rally around' Ryan Arnold as the family set off for the little boy's surgery in Boston. The insurance will only cover part of the expense for the specialist because it was 'out of network' but community volunteers raised over \$50,000 in donations to cover the family's portion of the bills. There were all kinds of fundraisers—from barbecue dinners to collecting scrap metal—just to help that child get the best medical care. People in Okeechobee may not have much, but they do what they can to help someone in need.

## Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

<b>ACROSS</b>	71 Hamlet's countrymen	33 Politician Kefauver	52 Cramp or twitch
1 In the heavens		35 Crime laws, as a unit	53 Of few words
6 McCartney's instrument	<b>DOWN</b>	37 Scheduled to arrive	55 Deadly virus
10 Predecessor of surrealism	1 Director Lee	38 French friends	56 Play boisterously
14 Seedless type of orange	2 Harpoon point	41 Where Hercules slew a lion	57 Toledo's lake
15 "There oughta be ___!"	3 Racetrack shape	42 Poker ploy	58 Minor collision damage
16 Password enterer	4 Legal site	47 Q-Tip target job	59 Nashville's st.
17 Like the more serious larceny	5 Firstborn sibling	49 Didn't just simmer	60 The Auld Sod
18 "All you need," in a Beatles song	6 Fun time	65 Crosses (out)	
19 Farm structure	7 Distant		
20 Evidence against an aristocrat?	8 Relish		
23 Immigrant's subj.	9 "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" setting		
24 Guitar neck features	10 Wind-related desert event		
25 "Private Practice" network	11 Where Siberia is		
28 Bluesman Mahal	12 Corned beef seller		
30 Resident since birth	13 Elvis's middle name		
34 Tombstone lawman	21 Fun time		
36 Common mixer	22 "Forever" post office product		
39 Styles	25 Sponsorship		
40 Evidence against a gardener?	26 Ballet rail		
43 To whom "I'll see you in my dreams" is sung	27 Some Saskatchewanians		
44 Singer Diamond	29 Elton of England		
45 Pout	31 "Eat crow," e.g.		
46 Opening word for Ali Baba	32 Evening star		
48 Long sandwich			
50 Ed.'s workload items			
51 Smallest			
54 Enemy			
56 Evidence against an Oscar attendee?			
62 Black-and-white treat			
63 Suffix with soft or flat			
64 Seuss environmentalist			
66 Matter topper?			
67 Part of NRA: Abbr.			
68 Hardly hoi polloi			
69 Seeger of the Weavers			
70 Marvel Comics heroes			

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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### Our Purpose...

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

### We Pledge...

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

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



# SFWMD

Continued From Page 1

Florida, told governing board members prior to their Jan. 10 vote. "We oppose this resolution because of the lack of public transparency. Normally there would have been public discussion, but none of that happened."

She went on to tell board members that because there has been no public discussions about the proposed purchase, it appears the district has been acting "outside of Sunshine," a reference to the state's Government in Sunshine law.

In a phone interview later Thursday, Ms. Graham said her group isn't opposed to the restoration project but they do have a problem with the district's lack of transparency.

"What it sounds like from the presentation is it will have some environmental benefit, but it's to be determined how much. We believe the water storage will be very helpful because the Caloosahatchee River needs it during the dry season," she said.

Audubon's opposition lies mainly in the extension of A. Duda's leases in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) for another 30 years.

"I think it's a fair question to say 'What alternatives are there?' We just need to be very careful that they're reducing extra pol-

lution," she added.

Ernie Barnett, director of Everglades policy and coordination for the district, addressed the governing board Thursday and told them the proposed project will help rehydrate Lake Hicpochee, provide water storage for the Caloosahatchee River and improve water quality.

Prior to the vote, governing board members were told of a letter sent to them by the Glades County Board of County Commissioners that presented that board's concern into the lack of public notice about the proposed purchase and Thursday's vote.

"Our Board was surprised that we did not receive an advance courtesy notice of your Board's meeting agenda item on this resolution, in light of the fact the District's purchase of up to 3,100 acres of Duda's land in Glades County has the potential of significantly impacting Glades County," stated the letter that was signed by the board's vice chairperson Donna Storter Long.

Tuesday, Jan. 8, the Glades County board was told about the proposed purchase by Commissioner Paul Beck. Then, by a 3-0 vote, the commissioners agreed to send the letter to the governing board and ask them to delay their decision until Feb. 13 to give county leaders a chance to find out more about the purchase.

Commission chairman Russell Echols abstained from voting because he works for

Duda, and Commissioner Tim Stanley did not vote because he works for the district.

When reached by telephone after the governing board's vote, Commissioner Beck said he wasn't surprised about the vote.

"I figured they would," he said. "There's no transparency—that's one of my biggest gripes. It's a bad way to go."

He added that flooding the property in question will not only cost jobs, it will keep away investors who want to buy property in Glades County. The commissioner then talked about a man from Texas who was interested in buying up to a couple of hundred acres of property that lies within the proposed project for investment purposes but is now having second thoughts.

"He said maybe he just needs to forget about it. That's significant," said Commissioner Beck.

Like Commissioner Beck, Glades County manager Larry Hilton wasn't surprised about the vote.

"The problem commissioners had is no one knew anything about it until the last minute," he said.

However, he added, the district has since contacted the county about holding a meeting to discuss the project. But, added Mr. Hilton, no date has been set for that meeting.

Ms. Graham indicated that her Audubon group will carry their opposing voice to Tallahassee for a Jan. 23 meeting of Governor Rick Scott's cabinet, which must approve Duda's lease extension. She told the governing board that Audubon Florida will be weighing in on the issue and that the lease extensions "need to be vetted."

# KING

Continued From Page 1

On Sunday, Jan. 20, a candlelight vigil will be held in the east parking lot of First Missionary Baptist Church of Deans Court on the corner of N.W. Ninth Avenue and Ninth Street at 6 p.m. The attendees will pray for the violence in all communities to stop.

The Martin Luther King Day march will line up at 8 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 21, at the Douglas Brown Center. The March will start promptly at 9 a.m. and travel to Flagler Park.

The Martin Luther Kind Day Parade will

start at 10:30 a.m. in downtown Okeechobee. Parade participants will meet in the parking lot of the old U-Save supermarket on U.S. 441 (Parrott Avenue) at 10 a.m.

The parade will follow the regular parade route north on U.S. 441 and then west on State Road 70 to the end of Flagler Park. There will be a short program in Flagler Park after the parade. After the program, participants are invited to return to The Douglas Brown Center for refreshments, entertainment and fun.

If you would like to donate water or soft drinks, please bring them to The Douglas Brown Center on Monday morning.

For more information, contact Shirlean Graham at 863-763-2893.

# 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).*

- Robert Allen Pohl, 48, S.E. 25th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 8 by Deputy Corporal Aric Majere on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felony of grand theft. His bond was set at \$2,500.

- Bruce Elliot Mincey, 49, N.W. 21st Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 9 by Officer Chad Troutman on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence and possession of marijuana under 20 grams. His bond was set at \$750.

- James Harmison, 26, N.W. Parkway, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 9 by Deputy Matthew Hurst on a Broward County warrant charging him with violation of probation - lewd and lascivious exhibition in presence of victim 16 years old or less. He is being held without bond.

- Joseph Snyder, 47, N.E. 11th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 9 by Deputy Brian Cross on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felonies of burglary of a conveyance and tampering with a victim. He is being held without bond.

- Gerald Steven Price, 48, N.E. Sixth St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 9 by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on a felony charge of witness tampering. His bond was set at \$30,000.

- Joseph Enrique Sandoval, 27, N.E. 168th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 9 by Deputy Ronald A. Brown on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felony of possession of a controlled substance in a state correction institution. He was released on his own recognizance.

**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.**

## Descuentos en Teléfono e Internet Disponibles para Clientes de CenturyLink

La Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Florida ha designado a CenturyLink como un Portador Elegible de Telecomunicaciones dentro de su área de servicio para fines de servicio universal. Las tarifas de servicio local básico de CenturyLink para líneas de voz residenciales son \$19.50 al mes y para servicios de negocios son \$28.00-\$32.50 al mes. Las tarifas específicas se proporcionarán por solicitud.

CenturyLink participa en un programa de beneficios del gobierno (Lifeline) para hacer el servicio telefónico residencial más accesible a personas y familias elegibles de bajos ingresos. Los clientes elegibles son aquellos que cumplen con las normas de elegibilidad según lo definido por la FCC y las comisiones estatales. Los residentes que viven en tierras tribales reconocidas a nivel federal pueden calificar para beneficios tribales adicionales si participan en ciertos programas de elegibilidad federales adicionales. El descuento Lifeline está disponible sólo para un teléfono por hogar, el cual puede ser un teléfono fijo o inalámbrico. Para los fines del programa Lifeline, un hogar se define como cualquier individuo o grupo de individuos que viven en la misma dirección y comparten ingresos y gastos. El servicio Lifeline no es transferible, y sólo consumidores elegibles pueden inscribirse en el programa. Los consumidores que voluntariamente hagan declaraciones falsas con el fin de obtener el servicio de teléfono de Lifeline pueden ser castigados con una multa o pena de prisión y pueden ser excluidos del programa.

Los suscriptores elegibles para Lifeline también pueden calificar para el servicio confiable de Internet de alta velocidad residencial de hasta 1.5 Mbps por \$9.95\* al mes por los primeros 12 meses de servicio. Más detalles están disponibles en [centurylink.com/internetbasics](http://centurylink.com/internetbasics).

Si usted vive en un área de servicio de CenturyLink, por favor llame al 1-800-201-4099 o visite [centurylink.com/lifeline](http://centurylink.com/lifeline) si tiene alguna pregunta o para solicitar una aplicación para el programa Lifeline.

**\*Programa Internet Basics de CenturyLink** – Sólo para clientes residenciales que califiquen basado en el cumplimiento de los requisitos de nivel de ingresos o de elegibilidad para la participación en el programa, y requiere permanecer elegible durante el periodo completo de la oferta. La primera factura incluirá los cargos por el primer mes completo de servicio facturado por adelantado, cargos prorrateados por servicio a partir de la fecha de la instalación hasta la fecha de la factura, y cargos y tarifas únicos descritos anteriormente. Los clientes que califiquen pueden mantener este programa durante un máximo de 60 meses después de la activación del servicio siempre que el cliente mantenga su elegibilidad durante ese tiempo. La tarifa de Internet de Alta Velocidad indicada de \$9.95/mes aplica durante los primeros 12 meses de servicio (después de lo cual la tarifa se revierte a \$14.95/mes durante los siguientes 48 meses de servicio), y requiere un contrato a término de 12 meses. El cliente debe rentar un módem/róuter de CenturyLink por un cargo mensual adicional o comprar un módem/róuter de manera independiente, y aplica un cargo único por activación de Internet de Alta Velocidad. Un cargo único por instalación profesional (si es seleccionada por el cliente) y un cargo único por envío y manejo se aplican al módem/róuter del cliente. **General** – Servicios no disponibles en todas partes. CenturyLink puede cambiar o cancelar los servicios o sustituirlos por servicios similares a su entera discreción y sin previo aviso. Oferta, planes y tarifas indicadas sujetos a cambio y pueden variar según el área de servicio. Un depósito puede ser requerido. Aplican restricciones adicionales. **Términos y Condiciones** – Todos los productos y servicios indicados se rigen por las tarifas, términos de servicio, o términos y condiciones publicados en [centurylink.com](http://centurylink.com). **Impuestos, Cargos y Sobrecargos** – Impuestos, cargos y sobrecargos aplicables incluyen un cargo por el Servicio Universal del proveedor, sobrecargos de recuperación de costos del proveedor, cargos locales y estatales que varían por área, y ciertos sobrecargos dentro del estado. Los cargos por recuperación de costos no son impuestos o cargos por uso exigidos por el gobierno. Impuestos, cargos y sobrecargos se aplican sobre tarifas con una base mensual estándar, no promocional.



## Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted to the Okeechobee News by e-mailing [obits@newszap.com](mailto: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](http://www.newszap.com).

### Roy R. Bohannon, Sr., 64

OKEECHOBEE — Roy R. Bohannon, Sr. died Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2013, at Raulerson Hospital.

Roy was born in Arkansas and relocated to Okeechobee 26 years ago. He enjoyed his free time working in the yard and spending time with all of his grandchildren. After retiring, he enjoyed selling peanuts.

Roy was preceded in death by a daughter, Cheryl Bohannon; grandson, Andrew Deschamps; his parents, Otis and Edith Bohannon; brothers, Coy and Toy Bohannon; and a sister, Susie Bohannon.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Gail Bohannon; son, Roy (Amy) Bohannon, Jr.; daughter, Mary Michelle (Joseph) Deschamps, all of Okeechobee; ten grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; brothers, James (Betty) Bohannon of Calif., GJ (Shirley) Henson of Ga.; sisters, Erlene McCoy of Dover, Fla., Martha Woodby and Anna Lee (Kenneth) Collins, both of Tenn.

Visitation will be held on Monday, Jan. 14, 2013, from 10 a.m. until service time of 11 a.m. at Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Port Mayaca Cemetery.

Friends may send online condolences to [www.buxtonseawinds.com](http://www.buxtonseawinds.com)

Arrangements are under the care of Matthew and Paul Buxton of Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home, 3833 SE 18th Terrace, Okeechobee, Fla.

### Robert Elvis Rhew, 60

OKEECHOBEE — Robert Elvis Rhew passed away Jan. 4, 2013. He was born Aug. 9, 1952 in Hillsborough, N.C. Mr. Rhew proudly served our country in the U.S. Army Special Forces. He was a safety coordinator for construction.

Mr. Rhew is survived by his wife, Mary Rhew; mother and father, Clyde and Lillian Rhew; parents, Lou and Bobby Gentry; children, Lorie Earp, Alan Rhew (Lisa), Kimberly Warhurst (Angie), Michael Riddle (Julie) and Jennifer Riddle; sisters, Deb Penland (Davida), Elaine Chamberland, Glenda Hoffman (Marty) and Diana Rhew; grandchildren, Adam, Zander, Christopher, Hayle and Brooke.

No services will be held at this time.

Friends may sign the guest book and leave a message of condolence at [www.BassOkeechobeeFH.com](http://www.BassOkeechobeeFH.com)

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory, 205 N.E. Second Street, (863) 763-2111.

### Willie Tommie, 54

BRIGHTON — Willie Tommie passed peacefully Jan. 9, 2013.

He was born Feb. 26, 1958 in Okeechobee. He was a lifelong resident of Brighton and a citrus worker. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends and he was an avid Dolphins fan.

Mr. Tommie was preceded in death by his wife, Carolyn Tommie; daughter, Tanya Tommie; mother, Juanita Tommie; brother, Walter Tommie, Jr.; aunts, Lois Smith, Wanda Tommie and Ada Bowers; grandson, Brighton Serrano; and niece, Miranda Tommie.

He is survived by his wife, Noreen Tommie; daughter, Stella M. Ford (Oscar); stepdaughters, Dionne Smedley (Samuel), Rinella Billie (Billy Bailey) all of Brighton and Rebecca Rankin of Mass.; stepson, Keith Billie (Margie) of Brighton; and his beloved grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends.

Visitation will be 10 a.m. until funeral services at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013 at Ortona Cemetery. Rev. Matt Tiger will officiate.

Friends may sign the guest book and leave a message of condolence at [www.BassOkeechobeeFH.com](http://www.BassOkeechobeeFH.com)

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory, 205 N.E. Second Street, (863) 763-2111.

### Luther Trent, 96

OKEECHOBEE — Luther Trent died at Raulerson Hospital on Monday, Jan. 7, 2013.

Luther was born in Jackson, Ky. and relocated to Okeechobee over 50 years ago becoming active in the field of construction. He served his country during WWII in the US Army. His favorite pastimes were fishing, woodworking and gardening. He joined the Masons in Kentucky and transferred his membership to the local Blue Lodge upon moving to Okeechobee. Recently he received a pin representing over 70 years of membership.

Luther was preceded in death by a grandson, George E. Neal II.

He is survived by his wife of 76 years, Gladys Tipton Trent; daughters, Betty (George) Neal of Stanton, Ky., Brenda Trent Appleton of Okeechobee; sons, Edward (Connie) Trent, Donnie (Pam) Trent, Johnny (Lisa) Trent and Ronald (Lynne) Trent, all of Okeechobee; eleven grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, Jan. 10, 2013, from 6 until 8 p.m. at Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home with Masonic services following on Friday, Jan. 11, 2013, at 10 a.m. Burial will take place at Evergreen Cemetery.

Friends may send online condolences to [www.buxtonseawinds.com](http://www.buxtonseawinds.com)

Arrangements are under the care of Matthew and Paul Buxton of Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home, 3833 SE 18th Terrace, Okeechobee, Fla.



## Community Events

### YOUNIFIED event planned

All youth from sixth to 12th grades are invited to attend the YOUNIFIED youth event, on **Jan. 11** at Osceola Middle School. There will be over 50 free door prizes given away including two lap tops, two iPads, two X-box 360s, iPods, "Beats" headphones and more! There will also be great speakers. The event will feature the rap group "Authentic" out of Miami. The doors open at 5:30 p.m. and there will be another rap group at that time as you come in, visit the booths and get some free food!! "3:Thirty" will also be singing. The night will be action packed with food, music and truth. Doors open at 5 p.m. The event is from 5:30-9:30 p.m. For information call 863-634-6523

### Eagles plan weekend events

The Cypress Hut Eagles will be serving choice rib eye steak dinner for \$14, shrimp \$10, or fish \$8, starting at 5:30 p.m. Friday, **Jan. 11**. Music will be by Debbie and Jimmy Harper. Saturday Jan. 12, serving baby back ribs for dinner with two sides for \$10 from 4-7 p.m. Music starts at 6 p.m., by Sax On The Beach. Sunday, Jan. 13, Southern Fried Chicken served from 1-5 p.m. for \$6. Dart tournament Tuesday Jan. 15 starting at 6 p.m. Hamburgers will be served. The public is welcome. Tuesdays proceeds go for the Diabetes Research Center, and the rest go to the community charity funds. For more information please call 863-467-1154.

### Eagles North weekend plans

Eagles North located at 9985 U.S. 441 N. will have Friday steak dinner on **Jan. 11** from 5:30 p.m.- 9 p.m. followed by music with Michaels Memories. Saturday, Jan. 12, is card bingo at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15, is bingo at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, is bingo starting at 5:30 p.m. All proceeds will go to the FOE 4137 community benefit fund.

### North VFW events announced

The North VFW, 300 N.W. 34th St., has lots of fun planned for this weekend. Friday there will be bingo at 1 p.m. the grill will be open 5-9 p.m. with D & K Karaoke (Danny & Kathy) hosting karaoke 7-11 p.m. On Saturday there will be burgers on the grill from 12-2 p.m. Bingo 1 p.m. and seafood baskets (as well as a full menu) 5-7 p.m. and Keith Bass & The Florida Bluegrass Express at 8 p.m. Sunday, Lori will be serving a chicken fried steak dinner 1-3 p.m. for a donation of \$6.50. Proceeds go towards Veteran's Assistance Programs.

### SSN to meet Jan. 11

The executive roundtable of the Shared Services Network of Okeechobee County will conduct its bi-monthly meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, **Jan. 11**, in the board room of the Okeechobee County school board office. This forum provides a mechanism for dialogue and problem solving in our community through the collaborative efforts of our local decision makers. The public is invited. For information, call Sharon Vinson (863) 462-5000, ext. 257.

### Baseball tryouts slated

The 'Chobee baseball 14 & under travel team tryouts will be held Saturday, **Jan. 12**, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Sports Complex, on Field 4. Players should bring their birth certificates.

### Library hosting series

The Okeechobee Library will host "Jan R.B. Nairnsey- musical theater presenter" of a series depicting Broadway shows with musical selections and narratives. The Saturday, **Jan. 12**, 1 p.m. presentation will be on "Destry Rides Again."

### Dinner to benefits kids

On **Jan. 12** the Cypress Hut Eagles will host a barbecue rib dinner and two side dishes starting at 4:30 p.m. All proceeds from these dinners will be given to the KOA kids with cancer camp (KOA Kids Care Camp). Meals will cost \$10 and public is welcome. There will be live music starting at 5:30 p.m.

### Church hosts breakfast

Join the prayer warriors of Calvary Chapel Okeechobee Men's and Women's group as we join together to lift up our prayers to the Lord. We will be hosting a men's prayer breakfast and a women's prayer breakfast at 9 a.m. in the sanctuary on Saturday, **Jan. 12**. For directions and questions, call the church office at 863-467-0863. Our Sunday service is at 10 a.m., and Wednesday's service starts at 7 p.m.

### Miniature Equine day set

On Saturday, **Jan. 12**, Paddock Farms, on S.R. 710 at the entrance to the Agri-Civic Center, will host a Miniature Equine Fun Day at Paddock Farms, from 8:30 a.m. until dark. This event is to benefit Rylee's Hope. Our event will begin at 8:30 a.m. and go till dark. Spectator admission is free. Entry fee for youth is \$10 and for all others \$15. All equine must have a current negative coggins. Also, there will be a swap and shop event. Bring anything that you would like to sell. Animals are OK but they must be caged or secured. The fee to set up for the entire day is \$10. A clinic will be offered on Driving and Racing by a professional racer from Pompano. If you have an equine that you would like to sell, enter them in our Equine Sale Parade. For information call Nancy 863-634-1440

### Masons hosting breakfast

The Masonic Lodge located on 107 N.W. Fifth will be having a breakfast on **Jan. 13** at 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. Breakfast will include eggs, bacon, pancakes, biscuits and gravy and much more. For \$6, the public is welcome and carry out is available. All proceeds go to local Mason giving.

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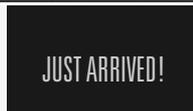
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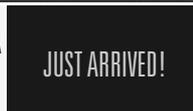
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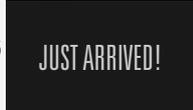
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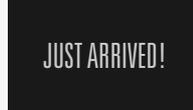
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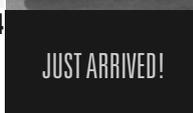
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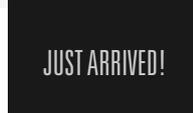
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Sign-ups for Okeechobee County Parks & Recreation's Youth Basketball League will be held Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Jan. 11.

Registration is \$45 per child and is being conducted at 640 N.W. 27th Lane (at the Okeechobee County Sports Complex).

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### Main Street seeks artists for annual festival

Okeechobee Main Street invites all artists to apply for acceptance to the 2013 Top of the Lake Art Fest. The art fest will be held on Feb. 9 and 10.

The art fest is a juried outdoor Fine Art Show which will take place in Flagler Park. The purpose of the Top of the Lake Art Fest is to bring talented fine artists to our community to showcase and sell their work. Highlights of the art fest will be the Top of the Lake Chalk Walk (street painting) and the dedication of the fifth Okeechobee Main Street mural project. Entertainment, art demonstrations, children's art programs, a pet parade and food will also be featured on both days of the show.

Applications may be picked up at the Okeechobee Main Street Office, 55 S. Parrott Ave., Chamber Building; Bridgette Waldau Studio of Graphic Design, 111 N.E. Second St., or Affordable Art & Framing, 110 S.W. 14th St.

Artists can also go to Okeechobee Main Street's website at [www.okeechobeemainstreet.com](http://www.okeechobeemainstreet.com).

Applications include all the rules and regulations; entry fees; art requirements; deadlines and place to drop off art. Artists may also call Cindy at 863-357-6246 or Bridgette Waldau at 863-467-7300 for more information.

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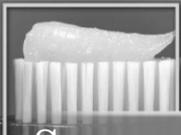
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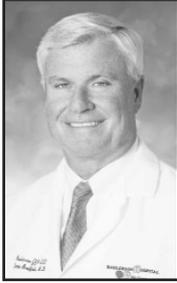
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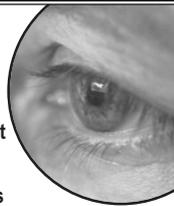
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# State health department encourages flu vaccinations

TALLAHASSEE—Though flu season has already started, the Florida Department of Health encourages unvaccinated residents and visitors to get vaccinated against influenza (flu). Compared with most other viral respiratory infections, such as the common cold, influenza infection often causes a more severe illness, and at times can lead to death.

"It is not too late to get vaccinated against the flu, and we encourage anyone age six months and older to get a flu shot," said State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health Dr. John Armstrong. "Influenza A is the most common flu type in Florida this season and is countered by the vaccine."

Be sure to watch for symptoms of the flu, such as headache, fever, a severe cough, runny nose or body aches. Contact your primary care physician or a local hospital immediately if symptoms appear. This is particularly important for people at high risk for serious complications from flu. For those with the flu, antiviral medication may shorten both the du-

ration and severity of illness.

The Florida Department of Health urges the following preventive steps for the flu:

- Get vaccinated EVERY YEAR because as the flu types change, the vaccine changes.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, because germs spread this way.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- If you are sick with flu-like illness, contact your primary care physician to determine whether you need antiviral medication. Stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone (except to get medical care or for other necessities).

To locate flu vaccine, contact your County Health Department at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/chdsitelist.htm>.

## City Code Board tackles problem cases

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

At their Tuesday, Jan. 8 meeting, the City of Okeechobee Code Enforcement Board imposed fines in three cases. Lewis and Betsy Beebee, owners of property located at 1380 S.E. 21st St., were fined \$25 a day for every day of noncompliance beginning the day after proper notification, because of overgrowth on the property.

The other two cases on the agenda were ongoing problem cases and were handled a little differently. Federal National Mortgage Association, owner of property at 1003 S.W. 11th Ave, and Wanda Page, owner of property at 803 N.W. 11th St, were both fined \$5 a day beginning on the

day of notification. However, in both cases, if the property has not been cleaned up by the next meeting the city attorney was directed to consult with the city administrator to see how to best handle these cases.

According to Code Enforcement Officer Fred Sterling the properties of Gail Adams Peterson, Fosler LLC and Big Lake Painting and Pressure Cleaning were found to be in compliance and those cases were not heard.

Turning to other business, Chairperson Jamie Gamiotea and Vice Chair Randy Huckabee were both re-elected for two-year terms.

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

## Corps announces re-opening of trail section

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced that a section of the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail from Moore Haven Lock north to Lakeport was recently re-opened after being closed temporarily during construction. Hikers, bicyclists and other recreationalists can enjoy more than ten miles of newly paved trail on the west side of Lake Okeechobee. The 110-mile trail encircles Lake Okeechobee atop the 35-foot high Herbert Hoover Dike and provides excellent views of the lake as well as opportunities for fishing, bird watching and photography. Maintenance and rehabilitation work continues on other areas of the Herbert Hoover Dike.

The section of the trail between Clewiston and South Bay remains closed to facilitate delivery of stone used for shoring up the dike in emergency situations. This closure will only be in effect during the workweek (Mon.-Fri); the trail will be open on weekends and holidays at this location.

The trail remains closed between Moore

Haven and Uncle Joe's Fish Camp/Liberty Point to accommodate replacement of Culverts 1 and 1A, and between Belle Glade and Port Mayaca for replacement of Culverts 11 and 16 as well as ongoing work associated with the recently installed cutoff wall.

Contractors are using heavy construction vehicles and large equipment within all of these areas. Truck traffic on the roads is a constant flow, and any additional traffic on the narrow trail or dike crest poses a safety hazard for recreationists and equipment operators.

"We recognize the inconvenience caused by these closures," said Robert Schnell, assistant chief of the Corps' South Florida Operations Office (SFOO) in Clewiston, "however, safety for our workers and the general public is something we take very seriously. We want to keep people out of harm's way when necessary, but we are always pleased to announce improvements and the re-opening of sections of the trail for public use."



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# OHS rallies to claim 3-2 soccer win over Tigers

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

A disputed goal helped Okeechobee rally to defeat arch rival Clewiston 3-2 in boys high school soccer action Wednesday night at Brahman Stadium.

Daniel Rodriguez lofted the soccer ball that the Tiger goalkeeper caught near the top of the goal. The officials ruled the ball had broken the plane of the goal and awarded the go to the Brahmans. It gave the Brahmans the lead with just two minutes to go in the match.

Brahman coach Lonnie Sears pointed out his team didn't get discouraged when they fell behind 2-0 early in the second half. The Tigers put in two goals in the first 10 minutes of the half. The first goal came as the Brahman goal keeper failed to grab a loose ball near the net. "Mistakes like that put us in a bind. The goalie made a mistake. The mental mistakes keep costing us and put momentum on their side."

On the other side, Sears said his team played hard for 80 minutes and played well in the final 30 minutes of the match.

Mid fielder Devin Jimenez said the win

really felt good especially because the Brahmans were able to rally. "We just kept playing strong. Our first goal got us back in it. I feel we are playing well and we have the potential to be district champs again this year."

Jimenez said Clewiston did a good job keeping the pressure on the Brahman side of the field. He said if the team stops mistakes on defense, they can be successful.

"If we keep doing what we're doing we will be fine. We have come a long way since the start of the season," he added.

Wilson Barahonna and Brian Guerrero also had goals for Okeechobee, (6-5-2). Jimenez had an assist.

Sears said he thinks Okeechobee is on track to be a factor in the district tournament in two weeks. They play Martin County Friday and that should be a good test for the team.

"I want to play tough matches. If we quit making dumb mistakes, I feel we can play with anybody," he explained.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Logan Laskey (right) handles the ball for OHS during their win over Clewiston Wednesday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Daniel Rodriguez #14 clears the ball away from the Brahman net during the second half of Wednesday's match between arch rivals Okeechobee and Clewiston.

## EverStart Series Southeast Division opens on the Big O

By Rob Newell  
FLW Outdoors

Lake Okeechobee is known for its waves. When the wind howls on the Big O, three-footers are pretty easy to find.

But this time of year, Okeechobee is known for another kind of wave: waves of big female bass that come in off the main lake to spawn around the lake's endless shoreline vegetation.

And in some way, those fishing the EverStart Series Southeast Division event on the Big O this week will have to be surfers of those waves, scouting the big lake and anticipating the next ground swell of big bass breaking into a small area.

When the main lake bruisers do inundate an area, it can make for the stuff bass fishing dreams are made of: 6- to 10-pound females will lay up everywhere in a small area and 30-pound limits are not out of the question. But the window to catch such magic is usually limited – maybe two days around the new and full moons.

The real problem, however, is predicting where the next wave will land. The North Shore? The Monkey Box? J&S? South Bay? Pelican Bay? The East Wall?

With the water some two feet higher than

the few previous years, much of Okeechobee is back in play for the competitors. And with a new moon arriving on Saturday, somewhere rollers are forming, but catching those waves before they break will be the trick.

The 2012 Forrest Wood Cup winner Jacob Wheeler is down fishing the EverStart event as a warm up for the FLW Tour event in a few weeks. He says the lake is full of fish, but he also knows the eventual winner of this event will be the pro who rides the next big wave.

"This place is a blast, especially for a topwater nut like me," Wheeler said. "You can take a Rapala X-Rap Prop and have a ball catching a bunch of fish just about anywhere on the lake. But finding where a new group of females are just moving in is like finding a needle in a haystack – this place is just so massive."

Wheeler sees the two primary options this week as either punching mats up in the north end or casting and reeling moving baits over endless "hay" fields down south. As for sight-fishing, Wheeler did say there are fish on beds, but with the water so high, seeing down into the beds is difficult.

"What's so frustrating about this place—especially in those flooded hayfields down

south—is you can fish through a gorgeous area one day, not get a bite and then 24 hours later, 30 pounds of bass move in and you've already written it off your list," Wheeler said. "It's just the nature of the beast down here."

The big X factor could be the big jig pitching game, a big fish technique which has been a tournament-winning windfall for Brandon Medlock of Lake Placid.

Medlock has won the EverStart Okeechobee opener the last two years in a row on his dad's Double-Guard jig, which is specifically designed to be flipped into thick reeds, not necessarily mats.

"It's not as strong as it was last year," Medlock said of the technique. "Mostly because the higher water spreads those big fish out more. You can still catch big ones, you just have to cover a lot more water because they're not as congregated as when the water is low."

In the 2011 EverStart event, Medlock weighed in a 28-pound limit for the win and then in 2012 he compiled a monster 35-pound, 7-ounce limit on day two to rocket to victory.

"I think we might see one big limit like that this week," Medlock said. "Someone, somewhere will land on the right bunch at

the right time. But overall I think 15 pounds a day will make the top-10 and an 18-pound per day average will win."

### Eagles Host Dinner to benefit kids

Cypress Hut Eagles Host Dinner to Benefit Kids This Saturday, **Jan. 12**, the Cypress Hut Eagles will host a BBQ rib dinner and two side dishes starting at 4:30 p.m. for \$10. All proceeds will go to the KOA Kids with Cancer Camp. Public is welcome and there will be music by Sax on the Beach starting at 5 p.m. Come out and support one of Okeechobee's charities.

### Band to play Bluegrass at North VFW

Keith Bass & The Florida Bluegrass Express will be performing live at the North VFW (300 N.W. 34th Street) on Saturday, **Jan. 12** at 8 p.m.

# Okeechobee Sports News in Brief

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

• Sylvester Butler had 22 points in a losing cause as **Okeechobee High School's boys basketball team** (4-12) started the second half of the year with a 71-62 loss at St. Edwards of Vero Beach on Saturday afternoon. Philip Jones had 19 points and Eddie Neal had 10 points for the Brahmans. The Pirates were led by Brock Miller who had 18 points and 13 rebounds and Parker Dressler who scored 21 points and pulled down seven rebounds. Okeechobee trailed by 10 points at the half, 40-30. The Pirates (10-5) put the game away with a 23-12 run in the third quarter.

• Don't forget the annual **OHS Tennis team** fundraiser scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 26 and Sunday, Jan. 27 at the Okeechobee Sports Complex. There will be men's and women's doubles and mixed doubles in the two-day tournament. There will also be two levels in each division. The format is a best two out of three sets match. All participants are guaranteed at least two matches per division. The entry fee is \$40 per team. This pays for the entry, a t-shirt, and lunch for each player on Saturday. Make all checks payable to Okeechobee High School. Mail entries to Dave Ellis at 1071 S.E. 40th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34974. You can also register by phone by calling Mr. Ellis at 863-532-9316 or Mairim Rivero at 561-722-6281. USTA rules will govern play.

Awards will be handed out for the winners and finalists in both divisions. The lunch menu on Saturday includes a BBQ pulled pork sandwich, sides, and a drink.

• **The Lady Seminoles of Pemayetv Emahakv basketball team** continue to shine on the court as they remained unbeaten (10-0) with a 44-7 victory over West Glades Middle School just before the Christmas break. Shae Pierce continued her strong season with 13 points. Martina Herrera had seven points and Sunni Bearden and Alicia Fudge chipped in with five points apiece.

• The Pemayetv Emahakv Lady Seminole basketball team remained unbeaten this week as they pounded Clewiston Middle School 46-9. Shae Pierce led the way with 18 points. Martina Herrera had eight points, Alicia Fudge seven points and Sunni Bearden five points.

• **The Brahman wrestling team** competed in the St. Cloud tournament before

Christmas which is considered one of the top five most prestigious wrestling tournaments in the state. Delfino Garcia won two matches on the first day but didn't come in the second round to finish in sixth place. Ryan Hagan won some exciting moments as he finished fifth in the tournament. Allen Leitner lost only one match in the tournament and finished third overall. Cory Vickers finished in sixth place. Greg Hernandez also finished sixth in the heavyweight division.

• **The Junior Varsity Brahman wrestlers** competed against Kissimmee-Osceola and some of the top junior varsity teams in the state during the holiday break. Cory Vickers took first place in his weight class. The wrestling team finished seventh out of 18 teams at the Steadwell Grow Tournament on the Treasure Coast last weekend. Garcia, Todd Lanning, Larry Tabor and Bryan Levins took sixth place. Edwin Robles and Sebastian Fullea finished fifth. Cory Vickers finished in fourth and Cody Griffith in third place in their respective weight divisions.

Coach Robert Olive said the team has faced some killer competition of late and he hopes it'll pay off in the district and regional tournaments. "We've wrestled more ranked teams and wrestlers than last year. I feel Sebastian Fullea has really stood out this season as he's made a tremendous amount of growth. He wrestles with a purpose and gets better every time he wrestles," he added.

• **Moore Haven Terrier** running back Darius Cohen looks like he will get some college scholarships offers for football. He fared well at the Step Up Combine in Miami last weekend for high school athletes. Cohen rushed for 1,016 yards and 14 touchdowns this year and added nine interceptions and 110 tackles on defense. He also carries a 3.4 grade point average. College recruiters predict Cohen could get a late offer from a Division I University.

• **Okeechobee High School's Boys Basketball Team** fell to Port St. Lucie 77-53 despite a very close first half. Okeechobee kept the score tied early at 7-7 and 11-11 and trailed only six at the end of the first quarter. They struggled to tie the score at 24-24 midway through the first half before an 8-0 run by Port St. Lucie. Still Okeechobee trailed only by five, 32-27 at halftime when Roshell Thomas hit a three-point basket before the buzzer.

Brahman Coach Shawn Hays admits he has seen this act before, "It's the same Jekyll

and Hyde team we've dealt with all year. In the first half we had energy but in the third quarter we lost intensity and focus and quit playing offense and defense."

The Brahmans were out scored 22-7 in the third quarter. Port St. Lucie built a 20-point lead as they routinely scored easy baskets and force Okeechobee into poor shots.

On Tuesday, OHS couldn't hold a 10-point first half lead as the Fort Pierce Cobras came storming back and whipped the Brahmans 81-57 in a District 12-7A contest in Okeechobee.

Okeechobee travels to Sebastian River on Friday. The Brahman junior varsity lost to Port St. Lucie 43-16.

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<b>FORECLOSURE</b> 	<b>2002-M: Taylor Creek</b> Waterfront home, Man-made lake. Large garage, enclosed porch, ample concrete driveway. 1450 TSF/1164 Under air. Needs some TLC. <del>\$39,900</del> NOW \$34,900 MLS #206313	<b>PRICE REDUCED</b> 	<b>5013-M: Four Seasons</b> 3/2 DWMH with additions on corner acre. Screen porch, sheds, back deck. 1861 TSF/1451 under air. <b>Make Offer. \$45,000 NOW \$39,000</b> MLS #206328
<b>NEW LISTING</b> 	<b>5020-M: Kissimmee River Estates</b> Singlewide MH with additions, storage shed and carport all on 4 clean lots. In move in condition. <b>\$29,900</b> MLS #206474		<b>5015-H: Country home</b> on 10+/- acres zoned Ag. 3196 TSF/2122 under air. Island kitchen, walk in closets, lg 30x60 barn w/3 stalls & workshop, lg shed, fenced, pond, in-wall pest control, Marble Lavatories <b>\$295,000</b>
	<b>5000-M: Deer Park</b> (Ft. Drum area) 3BR/ 2BA on 5+/- acres with large shed, large covered back porch, fenced & crossed fenced, three wells and more. Short Sale. <b>\$99,000</b> MLS #206394	<b>FORECLOSURE</b> 	<b>5029-M: Four Seasons</b> 3/2 Mobile on 1/2 acre. Large deck, 1572 Total Sq Ft/1344. Needs repairs. <b>Make Offer! \$30,000</b> MLS #206379

• **FORECLOSURE** 40+/- Acres of vacant/pasture land in Fort Drum. Paved street frontage. **\$125,000** MLS #206360 • **Basswood lot** 124x125 (NW 33rd Ave) **\$6,000**. • **1/2 acre** in Edgewater (624 SW 86th Ave) **\$14,000** Make offer! MLS #206356 • **55+/- acres** on SR 710 **\$330,000** Make Offer!

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## Announcements

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## Employment Full Time

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## Employment Full Time

### Applicator Needed

Control floating, terrestrial and/or submerged vegetation. Techniques consist of mixing and calculating a variety of authorized herbicides and their application via airboat, atv, chemical spray truck, outboard motor boats and backpack sprayers. Operates and performs repairs on spray and safety equipment as required. Prepares and maintains reports. This job normally requires daily travel from the employee's assigned station to work sites located within the station's jurisdiction. **Education/Experience Guide:** High School Diploma or GED, 1 - 2 years experience in mixing and the application of herbicides and pesticides a plus. **Licenses:** Valid Drivers License. Must be able to get and maintain a valid restricted pesticide license, with aquatic and natural areas categories. Ability to obtain certification in CPR and First Aid Work Activities typically involve the following: Agility Basic Water Skills, Exposure to various water pollution contaminants, debris, Exposure to stinging/biting insects, snakes, alligators, Exposure to gasses and/or fumes, Eye-hand-foot coordination, Full body and segmental vibration Hearing, Kneeling, Noise exposure, Prolonged standing, Public interaction, Pulling, Pushing, Recognize color differences, Specialized protective clothing, Vision, Working in on and around water. Applications being taken Thursday January 17, 2013 from 7 am to 8am. at 3080 Cty Rd 721 Lakeport, Fl (863)533-8882



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

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## Children's Items

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## Miscellaneous

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Chain link gates-5ft wide,4ft high \$15.00each.  
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## Apartments

**2bd/1ba Oak Lake Villas,** Very Clean, tile throughout. \$800 mo. includes water & lawn maintenance, security negotiable. Call 863-697-6757

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## Houses - Rent

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**Houses - Rent**

**Canal front-** covered boat dock, 2bd/2ba, stove, fridge, W/D connections, city limits, lawn service included, \$750/mo 407 SE 8th St, behind Suntrust Bank, pet okay on approval. Call: (863)764-0658

**Large 2bd/1ba** On water in Treasure Island. \$675.00 monthly, \$500 security deposit. Call 863-467-1308

**OKEE** - 1002 SE 8th Dr. Newly Remodeled. 2 br. 1 ba. \$650. All appls., tile floors, hurricane windows. Immediate occupancy. Last, sec. \$ ref. Chris 863-447-3282

**OKEE- 2/1 - 3/2** Large First class property. 12 miles N.E. of town center. Lawn, pest, trash, back-up generator & utilities included - \$545. mo. and \$495. mo. For alternate unit - 3/2 \$595. mo. call for details. **Mon-Fri. No Pets. 863-467-9800**

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**Houses - Sale**

**HOME FOR SALE** \$75,000, Well Maintained 2 bd / 2 ba home, eat in kitchen, formal dining, living room, Florida Room, additional storage building and 4 car detached garage wired for 220 and 110 Volt Electric, and 3 car carport. Public access dock about 1/2 mile from Community. For more info Call Optima One Realty @ (239)848-2071 or (352)243-6784

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**OKEECHOBEE** - 2br./2ba. Palm Creek waterfront home. Gated Community. Owner financing. Possible option to rent. 863-532-0273.

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**Lots - Sale**

**Lot For Sale** Treasure Island SE 25th Street Mobile Home Ready \$10,000.00 CALL 863-357-7409 OR 863-447-0616

**Waterfront Property**

**FOR SALE** 1 Acre+ Newly renovated duplex on Rim Canal between 15A and 15B, New Dock 20x30, RV Hook-up \$79,500 will consider cash offers or partial financing. 561-853-6669

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**Mobile Home Rent**

**BUCKHEAD RIDGE** - Dbl. Wide 2BR, 2BA, C/Air. \$500 mo. Large 3BR, 2BA, C/Air. \$550 mo. No pets. Yearly lease, plus sec. (863)763-4031

**Mobile Home Sale**

**2bd/1ba M.H.** Taylor Creek w/boat dock, ramp access. Appliances included, furnishings, carport, screened porch. Park lot rent includes water & lawn maint. \$19,900 O.B.O. Call: 863-484-0298 or 863-467-8328

**ANCIENT OAKS 55+ BEST BUY!** \$29,000. NEW A/C, TILE FLOORS, KING MURPHY BED, WASH HOUSE, BEAUTIFUL BACK YARD ON CANAL. CALL 863-697-3954, 863-357-6530

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**Public Notices**  
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**Public Notice**

**NOTICE OF CITY PLANNING BOARD MEETING**  
**NOTICE:** The City of Okeechobee Planning Board will meet as the Local Planning Agency on **Thursday, January 17, 2013 at 6 PM** or as soon thereafter as possible, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, FL., to consider any proposed amendments, submitted by City Staff or citizens, to the adopted City Comprehensive Plan, which may include amendments to the adopted Land Development Regulations (LDR's). All amendments are forwarded, with a recommendation, to the City Council for final consideration. All interested parties are encouraged to attend. Please contact General Services at 863-763-3372, or website, [cityofokeechobee.com](http://cityofokeechobee.com), to obtain a copy of the agenda. 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. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the General Services Office at 863-763-3372 for assistance. BY: Dawn Hoover, Chairperson 433726 ON 1/11/2013

Love the earth Recycle your used items by selling them in the classifieds.

**Public Notice**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARINGS**  
**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City of Okeechobee City Council will meet in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m., **Tuesday, January 15, 2013**, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. Contact City Administration at 863-763-3372, or website [www.cityofokeechobee.com](http://www.cityofokeechobee.com), to obtain a copy of the agenda. A Public Hearing for Final Readings will be held at this meeting; to consider 6 Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendments and 5 Rezonings; all initiated by the City and recommended by the Planning Board. Specific information, maps and agenda are available on the website, [cityofokeechobee.com](http://cityofokeechobee.com), or contact City Clerk's Office 863-763-3372. 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. 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 Gamliotea, CMC, City Clerk 433716 ON 1/11/2013

**PUBLIC NOTICE CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED SPECIAL EXCEPTION**

A **PUBLIC HEARING** will be held before the City of Okeechobee Board of Adjustment and Appeals on **Thursday, January 17, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.** or as soon thereafter as possible, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Council Chambers, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The agenda is available on the City website [www.cityofokeechobee.com](http://www.cityofokeechobee.com), or contact the General Services Department, [pburnette@cityofokeechobee.com](mailto:pburnette@cityofokeechobee.com), 863-763-3372 x 218.

Under consideration is Special Exception Petition No. 12-005-SE, submitted by Amy Gibson on behalf of property owners, J. Neal and Linda Lee Wright, to allow a Barber Shop, Beauty Shop within a Commercial Professional Office (CPO) Zoning District (Ref. Code Book Section 90-223(2)). Property is located at 309 NW 5th Street, Legal. Lots 4-6 of Block 106, City of Okeechobee, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 5 Page 5, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

All members of the public are encouraged to attend and participate in said Hearing. The entire petition may be inspected during regular business hours, Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm, except for holidays.

The Board of Adjustment and Appeals serves as the decision making body (quasi-judicial), on behalf of the City, to approve or deny Special Exceptions.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED** that if any person desires to appeal any decision made by the Board of Adjustment and Appeals with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, or hearing will need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. General Services media are used for the sole purpose of back-up for the department. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the General Services Office at 863-763-3372 for assistance.

by: Brian Whitehall, Zoning Administrator  
Petition No. 12-005-SE  
433636 ON 12/30/12 & 1/11/13

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Public Auction will be held at Johns Towing Service storage lot located at 704 Northeast 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34972 on JANUARY 25, 2013 at 9:00 A.M. Pursuant to Florida Statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage charges. Year, make, model and VIN are as follows.

**1996 FORD F150**  
VIN # 1FTFE15N5TLB70095  
**1999 FORD RANGERXL**  
VIN # 1TZR15X2XTA49637  
**1995 FORD RANGER XL**  
VIN 1FTCR14U9SPA33613

Terms of sale are cash, and no checks will be accepted. Seller reserves the right of final bid. ALL SALES ARE FINAL! NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE! Said automobiles will be sold in "As Is" condition with no guarantee's. 434306 ON 1/11/2013

**NOTICE OF SALE To Satisfy Owners Lien**

70 West Self Storage  
2190 SR 70 West  
Okeechobee, FL 34972  
1-26-13 @ 10:00 AM

Unit #126 - Christine Williams  
Unit #427 - Edwin V. Serrano  
434276 ON 1/11,18/2013

**Public Notice**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
CASE NO. 2012-CP-178  
IN RE: ESTATE OF **DUANE PAUL FREY, a/k/a DUANE P. FREY** Deceased  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS (Summary Administration)**  
TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:  
You are hereby notified that an Order of Summary Administration has been entered in the estate of DUANE PAUL FREY, a/k/a DUANE P. FREY, deceased, File Number 2012-CP-178, by the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee County, Okeechobee, Florida 34972; that the decedent's date of death was December 7, 2008; that the total value of the estate is \$10,747.00 and that the names and addresses of those to whom it has been assigned by such order are:  
**Lucille Henrietta Frey**  
13973 Frey Meadows Road  
Pocahontas, IL 62275  
ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:  
All creditors of the estate of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent other than those for whom provision for full payment was made in the Order of Summary Administration must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE. ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER APPLICABLE TIME PERIOD, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this Notice is January 11, 2013.  
Person Giving Notice:  
MATTHEW E. FREY  
136 Locust Creek Road  
Pocahontas, IL 62275  
Attorney for Person Giving Notice:  
Colin M. Cameron, Esquire  
Florida Bar No.: 270441  
200 N.E. 4th Avenue  
Okeechobee, FL 34974  
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**Lady Brahmans fall to FPC, 68-33**



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
**Carley McCoin gets loose for a first half jump shot during Okeechobee's loss to Fort Pierce Monday night.**

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School Lady Brahmans basketball team got off to a slow start as they allowed Fort Pierce to score 29 points in the first quarter as they lost their first game of 2013 on Monday in Okeechobee, 68-33 to the Lady Cobras.

Okeechobee appeared sluggish and were unable to handle the full-court pressure defense and intensity of the Cobras, (7-8). Lasonja Edwards had 18 points and 12 rebounds while Roneisha Jordan and Ebony Joseph added 11 points apiece for the Cobras.

Ami Edwards led Okeechobee with 13 points and seven rebounds. Bethany Stuart had eight points for the Lady Brahmans (8-7). Okeechobee fell behind 10-2 and 20-6 in the opening moments as they turned the ball over several times near their own basket. OHS also lost All-State point guard Carley McCoin to a leg injury in the second quarter after they had gotten the lead down to 15 points.

Fort Pierce was more athletic, more intense and appeared to have more energy than the Lady Brahmans for much of the night. Okeechobee was forced to rush their shots and could not work the ball around for good shots on the offensive end. The Cobras led 37-18 at the half and 55-33 after the third quarter.

Okeechobee did play mostly reserve players in the second half.



**Carley McCoin (left) and Okeechobee had a tough time against the Lady Cobras defensive effort on Monday night.**



Special to the Okeechobee News/SES

## Students of the Week

Seminole Elementary would like to congratulate their Students of the Week for the week of Jan. 11: Joey Papasso, Nathalia Peresse, Macie Waldron, Jose Gomez, Isabella Mungaray, Mariana Martinez, Lizbeth Rojas, Chadrick Williams, Gage Floyd, Santiago Tinajero, Brandon Perez, Emmanuel Hernandez, Grace Lippman, Guadalupe Lara, Sergio Pena, Daron Powers, Martashia Daniels, Alejandro Delgado, Victor Cardoso, Daniel Mingo, Jimmy Hallett, Annie Freeman, Jessica Edison, Rosy Seca, Rosie Miller, Dalton Yates, Juan Virto and Samantha Teardo.



Special to the Okeechobee News

## DAR meets

Okeechobee DAR heard Park Ranger Barry Richardson, Cultural Historian speak at their Jan. 5, meeting at the Golden Corral. He is responsible for monitoring all the earth removed when the ground is disturbed; even all the post holes for fencing get his attention. The Battle of Okeechobee Historic State Park has yielded pieces of farm activity, but no battle artifacts yet. After the February Reenactment weekend, the fence will be moved to the back of the monument and a drive is planned so that the public can have access to it. Chapter Regent, Julie Turner presented Barry Richardson with a flag that had been flown over the capitol to thank him for sharing with the members and guests.



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January 2013

# GO

Going Out: A Guide to Area Entertainment & Attractions

**Florida festivals  
have something  
for everyone**

**Win a car  
at Seminole  
Brighton Casino**

**LaBelle Firehouse  
Theatre presents  
'Juke Box Jive!'**

**Art exhibits at  
Dolly Hand  
Cultural Arts Center**

# There's something for everyone at Florida festivals

January brings the start of South Florida's festival season. Most towns in Florida have their own festivals, celebrating a historic event or something the area is famous for. Okeechobee is home to the annual Speckled Perch Festival, promoting Lake Okeechobee as the Speck Fishing Capital of the World. Clewiston—nicknamed the world's sweetest town—hosts the Sugar Festival. Chalo Nitka in Moore Haven, honors the "big fish," but the festival started as a celebration of the dedication of the town's first paved street.

Some events began as harvest festivals. But while up north the harvest is in the late summer, in Florida the seasons are different with crops harvested in the late winter and early spring.

Whether your idea of fun is listening to a bluegrass band, racing a lawnmower, cheering for rodeo bull riders or jumping out of an airplane, you'll find it at a South Florida festival.

## JANUARY

The **39th Annual Stuart Boat Show** is set for Jan. 11-13 at three marinas off Dixie Highway in Stuart, north of the Roosevelt Bridge. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. This year there will be more than 500 boats on display, most of them in the water. About 170 exhibitors are expected. You can see every-

thing from small bay boats up to huge 70-foot plus sport fishermen. A major new feature this year is the introduction of a new "Fisherman's Village," presented by Florida Sport Fishing—a special tent pavilion that will accommodate fishing-related products and seminars for the many avid anglers and fishing enthusiasts that visit the show. From in-shore fishing and casting techniques to all the latest fishing equipment, the Fisherman's Village will offer something for everyone.

For more information online, go to [www.stuartfla.com](http://www.stuartfla.com).

The **South Florida Fair** will be held Jan. 18-Feb. 3 in West Palm Beach. The fair includes the traditional livestock exhibits, carnival midway, concerts and special attractions. Gates open at noon. For more information, call 561-793-0333 or go online to [www.southfloridafair.com](http://www.southfloridafair.com).

The Ninth annual **U.S. Sport Aviation Expo** will be Jan. 17-20, 2013 at the Sebring Regional Airport. Gates open at 8 a.m. Exhibits open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. (3 p.m. on Sunday). The Expo is the place to see, try, buy and sell Light Sport Aircraft. This event brings prospective business clients from all over the world. Open to the public, it provides a variety of activities for the entire family, including educational exhibits, booths, Flight of Fantasy tethered balloon rides, AVBIDS auction, prizes and daily forums that showcase aviation professionals and speakers. The 2013 U.S. Sport Aviation



Courtesy photo

The **U.S. Sport Aviation Expo** will include displays of vintage aircraft.

Expo is not just about aircraft. Four food, cheese and wine pairing events with legendary chefs and world-renowned vineyards will take place at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. both Friday and Saturday of Expo. All of these tasting events benefit the Humane Society of Highlands County. The tastings all take place at the Sebring Regional Airport (SEF), in the Group 44 Hangar. Local award winning chefs and wine experts will enlighten guests on the science of pairing delicious wines with fine cuisine such as Gravalox Crostini's, Crab Cakes with Dill Sauce and Crème Brulee created by Marva Roberts, Owner and Executive Chef of Peppercorns in Lake Placid. To learn more about the U.S. Sport Aviation Expo, visit [www.sport-aviation-expo.com](http://www.sport-aviation-expo.com) or call 863-

655-6444.

The 57th Annual Okeechobee **American Legion Free Fair**, will be held Friday, Jan. 10-19 at the American Legion Hall grounds off State Road 70 East in downtown Okeechobee. J & J Amusements will provide the carnival rides. The midway will open at 5 p.m. weekdays. On Saturdays the midway will open at noon and Sundays it will open at 1 p.m.

The **Riverdale Kiwanis Medieval Faire** will be held at Lakes Regional Park in Fort Myers, Jan. 12, 13, 19 and 20. For more information, go to [www.medieval-faire.com](http://www.medieval-faire.com).

The 19th Annual **Yee Haw Junction Bluegrass Festival** will be held Jan. 24-26 2013. This is a unique bluegrass festival in the middle of Yee Haw Junction (at the intersection of U.S. 441 and State Road 60). Bluegrass music is held under the big top tent and will go on rain or shine. For more information, go to [www.kidbass.biz](http://www.kidbass.biz).

Skydive Air Adventures will host the annual Skydive Festival commonly referred to in the sport as a the "Everglades Boogie" from Friday Jan. 25 to Sunday, Jan. 27, at the Airglades Airport in Clewiston. Skydivers will have the opportunity to jump out of all kinds of aircraft like a De Havilland Otter, a Sky Van, a King Air, and a helicopter. In addition to jumping out of different types of aircraft, skydivers will have a unique opportunity to do high altitude jumps from 22,000 ft. on Saturday and Sunday.

Continued on page 4

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PAUL BLAKE • JEREMY BULLOCH • DAVID PROWSE - STAR WARS  
GIG EDGLEY - FARSCAPE LOU FERRIGNO - THE INCREDIBLE HULK  
JAMES HAMPTON - TEEN WOLF, SLING BLADE  
PAUL BRADFORD • SCOTT TEPPERMAN - GHOST HUNTERS INTERNATIONAL  
JOEL McDONALD • TARA STRONG • DC DOUGLAS  
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# Win a 2013 Ford Fiesta and 2013 Ford Focus at Seminole Casino Brighton

In January, it's a saving-at-the-pump thing at Seminole Casino Brighton with your chance to win one of two fuel-efficient cars and loads of Free Play prizes. On Saturday, Jan. 26, we're giving away a 2013 Ford Fiesta and 2013 Ford Focus with up to 40 miles per gallon of fuel economy. Earn entries daily all month long to be one of two grand prize winners.

On Mondays, win your share of more than \$20,000 in Free Play. Earn points for a Mystery Free Play Decoder ticket worth up to \$2,500 in Free Play.

Don't miss Lucky Puck Wednesdays for your chance to win up to \$250 in Free Play. But the Free Play prizes don't stop there. On Friday, Jan. 11, you could be one of 20 lucky players to win \$250 in Free Play.

On Thursday, Jan. 17 and Tuesday, Jan. 29, Seminole Casino Brighton's hot seats are sizzling with your chance to win a share of another \$5,000 in Free Play.

Players can enjoy bingo matinee sessions on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 11:45 a.m. Packs are \$18 and \$28.

Tuesdays, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, visitors 55 and older will get a free bag lunch, while supplies last. On Wednesdays, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., visitors 55 and older will get a free breakfast, while supplies last. The free bag lunch and breakfast offers are open to new or returning Player's Club members. Not a member?

It's free to join, so sign up today.

As always, there is free bus transportation from the Hampton Inn in Okeechobee at 1200 State Road 70. On Tuesdays, the bus picks up at 10:30 a.m. It departs the casino at 5:30 p.m. On Wednesdays and Thursdays, the bus picks up at 2:15 p.m. and departs at 7:30 p.m. On Sundays, the bus picks up at 11:15 a.m. and departs at 6 p.m.

See the Player's Club for promotion details.

## About Seminole Casino Brighton

Seminole Casino Brighton is a 27,000-square-foot casino with 405-slot and gaming machines, a six-table poker room, live action e-tables blackjack and roulette, high-stakes bingo action and Josiah, a full-service restaurant and lounge. Its warm and friendly staff, ultra-modern air-conditioning system, clean atmosphere and rewarding casino promotions are a welcome alternative to big-city gaming. The casino also recently opened a new area with 30 slots for those who prefer to play slot machines in a smoke-free environment. The Seminole Casino Brighton is located on the Brighton Seminole Reservation, 17735 Reservation Road, 34974 in Glades County. For more information, call toll-free 800-360-9875 or 863-467-9998. Or visit [www.seminolebrightoncasino.com](http://www.seminolebrightoncasino.com).

## Art exhibits at the Dolly Hand Center

BELLE GLADE—The Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center spacious Grand Hall often plays home to visual art exhibits by local artists. Exhibits take place in conjunction with Guest Artist Series performances. The Grand Hall is open Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. to noon and one hour before all performances. Other viewing times available upon request. To inquire about exhibiting artwork in the Grand Hall, contact Leigh Woodham at 561-993-1160. Exhibitions planned include:

- Jan. 22-30: Paintings by Maria Mills;
- Feb. 1: Paintings by Yoyi Bueno & Checira Howard; and,
- Feb. 4 - 8: "The Real Haiti: Experience It Yourself" Photography by Diana Pierre Louis.

## South Central Florida Car Club hosts Cruise In

LABELLE—On Jan. 15, the South Central Florida Car Club will once again host its monthly Cruise In at Barron Park from 5-8 p.m. All area car lovers and owners are welcome to come out and enjoy an evening of fun and conversation. For more information, call 863-634-1791 or 234-8343.

## Second Annual Love the Lake 5K-10K

CLEWISTON—The Second Annual Love The Lake 5K-10K and half marathon will take place on Saturday, Feb. 16, starting at the Roland Martin Marina Resort in Clewiston. For more information, call 863-983-7979.



BRIGHTON

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See Player's Club for more details. Management reserves the right to change or cancel the promotion at any time. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, please call 1.888.ADMIT-IT.

# FESTIVALS

Continued from Page 2

The community is encouraged and welcome to come on out to watch, participate, or jump and enjoy the festivities for a registration fee of \$35. The U.S. Army Professional Demonstration Teams, the USASOC Daggers and the 82nd Airborne Division team will present morning shows from Friday to Sunday. There will be nightly entertainment with live bands and DJs, bon fires, raffles, vendors, food, and even a bounce house for the kids. For more information, call 800-533-6151 or 863-983-6151 or go online to skydivefl.com.

The **Buckhead Ridge Catfish Festival** is held each year on the last Saturday in January. This year's event will be Jan. 26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Buckhead Ridge Volunteer Fire Department on State Road 78. The festival features fried catfish dinners, using Fire Chief John Wilkinson's own recipe. The VFD Ladies Auxiliary will also sell hot dogs and other treats. Visitors will be entertained by local bands. Arts and crafts will be for sale at the vendor booths. The annual event raises money for equipment and training for the BHR Volunteer Fire Department. For information on reserving a booth space, or for more information on the festival, call 863-467-8220.

The Glades County Public Library and its Advisory Board invite area artists and craftsmen to exhibit and sell their work at the eighth annual **Art in the Park** event in Moore Haven, Saturday, Jan. 26, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This popular free event, centered in and around the library, brings artists and the public together in a wonderful setting by the Caloosahatchee River. Painters, sculptors, photographers, and handcrafters are encouraged to contact the library now and reserve their place. Exhibiting and parking are free. Exhibitors are responsible for their own setups. The Glades County Public Library is located in the city park across the street from the river in Moore Haven's Historic District. The address is 201 Riverside Drive. For more information or to reserve a place, contact Mary Booher, Director of Libraries at 863-946-0744 or mbooher@myhlc.org.

The **FTI Winter Equestrian Festival** runs Jan. 12-March 30, every Saturday night, at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center in Wellington. Be awed

and amazed at the magical partnership of horse and rider in the thrills of jumping, the grace of show hunters, the elegance of dressage. Savor the horse sport spectacle while basking in South Florida sunshine or enjoying the glamor under lights this winter and spring. For more information online go to <http://equestriansport.com>.

## FEBRUARY

The **Ortona Cane Grinding Festival** will be held Feb. 2 in the Ortona Indian Mound Park, off State Road 78 in Glades County. The festival celebrates the part that sugar cane played in the lives of the early settlers and includes a demonstration of grinding cane with a millstone. Visitors can purchase sugar cane syrup and enjoy barbecue chicken and rib dinners. Entertainment will include bluegrass music and clogging. There will also be a variety of arts and crafts booths.

Arts of the Inland is pleased to present our 2nd Annual **Inland Arts Festival** at Barron Park in LaBelle on Feb. 2, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Barron Park is located along the Caloosahatchee River on the east side of SR29 at Fort Thompson Road in historic LaBelle. Visual artists, literary artists, and craftsmen will be showcasing their work for sale. All work must be an original creation, giclee or print of the artist. Food vendors will be on-site and performing artists will entertain in the Gazebo throughout the day. For more information go to [www.artsoftheinland.com](http://www.artsoftheinland.com).

The **Battle of Okeechobee Re-Enactment and Festival**, (cover photo) set for Feb. 2 and 3, commemorates the largest and fiercest battle of the Second Seminole War. The original battle was fought Christmas Day, 1837. Part of the original battleground has been preserved as a state park on 3500 S.E. 38th Avenue (off U.S. Highway 441 S.E.) in Okeechobee. Gates open at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. Re-enactments are at 2 p.m. each day. In addition to daily re-enactments of the battle, the two-day festival will include alligator wrestling, a living history camp, artisans, Seminole arts, horse rides for the kids and folk music. Entry is \$10 per car. For more information online go [www.OkeechobeeBattlefield.com](http://www.OkeechobeeBattlefield.com), or call 863-763-2121.

The 12th Annual **Hobe Sound Festival of the Arts** will be held Feb. 2 and 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 11954 S.E. Dixie Highway, in Hobe Sound. The festival starts at Bridge Road and alternate A1A, continuing South



Courtesy photo

## Mudfest always brings excitement.

on A1A. Admission and parking are free. The festival will include a juried outdoor art showcase featuring 150 artists from 30 different states. Artwork prices range from \$25 to \$30,000. Artists are selected to participate in the festival by an independent panel of expert judges. Artistic media include paintings, sculpture, photography, ceramics, glass, wood, handmade jewelry, collage and mixed media. For more information online, go to [www.artfestival.com](http://www.artfestival.com).

The Second Annual **Seminole Wind Bluegrass Festival**, presented by KD Bass productions, is planned for the Fred Smith Arena at Brighton Seminole Reservation, off State Road 721 in Glades County, Feb. 1-2. For information, call 863-467-6039. Performers will include Cody Shuler and Pine Mountain Railroad, Grasstowne, Kickin Grass, Brule, Alecia Nugent, Still House and Keith Bass and the Florida Bluegrass Express.

The **Florida State Fair** will be held Feb. 7-18 at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa. The fair features a carnival midway, business and agriculture exhibitions, livestock shows, equestrian events, competitions for food, art, photography, sewing, woodcarving and horticulture. Entertainment will include the Country Gold Tour with Leroy Van Dyke, Lynn Anderson, Gene Watson, Janie Frickie, and T.G. Shepard. For more information, call 800-345-3247 or go online to [www.floridastatefair.com](http://www.floridastatefair.com).

For off-road enthusiasts who like to play in the mud, **Okeechobee Mudfest** is the place to go. The "original party in the mud" is held in February and August each year on private property in Okeechobee County,

11705 State Road 70 East. The event draws thousands of mudders and all kinds of vehicles from all over the country. Camping facilities are available at the Mudfest site. Hotels are available in nearby Okeechobee. The next fest is planned for the weekend of Feb. 8-10. For more information online see the Okeechobee Mudfest page on Facebook.

The **Lakeport Sour Orange Festival** will be held Feb. 9, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lakeport Community Center, 1239 Red Barn Road, off State Road 78 between Moore Haven and Okeechobee. A \$1 donation is requested for parking. The festival features the traditional sour orange cookoff. An arts and crafts fair will feature local vendors. Plate lunches available will include a rib dinner. The festival will also feature a quilt show, Mr. and Mrs. Bubbles the Clown, a historical display, a photography display, children's games, a display by the Lakeport Fire Department and sour orange pies. Cooks may enter their own original sour orange recipes to win money and ribbons. Judging starts at 10 a.m. For information on the cookoff, call 608-345-1324. For vendor information call 1-863-227-1074. Festival visitors are encouraged to bring their own chairs as seating is limited.

The 2013 **Top of the Lake Art and Chalk Walk Festival** is scheduled for Feb. 9 and 10 in the Flagler Park in downtown Okeechobee. The main event will be a juried fine art show with a competition for student artists. Artists from throughout the state are welcome to participate. Anyone interested in participating should contact the Okeechobee Main Street office at 863-357-6246 for an application. This year the newest feature will be a "Chalk Walk" which will include street painters using a chalk medium. Chalk artists interested in participating should also contact the above number. For additional information and applications contact Bridgette Waldau at [bridgette.art@gmail.com](mailto:bridgette.art@gmail.com), or call 863-357-6246; or go online to [www.mainstreetokeechobee.com](http://www.mainstreetokeechobee.com).

The **Hendry County Fair and Livestock Show** celebrates local agriculture. The event features a parade, livestock show and midway entertainment. The activities also include a beauty pageant and exhibits. The fair will be held this year from Feb. 15-23 in Clewiston. For more information, please call 863-983-9282 or online to [www.hendrycountyfair.com](http://www.hendrycountyfair.com).

Continued on page 5



Show Information: 954-522-5288  
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# 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Stuart Boat Show

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# FESTIVALS

Continued From Page 4

**Brighton Seminole Field Day & Rodeo**, set for Feb. 15-17, 2013, originated in 1938 as a day of sporting events and arts and crafts competitions for members of the Seminole Tribe. William P. Boehmer and his wife Edith—teachers at the original Brighton Day School—originated the festival as a way to bring Seminoles from other reservations together for some friendly competition. Over the years, the event evolved into a festival that is open to the public and showcases Seminole and other Native American arts, crafts, dances and traditions. On Friday, the festival hosts “Kids Day” which is open to area school children. School buses from all over South Florida transport elementary school children to Brighton Reservation, where they learn how Seminoles once lived in chickees, cooked food over open fires, made their own canoes and weapons and made crafts such as sweetgrass baskets and clothing made from tiny pieces of cloth sewn into intricate patterns. The festival also includes wild animal exhibitions, alligator wrestling and native dances. In more recent years, the event expanded to invite Native Americans from all over the country to participate.

On Saturday and Sunday, the festival is open to the general public. The festival weekend also includes a rodeo and XTreme Bull Riding. On Saturday, gates open at 9 a.m. and the rodeo starts at 3 p.m.; on Sunday, gates open at 10 a.m. and XTreme Bull-riding starts at 3 p.m. The festival grounds are next to the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena, off State Road 721 in Glades County. For more information call 863-467-6039 or go online to [www.REZRODEO.com](http://www.REZRODEO.com).

The **South Florida Ag Expo and Equipment Show** will be held Feb. 15 at the old airstrip at 610 San Luis Avenue in Clewiston. The expo opens at 8 a.m. and will include a speaker forum, vendor demonstrations, a community luncheon, prize drawings and food vendors. Admission is free. For more information online, go to [www.sflagexpo.com](http://www.sflagexpo.com).

The 2013 **Swamp Cabbage Festival** is set for Feb. 23-24. The festival is LaBelle’s hometown blast and it’s open to everyone! The town goes a little wild with a huge parade beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, followed by two days of great entertainment, booths of unique items for sale and - of course - great food. Look for the boiled swamp cabbage, raw swamp cabbage salad and swamp cabbage fritters. If you have an adventurous palate, you can also find gator meat and other special treats. Saturday begins with a 5K Swamp Stomp run along a lovely route with glimpses of the Caloosahatchee River. The Swamp Cabbage Festival has something for everyone. Saturday: a bike show, car show, kiddie rides. On Sunday morning you can take part in non-denominational worship at Barron Park, with entertainment and festivities picking back up again after noon. There is also a fishing tournament, lawnmower races and a rodeo.

Check out more information at [swamp-cabbagefestival.org](http://swamp-cabbagefestival.org).



Courtesy photo

**Spectators are invited to join in the Friendship Dance at Brighton Seminole Reservation’s Field Day.**

## MARCH

The Seminole Tribe of Florida will present a re-enactment of the Second Seminole War at the **Big Cypress Shootout** at Billie Swamp Safari located between Fort Lauderdale and Naples, on the Big Cypress Reservation just north of I-75 (Alligator Alley) Exit 49. The event is planned for Friday, March 1 through Sunday, March 3, 2013. The battle reenactments will take place at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. Friday is an educational day (no reenactments). The battle reenactments honor the Seminole’s struggle and sacrifice to remain in their homeland and will feature authentic weapons, soldier and warrior attire and tactics typical of the Second Seminole War. In the 1800s, a total of three wars were fought by the U.S. military against the Seminoles. These campaigns were the longest, costliest, and bloodiest of all the Indian wars. Although many Seminoles were killed or removed to present-day Oklahoma, they were never defeated, and to this day, more than 3,000 Seminoles are known as “The Unconquered” Seminole Tribe of Florida.

The three-day event will also include music, Seminole food, Seminole and pioneer artisans, tomahawk throws, primitive archery competition, authentic Seminole and soldier camps, venomous snake shows and alligator wrestling. “Period settlers” from around the country will hew wood, iron and silver crafts and depict trading techniques from the Seminole war era. For more information, go to [bcshoot.com](http://bcshoot.com) or call 800-949-6101 ext. 12125

2013 will mark the 65th annual Moore Haven’s **Chalo Nitka Festival**. **Chalo Nitka** is one of the state’s oldest continuing festivals. The festival grounds are located at Chalo Nitka Park (across from the Glades County School Board Office). The festival includes midway games, rides, and vendor booths selling food, crafts and jewelry. Events also include a rodeo and the Glades County livestock show. This year the festival is planned for March 1 and 2. The Chalo Nitka parade will be Saturday morning, March 2. For more information online go to [www.chalonitka.com](http://www.chalonitka.com).

Continued on page 6

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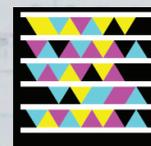
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# FESTIVALS

Continued From Page 5

The **Okeechobee County Fair** will be held March 8-17, 2013 at the Agri-Civic Center Fairgrounds, with entrance of State Road 710. The fair includes a carnival midway, livestock shows, cooking competitions, fruit and vegetable competitions, sewing and arts and crafts competitions. There is even a Lego building competition. The Okeechobee Cattlemen's Spring Rodeo will be held in conjunction with the first weekend of the fair, March 9 and 10 at 2 p.m. each day. The Okeechobee 4-H and FFA Livestock Show will be the week of March 11-16, with the livestock sale on Saturday, March 17. Fairgrounds opens at 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, and at noon on Saturday and Sunday. Entertainment will include the Kandu Magic Show, pig races, a petting zoo, performances by Okeechobee Steelers, horse shows, a monster truck show, Okeechobee Idol Talent Show and performances by Crossbone Band.

The **Speckled Perch Festival**, sponsored by Okeechobee Main Street, will be held in Flagler Park in downtown Okeechobee on the weekend of March 9 and 10. The festival starts around 9 a.m. The Speckled Perch Festival Parade will be on Saturday at 10 a.m. The festival began as a fish fry fundraiser for the Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce. When the original chamber folded, Okeechobee Main Street took over the traditional event. Over the years, the festival has grown and changed, adding arts and crafts vendors, games for children and entertainment. Due to state health laws, speckled perch—which is a game fish and not commercially harvested—cannot be served at public events. So the fish dinner served at the Speckle Perch Festival is catfish.

The **Big O Birding Festival**, the largest bird-themed event in South Central Florida will be held March 12-16. The four-day event will have a registration "roost" at the Port LaBelle Inn off State Road 80 in LaBelle. From there, visitors will explore Hendry and Glades Counties, which are home to more than 400 species of birds, including Wood Storks, Everglades Snail Kites, Limpkins, Painted Buntings, and others who are resident in the area from October through April as well as species



Courtesy photo

**The petting zoo was a hit at the 2012 Okeechobee County Fair.**

that live in Florida year round. Visitors can choose a single bird tour or opt for all-inclusive four-day passes. The festival offers exclusive bird tours led by prestigious experts, workshops with a prestigious bird photographer, birding activities, meals and transportation to and from birding sites. For more information online go to [www.BigOBirdingFestival.com](http://www.BigOBirdingFestival.com) or call 863-675-0125.

**MegaCon**, the largest comic book, anime, science fiction, fantasy, gaming and multimedia event in the southeastern United States, will take place March 15-17, at the Orange County Convention Center, 9800 International Drive in Orlando. The annual event attracts around 50,000 visitors—many of them come dressed as a favorite character from a comic book, movie or video game. Visitors can meet stars from movies and television, writers and artists.

At the 2013 Megacon, the original cast of "Star Trek: The Next Generation" will provide a special event on Saturday, March 16, in Hall F, at the Orange County Convention Center. Join the cast as they interact together with the audience. They will field and answer questions in an entertaining way that only they could do. Event tickets are available on the MegaCon website now. For more information online go to [www.megaconvention.com](http://www.megaconvention.com).

**Continued on page 7**

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# FESTIVALS

Continued from Page 6

The **Florida Strawberry Festival** is set for Feb. 29-March 10 in Plant City. Guests come from near and far to enjoy exhibits of agriculture, commerce, industry, livestock, fine arts, horticulture, and crafts. The fabric of American life is woven into the Festival through social events, contests, youth developmental programs, top-name entertainment, and parades with glorious floats and high-stepping marching bands. For more information online, go to [www.flstrawberryfestival.com](http://www.flstrawberryfestival.com).

## APRIL

The **35th Annual Black Gold Jubilee Festival** is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, at the Torry Island Recreation Center in Belle Glade. The event kicks off with a 5K Walk/Run at 7:30 a.m., to be followed by all-day free children's activities, rides, games, and a dunk tank. For the adults, food booths and arts and craft features the best in local cuisine and art. Rounding out the activities are photography displays, car show, volleyball tournament and a corn-eating contest. A fireworks show at dusk caps off the festival. For more information, find the Black Gold Jubilee on Facebook, or contact the Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce at 561-996-2745.

The **Clewiston Sugar Festival**, an annual celebration of the end of the sugarcane harvest for Hendry County, will make a big



Courtesy photo

**Spectators bring lawn chairs to enjoy entertainment at the Sugar Festival.**

return this year, with entertainment featuring such acts as: The Farm, Shane Duncan and Alter Eagles. The festival activities start on Thursday, April 18, with Seminole Heritage Day at the Clewiston Museum. The main events will be held April 19 and 20 in the heart of the city across from the Clewiston Inn and the U.S. Sugar campus. Festival events will include: Arts and crafts, food booths, a 5K run/walk, alligator wrestling demonstrations, a kids fun park area, Big Lake Cruisers Classic Car Show, the Sweet Taste of Sugar recipe contest, hospital bed races and the Raisin' Cane Rodeo. This year's festival promises to be another excellent event, with the support of several sponsors including the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the U.S. Sugar Corporation. For more information online go to [www.clewistonsugarfestival.com](http://www.clewistonsugarfestival.com).

The third annual **Avon Park Bluegrass Blueberry Festival**, sponsored by Avon Park Rotary Club, will be held April 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Rotary Building, 20 S. Verona Avenue in Avon Park. For information, see the web site at [www.aprotaryblueberryfestival.com](http://www.aprotaryblueberryfestival.com).

A new festival this year is the **Elvis Festival** set for April 26-28 at the Historic Citrus County Court House, one Court house Square, Inverness. Festival events will include award-winning Elvis impersonator, Ted Torres; Elvis Concert Under the stars; "When Elvis came to town" live on stage; and karaoke. For more information go to [www.elvisinflorida.com](http://www.elvisinflorida.com) or call 352-3341-6427 or 352-341-6436.

## MAY

May brings the Brown Sugar Festival in Clewiston. The **Brown Sugar Festival** began with the organization of the Harlem Academy Alumni Association in Clewiston in 1976. Harlem Academy Alumni members decided to plan celebrations for students whenever they returned home to Clewiston to visit. The festival and pageant also serve as fund raisers for scholarships to send Clewiston's Harlem community children to college. Over the years the festival has grown to include a gospel program, a talent show, a cruise trip, a dance, a parade, a basketball tournament, fashion show, a golden age banquet and all day festivities. For more information online, go to <http://brownsugarfestival.info/>.

The **Watermelon Festival**, an Arcadia Main Street Program event will be held

May 12 in Historic Downtown Arcadia.

## JULY

The **National Day of the American Cowboy Cattle Drive and Festival** is held in July in Okeechobee. This year's festival will be on July 26 and 27. The festival includes a rodeo, a cattle drive from Downtown Flagler Park to Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center, an arts and crafts festival and a barbecue cookoff. For more information, online go to [www.mainstreetokeechobee.com](http://www.mainstreetokeechobee.com).

## AUGUST

The **Caladium Festival and Car Show** will be held July 26-28, at Stuart park in Lake Placid. The festival offers bus rides to the caladium fields and caladium displays in nearby subdivisions. For more information online, go to [visitlakeplacid.com](http://visitlakeplacid.com).

## SEPTEMBER

Labor Day Weekend brings Okeechobee's Annual **Labor Day Festival**, with an arts and crafts festival in downtown Okeechobee, games for the whole family, a parade on Saturday morning, and a rodeo at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center. For more information, on the rodeo online, go to [ag.co.okeechobee.fl.us](http://ag.co.okeechobee.fl.us). For more information on the parade and festival, go to [www.mainstreetokeechobee.com](http://www.mainstreetokeechobee.com).

For updated information on area festivals and special events, see future editions of *G.O.: Going Out—A Guide to Area Entertainment and Attractions*, available online at [Florida.newszip.com](http://Florida.newszip.com).

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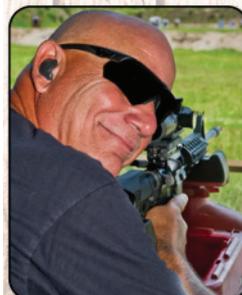
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# Plays, concerts, & more ...

## Juke Box Jive

LABELLE—The LaBelle Firehouse Theatre, 241 North Bridge Street, will present “Juke Box Jive,” directed by Nick Fidanza, Jan. 11-13 and Jan. 18-20. Productions are Friday and Saturday nights at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. the shows start promptly so please arrive 30 minutes in advance to be seated before the show starts. For tickets or more information, call 863-675-3066 or email info@firehousecommunitytheatre.com.

## Juan Siddi Flamenco

BELLE GLADE—Art Feagan’s Juan Siddi Flamenco will perform at the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center on Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m. Under the artistic direction of Spanish choreographer Juan Siddi, some of flamenco’s most unique and creative musicians, singers and dancers, from Spain and the United States, bring their talent to the stage with world-class performances that inspire audiences with exhilarating passion. The box office is located at the southeastern corner of the building, 1977 S.W. College Drive, Belle Glade which is open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m. to noon. The box office also opens one hour prior to performances. For more information call the box office at 561-993-1160.

## Broadway’s Next H!T Musical

FORT PIERCE—The Fielden Institute for Lifelong Learning will present an arts and humanities series in 2013. All shows will be held at the McAlpin Fine Arts Center, IRSC Main Campus, 3209 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce. Curtain is at 4 p.m. The first presentation will be Broadway’s Next H!T Musical, on Thursday, Jan. 24. For ticket information, contact the IRSC Box Office at 1-800-220-9915.

## Ernie Haase & Signature Sound

BELLE GLADE—The Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center will present Ernie Haase & Signature Sound on Thursday, Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m. Forget your normal Gospel Quartet. Ernie Haase & Signature Sound (EHSS) have broken the mold. Their unconventional approach to communicating the Good News with groundbreaking originality has blazed a trail that will go down in gospel music history.

For more information, call the box office at 561-993-1160.



**Sour Orange Festival & Quilt Show**  
 February 9, 2013  
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1239 Red Barn Road Lakeport, FL  
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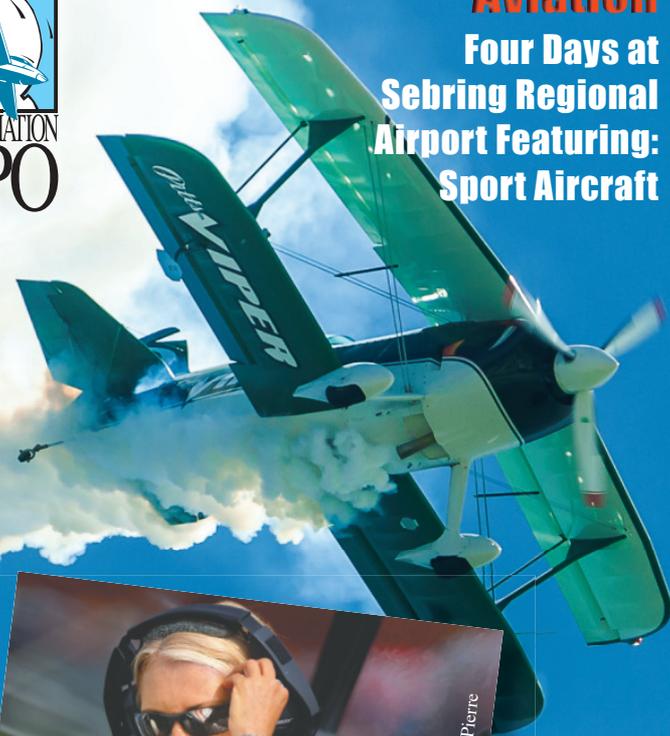


Photo courtesy of Scott Wolff

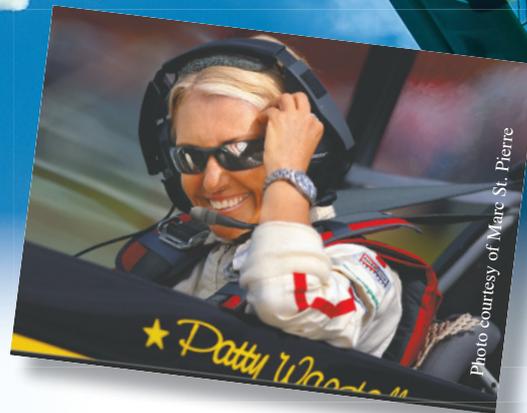


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