

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 104 No. 27

Sunday, March 3, 2013

75¢ Plus tax

OHS softball team beats Suncoast
... Page 16

Have trouble sleeping? Help is available
... Page 8

Flag football season preview
... Page 12



Lake Levels

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Developers want to lease Okee-Tantie

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Will a private developer rehabilitate Okee Tantie Campground and Marina? Even as Okeechobee County Commissioners discussed the offer of developer Randall Henderson at their Feb. 28 meeting, they alluded to a yet to be publicized proposal from a second developer.

After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Henderson withdrew his offer. But what of the other offer referred to?

The Okeechobee News has acquired a copy

of that proposal.

Okeechobee County Administrator Robbie Chartier said that while the commissioners were aware of the second developer, that proposal had not arrived in time to be publicly

See OKEE-TANTIE — Page 10

Corps continues dike work

By Katrina Elsken
Okeechobee News

The Army Corps of Engineers is once again working on plans to improve the safety of the Herbert Hoover Dike.

Public meetings were held in Clewiston on Feb. 26 and Okeechobee on Feb. 28 to discuss the initial phases of a Dam Safety Modification Study that is underway.

The Corps is conducting the DSMS to determine the final phase of rehabilitation projects for the dike, a 143-mile earthen structure that encircles Lake Okeechobee. The Corps has been engaged in projects since 2007 to address concerns with the dike's integrity.

"The results of the Dam Safety Modification Study will be used to define the finish line for this major project," said Tim Willadsen, Herbert Hoover Dike Rehabilitation Project Manager. "We will continue to reduce risk by replacing water control structures around the lake through 2018; this study will be



Special to the Okeechobee News/ACE

(Photo above) The Herbert Hoover Dike consists of a 143-mile embankment system surrounding Lake Okeechobee. The Jacksonville District is working to reduce the risk of embankment failure by installing a cutoff wall, along with the removal and replacement of water control structures (culverts) around the lake. (Below) A dragline on a barge with a long-arm conveyor system is shown on Lake Okeechobee, in this 1966 photo from the Florida Archives Reference Collection. This system was to enlarge the Herbert Hoover Dike around the shore.



See DIKE — Page 10

Crooks used stolen credit cards, says detective

Local businesses have lost over \$20,000 so far

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A detective is actively involved in hunting down the person or persons who used stolen credit cards to buy over \$20,000 in goods from two local businesses.

Detective Susan Morrison, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), said the people involved in the thefts have used different credit cards in the local transactions. She's been able to trace one of the stolen cards to Toronto, Canada, and it appears another may have been stolen in Texas.

"They're using all types of credit cards," she said.

In one local transaction, the suspect(s) bought items totalling \$19,000 with bogus cards. The detective's investigation has also turned up a second transaction

See THEFT — Page 12

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Special to the Okeechobee News

Lunch at the Lodge

Grand Oaks residents enjoyed having lunch at The Lodge. All who attended loved the decor and the friendly atmosphere. Some residents ordered specialty items from the menu while others enjoyed the buffet. Great fun, great food and friendly service were just a few comments shared.

Caulion Singeltary exhibit planned

Special to the Okeechobee News

Affordable Art & Framing will host a "Caulion Singeltary Gala" featuring a showing of the works by the legendary Audubon Photographer, Caulion Singeltary. Meet Cal and hear his many wonderful adventure stories from when he captured some of his once-in-a-lifetime photographs. The exhibit is free for all to attend. The exhibit will be open to

the public on Saturday, March 9 and Sunday, March 10, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Other local award-winning artists who display at Affordable Art & Framing will stop by both days. Affordable Art & Framing is located at 110 S.W. 14th St. Originals and prints will be available for purchase. For more information, please call the gallery at 863-357-3200. See you at the Gala!

Foster parent & adoption classes available

There are so many children in our Okeechobee Community today, in need of loving foster and adoptive homes. These children are infants, toddlers, teens and sibling groups. Will you make a commitment and open your heart and home for a child? Hibiscus Children's Center Foster Parent Program and Adoption Services will guide you through the steps to make this a reality for you. The first step is to attend our

free 30 hour MAPP Class, Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting, to be held in Okeechobee. Classes begin on Saturday, April 6, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Registration is required. Please contact Janet Steward to register and/or for additional information, or visit our website: www.hibiscuschildrenscenter.org or call 772-340-5044 ext. 415 or email jsteward@hcc4kids.org.

Okeechobee Forecast

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Today: Partly cloudy with a chance of rain. High of 63F. Winds from the NW at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 20%.

Tonight: Clear. Low of 37F. Winds from the WNW at 5 to 10

mph.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Clear. High of 68F. Winds from

the North at 5 to 10 mph.

Monday Night: Clear. Low of 46F. Winds less than 5 mph.

Tuesday: Clear. High of 77F. Winds less than 5 mph.

Tuesday Night: Clear with a chance of rain. Low of 52F. Winds from the WSW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 20%.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy with a chance of rain. High of 79F. Breezy. Winds from the NW at 15 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 20%.

Wednesday Night: Clear. Low of 45F. Winds from the North at 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday: Clear. High of 73F. Winds from the NNE at 10 to 15 mph.

BoatUS promotes life jacket loaner program

Special to the Okeechobee News

The sad truth about boating and kids is that children don't always wear a correctly sized life jacket, and some kids even go without simply because of poor planning. But it doesn't have to be this way. With a life jacket loaner site in your area, boating parents can borrow a properly fitting life jacket for the day or weekend at no cost. If you operate a waterfront business, organization or government agency, you can help by applying to become a new loaner site for the BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water's Life Jacket Loaner Program for Kids.

The largest and longest running free nationwide life jacket loaner program offers a range of child and teen-sized life jackets at over 500 loaner sites nationwide. Since the program began nearly 20 years ago, at least three children's lives have been saved by wearing a BoatUS Foundation loaner life jacket and each year life jackets are loaned out over 140,000 times. The boating non-profit is looking to add at least 40 new life jacket sites this year.

There is no cost to host a loaner site, but applications will only be accepted until March 31, and those that meet the program's guidelines will be posted to the Foundation's Facebook page for public voting. "We want applicants to help spread the word about

keeping kids safe with our life jackets, and also draw positive publicity to their business or club," said Outreach Manager Alanna Keating.

To apply or for more information on the program, visit www.BoatUS.com/Foundation/LJLP.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Expo winner

Congratulations to Healthy Start Coalition's Health Expo winner Toni Crews.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Glades Electric Cooperative Inc.

Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 16, 2013

Lake Placid Middle School

201 S Tangerine Ave • Lake Placid

The purpose of the meeting is to elect trustees, vote on a proposed bylaw change and hear officers' annual reports. Registration, entertainment and voting will begin at 8 a.m. The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m.



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Corps denies damage claims at River Acres

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The ongoing dispute between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District (COE) and the residents of River Acres still has not been settled after almost two years.

It all began in March of 2011 as part of a Kissimmee River Restoration Project. In the subdivision there are two connecting canals that were apparently built by developers to give residents access to the Kissimmee River. As part of the restoration project, the end of one canal joining the Kissimmee River was blocked and the end of the second canal was extended to join the river at another point. A bridge was built over one of these canals.

Some property owners claim that a vibratory compactor used in the construction of the bridge caused cracks in their houses.

That has resulted in three meetings between COE and the residents who were told to file claims for damages. Six residents filed for damages. All six of those claims were denied. Information released by COE said that the claims of residents were denied as the result of an engineering report that showed the damage was not caused by the vibratory compactor.

Richard and Terri Sweet are among those who claim damage. Their home is located 700 feet from the construction site and has cracks they claim were caused by the compactor. Mr. Sweet is president of the

homeowners association. The Sweets do not agree with COE. They say the first engineering report was hired by the original contractor and did not involve the use of the vibratory roller they claim is responsible for the damage. They said the second engineering study, commissioned by the COE, did no testing, but used the data from the first test and inspected the damaged houses.

Mr. Sweet said that at the Feb. 26 meeting, residents learned that the COE, who had dismissed the first contractor, had hired another contractor to finish the restoration project and that this new contractor would also be using a vibratory roller.

River Acres residents have exhausted their avenue of appeal to the COE. Their

next step is the court system. The Sweets say they are going to hire an attorney and think other residents will do the same.

Kim Love, one of the residents whose claim was denied, would like to see a court injunction to stop the use of the vibratory compactor. "They do not want to admit they are doing anything wrong," she said. Her first claim was \$60,000. She was told that the maxim that the Jacksonville District could pay was \$50,000. So she resubmitted a claim for \$50,000.

"They denied everything," she said. "It's unbelievable to me they could destroy these homes and walk away."

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

Community Events

Speckled Perch Festival and Parade applications open

Okeechobee Main Street is currently taking applications for the 48th Annual Speckled Perch Festival and Parade which will be held on March 9 and 10 in Flagler Park. Festivities begin at 10 a.m. in the parks, with the parade following at 11 a.m. Okeechobee Main Street is looking for anyone interested in vending food, crafts, demonstrations, or entertainment. Participation in the parade is free, vendor rates vary. The deadline for the applications are **March 6**. For further information, please contact Cindy at the Main Street Office, 55 S. Parrott Ave. or call 863-3357-6246.

Art Auction to benefit YMCA

The 2013 Art Auction will be held on Thursday, **March 7**, at 6 p.m. at the YMCA of the Treasure Coast's Louis Dreyfus Citrus branch in Indiantown. To be part of something greater like the YMCA's Indiantown Children's Art Auction, please contact Shawn Keil at 772-215-9780. Each tax deductible dollar contributed to the YMCA's children's auction goes directly to making Y programs available to those who need it the most.

Orthopedic surgeon to discuss advances

The Oakview Baptist Church Senior Adult Ministry Group will present an informational program by Dr. Benjamin Epstein, an Orthopaedic Surgeon at Orthopaedic Specialists at Raulerson, on Thursday, March, 14. Dr. Epstein will discuss the latest advancements and procedures in joint replacements, as well as informing the audience of the resources available in Okeechobee. The public is invited to attend. No admission fee or other fees will be charged. The program will be held at the church, 677 S.W. 32nd St., in Building A and will begin at approximately 12:45 p.m., following a covered dish luncheon at 12:00 noon. It is not necessary to attend the luncheon. Persons wishing to attend the luncheon MUST make reservations with the church office, 863-763-1699, no later than Thursday, **March 7**.

Bowling tournament to benefit mission outreach

Lucky Lanes in Okeechobee will host The Okeechobee Open bowling tournament April 26-27. This tournament is a handicapped tournament with two divisions. A singles division has a cash prize of \$1,000 (based on entries) to the winner and a four-person team division has a cash prize of \$1,500 (based on entries). This tournament is an "open" tournament meaning it is open to all players male and female, young and older. Call tournament director James Dawson at 863-447-2715, if you would like more information or register for the tournament. The proceeds of this tournament go the mission outreach of children and families in New Orleans. This tournament is sponsored by the First United Methodist Church of Okeechobee.

Free Quit smoking classes

The Okeechobee County Library, 206 S.W. 16th St., is offering Quit Smoking Now Classes on **March 6, 13, 20 and 27** at 5:30 p.m. Raulerson Hospital, located 1796 U.S. 441 N., will have Quit Smoking Now Classes on March 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 3:30 p.m. in the inservice classroom.

For more community events, see page 6.

City council to act on county's parking request

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

In what could be a short meeting Tuesday night, the Okeechobee City Council will act on two recommendations and award a contract.

The city code enforcement board has forwarded a long-standing code violation situation to the city council for action. On Dec. 8, 2011 a fine of \$25 a day began on the 408 N.W. Fifth St. property of Barbara Mills for general cleaning and public nuisance. The fine had grown to \$10,825 as of the code board meeting on Feb. 12. Because of past problems the board did not think the owner would allow the city access to the property. Therefore, the board has recommended that the city council take legal action to obtain access to the property in order to clean it up.

The council is also scheduled to award a contract under the FY2011 Community Development Block Grant House Rehabilitation Program.

The last item on the agenda is a recommendation from the city's technical review committee. At their meeting on Thursday, Feb. 21, the committee considered reducing the number of parking places required for the

If you go ...
What: Meeting of the Okeechobee City Council
When: 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 5
Where: City Council Chambers, Okeechobee City Hall, 55 S.E. Third Ave.

county's new tax collector/property appraiser/drivers' license office building to be built on the southwest section of the block that is the site of the current property appraiser/tax collector office building. After hearing from the applicant and city staff the committee recommended that the city council find that there is sufficient surplus on street parking in the immediate vicinity of the new building to justify the reduction of the required parking spaces by 13. The committee further recommended that the city council determine that there is sufficient surplus on street parking in the immediate vicinity of the proposed building to justify the deferral of the 14 required off-street parking spaces.

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

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Public Forum/Speak Out

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

Pope retires

• A lot has been said about the Pope deciding to step down. I think it was very wise and brave for him to admit that he is no longer physically up to the job and it's time to let someone younger take over. Too often folks hang onto jobs they can no longer do well, especially those in positions of power, even though they have enough money to retire. It's better to recognize that you are slowing down and it's time to let someone else have a chance.

Words hurt

• This was on Facebook but I think it should be shared with everyone. "Words make a difference. That girl you called a 'slut' in class today? She's a virgin. The boy you called lame? He has to work every night to support his family. That girl you pushed down the other day? She's already being abused at home. The girl you called fat? She's starving herself. The old man you made fun of because of the ugly scars? He fought for our country. The boy you made fun of because he was crying? His mother is dying. You think you know them? Guess what: You don't."

Sequestration

• Will the Republicans fold or will the Democrats actually cut spending?
• If they do cave in, they all need to be thrown out. So we can get people we need with the nerve to stand up to the White House and get this country back on the right track before it's too late. If it is not already.
• POTUS keeps using the phrase "If Congress allows this meat-cleaver approach to take place..." Well, give me the "cleaver" and I'll show them just how quick I would swing it to hit the bone, something that should have been done long ago. And what he isn't telling about the sequestration is that is chump change as to what will happen at the end of March if they can't come to a budget compromise and the entire government would shut down.

• Why does he only harp on dire consequences instead of trimming off the fat that has sunk this country's budget? Simply take a read of Senator Tom Coburn's Waste list for 2012; it easily lists \$19 BILLION in fat for just one year that does nothing but feed little pet projects. But "NO," Obama wants to start cutting programs that are most important to make the people squeal.

• What manner of president/party leader agrees to a compromise of less than slightly more than 2 percent spending cuts to discretionary line items in November so as to delay further debate until after the election. Now Obama and the Democrats renege, and are out there speaking the worst sort of demagoguery of job loss, military cutbacks, fire, police, teachers, and on ad nauseam.

• While the Democrats are claiming that they can't cut the budget 2 percent this year without sending the country into a tailspin, they seem to have forgotten they have already cut the household budgets of every working American by hiking the payroll taxes by 2 percent. We had to adjust our household budgets to deal with that. The government should do the same. But across the board cuts are crazy -- they need to cut the extras, the fat, the special interest projects. They need to get rid of duplication of services, cancel the order for the tanks that the Army did not need or want in the first place (but Congress ordered anyway), etc. When I took a 2 percent pay cut, I could not cut across the board -- some things like the mortgage, you just can't skimp on. So I had to look at the "extras" that are nice to have but are not really needed. I am sure there is plenty of fat to cut in the federal budget. Congress and the President don't seem to be able to do it. So maybe they should appoint a committee of middle class folks who have firsthand experience with balancing a budget to take a shot at it.

Correction

An error appeared in an article on page 12 of the Friday, March 1, issue of the Okeechobee News under the headline "Commissioners make appointments to boards." Frank DeCarlo was incorrectly named as a member of the agri-civic center advisory committee. We apologize for any inconvenience caused by this error.

Reflections from the pulpit

What Must I Do to Be Saved?

By Calvin H. Fryar, pastor
Brighton Baptist Church

Isaiah 52:10—"The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God."

Acts 16:30—"And [he] brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Billy Sunday told of a man who came to him and said, "I will cut out the booze and get on the water wagon," "Good; what else?" "Of course, I am a gambler; I will quit gambling and I will never touch a pack of cards." "All right; what else?" "I am a bad man, and I will live a clean life." "Good; what else?" He said, "If I quit these things, I think they cover about all. I will quit drinking, swearing, stop gambling, and I will quit being impure." Billy said, "Good. Give me your hand and say you will accept Jesus Christ as your Savior," He said, "No, I will not. If I stop those things, I won't need to do that."—Bible Illustrations.

What can I do to be saved? You are not expected to do anything but believe and receive the provision of God. He took care of that 2,000 years ago on the cross of Calvary—Jesus did it all when He said "It is finished" (Jn. 19:30). What is salvation then? Salvation is the Provision of God in the Person of Christ.

THE PROVISION OF GOD—"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." (Isa. 7:14). Immanuel means "God with us." Abraham told Isaac that God would provide Himself a lamb—and He did. Jesus is the provision of God.

The story of Joash is an Old Testament picture of God's Providence (2 Ki. 11:1-18). When Satan tried to destroy God's promised Seed by using Joash's own grandmother to destroy him, God spared his life by hiding him in the temple. But the line of David was reduced so there was only one survivor. Joash, was one year old when he was hidden. He was hidden in the temple for six years. During that time the bloody queen ruled the land. This was not the first nor was it the last attempt of Satan to destroy God's promise of salvation.

Over and over again Satan made attempts to try to destroy the Seed that would give birth to Christ. That is why he put it in the mind of Pharaoh to have all the male babies murdered in the land of Egypt. Then he used wicked Haman to have all the Jews exterminated in the time of Queen Esther. After Jesus was born, he worked through old Herod to kill all the

baby boys around Bethlehem.

The cross was another attempt to destroy Jesus but Satan got a big surprise. As always he used the fallen nature of man but little did he understand the effect it would have on the human heart. A little girl in a mission-school sat on the front seat; and, when the superintendent was telling about how they hanged Jesus on the cross, the tears came to her eyes, and she had to get up and go out. In the afternoon she came back smiling; and the superintendent asked her, "Mary, where did you go this morning?" And she said, "Oh, teacher! I could not stand it when you spoke to us about Jesus being nailed on the cross; for I felt just as if I helped to pound the nails in; and I went off a little piece from the school, and got down on my knees, and told Jesus that my sins helped to hang Him on the cross; and I asked Him to please forgive me for helping to kill Him; that I was so sorry! but now I feel so happy!"

THE PERSON OF JESUS—God provided a Lamb (See Jn. 1:29, 36). Jesus came not only to reveal the Person of God but to give His Life a ransom.

Let's ask the same question the Philippian jailor asked, "What must I do to be saved?" First you must know that we have all sinned—"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Ro. 3:23). Then we must know that sin must be paid for—"For the wages of sin is death..." (Ro. 6:23). But there is good news, Jesus Christ paid for our sins—"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Ro.5:8).

But, you may ask, what does that have to do with me? What must I do? The only thing you can do is call upon the Lord. The Bible spells it out—"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). Those who have called upon the Lord can know that they are on their way to heaven because God has promised" He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life..." (Jn. 3:36). "But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12)

One day the great artist, Michelangelo, stood outside a window. Inside he saw a canvas with a few brushes and paints next to it. All that was missing was the hand of the artist. "Oh," cried Michelangelo, "if I could only be inside, what a picture I could paint!" That's exactly what Christ wishes when He stands outside your life. "Oh, what I could accomplish, if only I could get in!" Allow Him to get in. Open the door of your heart. Believe on Him. Then He will bring peace to your troubled soul.—Illustrations of Bible Truths.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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

Okeechobee News

USPS 406-160

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

Okeechobee News
Circulation Administration
110 Galaxy Road • Dover, DE 19901

Staff

Editor: Katrina Elsen
Circulation Manager: Janet Madray
Publisher: Tom Byrd

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- 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.
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- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
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Sports News in Brief

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

James Touhey tossed a one-hit shut-out to lead Sebastian River to a 2-0 win over Okeechobee High School in a District 12-7A **baseball** contest Wednesday night.

Christian Crews had Okeechobee's only hit, a scratch infield single with one out in the seventh which broke up the no-hit bid.

Okeechobee got a strong pitching performance of their own from junior Kutter Crawford, who allowed just four hits to the Sharks, (2-3). Okeechobee fell to (0-5). The game was originally scheduled for Tuesday night but was delayed one day by inclement weather.

The OHS Lady Brahman **softball** team got their bats tuned up Wednesday and it wasn't the opposition pitchers that stopped them. The weather turned rough in Port St. Lucie and the game was suspended in the seventh inning with Okeechobee on top 13-3. Jaryaca Baker had a three-run homerun and Jessi Osceola and Bethany Stuart also went deep for Okeechobee. The game will be completed on March 8, when the two teams are scheduled to meet for another full game in Okeechobee.

Coach Heather Gillis said she was proud of the girls for the district game effort and explained that all of the girls hit with confidence.

Livestock Market Report

FEBRUARY 25 & 26, 2013

MONDAY SALE AT 12:00PM...TUESDAY SALE AT 11:00AM

COWS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:	LAST WEEK:
800-1000	60.00	- 83.00	73.95	73.67
1000-1200	60.00	- 87.00	73.65	73.78
1200-1400	65.00	- 92.00	74.21	77.50
1400-1600	69.00	- 78.00	73.40	70.17

BULLS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:	LAST WEEK:
1200-1400	72.00	- 80.00	76.00	-
1400-1600	72.00	- 85.00	81.50	81.33
1600-1800	80.00	- 87.00	81.17	87.67

STEERS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:	LAST WEEK:
150-250	250.00	- 255.00	252.50	266.67
250-300	215.00	- 225.00	220.00	229.67
300-350	215.00	- 225.00	218.33	220.00
350-400	185.00	- 195.00	188.33	188.04
400-450	165.00	- 192.50	179.91	175.15
450-500	160.00	- 182.50	168.53	170.90
500-550	145.00	- 162.50	153.27	162.50
550-600	140.00	- 160.00	146.88	149.25
600-650	127.00	- 147.50	134.00	134.14
650-700	120.00	- 130.00	124.25	122.71
700-750	115.00	- 122.00	118.00	123.67

HEIFERS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:	LAST WEEK:
150-250	200.00	- 275.00	247.14	220.71
250-300	170.00	- 200.00	189.38	187.39
300-350	160.00	- 195.00	177.40	173.38
350-400	150.00	- 170.00	160.00	162.14
400-450	140.00	- 150.00	142.17	150.87
450-500	135.00	- 145.00	137.92	146.14
500-550	120.00	- 140.00	130.56	139.50
550-600	115.00	- 132.50	123.88	131.75
600-650	120.00	- 121.00	120.50	126.83

Prices reported are higher end #1 Quality. For #2's and Brahma type calves adjust down by \$10-\$30.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY
CLFS	182	544
COWS	90	194
STRS	3	8
HFRS	1	13
BULLS	11	23
YRLINGS	28	22
MIX	0	0
TOTAL	315	804

Prices held up pretty good this week in spite of the severe winter weather occurring in the plains states. Truck movement has been difficult and cattle shipments have been affected. For prices to stay where they are, to me, shows a pretty strong market. Cows were a little stronger and calves were nearly steady.

Chase Pearce, Okeechobee, topped the calf market with a high of \$2.75 bought by Foy Reynolds.

Clay Jowers, St. Cloud, topped the cow market with a high of 92.00 bought by Central Beef.

Advance rodeo tickets for Cattlemen's Spring Rodeo, March 9 and 10, are now on sale at various local retail stores around town at a discounted price. Get yours today!

See ya next week,
Todd



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Tuesday at 11 a.m.

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Put on your dancing shoes

The Okeechobee Elks, meeting at VFW south, are having a steak dinner/dance on Saturday, **March 9**. St. Paddy will be the theme, so wear your green. An amazing singer, "Lady Greyson," is coming from the coast. If you have not seen her perform, you are in for a treat. Tickets are on sale now. Cost will be a \$20 donation. Call 863-467-2658, for additional information. Proceeds go to the Harry Anna children's camp we support.

Humane Society needs volunteers

The Okeechobee Humane Society Pet/Rescue is in need of volunteers to help with office work and to help as kennel supervisors. Any time you can spare is appreciated. The organization is a non-profit with no paid staff and depends on donations and community volunteers. For more information, contact Belina Forlifer at 863-357-1104.

Federated Republican Women's Club forming

Okeechobee has a new ladies' club, the Okeechobee County Federated Republican Women's Club has been established and is inviting new members to join us. We meet at Cowboy's in the private dining room on the last Tuesday of every month. Membership paperwork can be picked up at a meeting or by sending an e-mail to OkeechobeeCFRW@gmail.com. Any other information can be obtained by contacting the club president, Josie Weeks-Elliott, at 863-634-8474.

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Special to the Okeechobee News

Seminole Students of the Week

Seminole Elementary would like to congratulate their Students of the Week for the week of Feb. 22: Mackenzie Terrigno, Michael Amor, Lizbeth Garcia, Kendrick Garner, Benjamin Macedo, Giovanni Sanchez, Caleb Vega, Angel Nieto-Reyes, Mark Perkins, Luis Rojas-Ruiz, Fili Gomez, Ja'Khious Cooper, Adam Moore, Julie Castaneda, Guadalupe Lara, Sergio Pena, Aundre Baker, Rosalinda Torres, Maria Alice Calais, Daniel Mingo, Estefani Valdez, Aaron Gould, Janelly Gomez, Gabriela Delgado, Jose Elias, Brandon Mitchell and Cayden Manuel.



Special to the Okeechobee News/ESE

Everglades Students of the Week

Everglades Elementary students achieving excellence in the classroom for the week of Feb. 25 - March 1 include: kindergarten students, Thomas Byars, Annisette Villalobos, Mason Broadrick, Kaden Watson, Jaylyn Rickard; first grade students, Jakob Henderson, Leon Longoria, Alicia Johnson, Sinthia Rivera, Alejandra Salazar-Rendon, Alissia Rodriguez; second grade students, Karissa Cowles, Zarina Judilla, Kameron Carter; third grade students, Jacklin Hernandez, Jacob Brooks, Colton Courson, Breannah Garcia, Isaac Cardoso; fourth grade students; Lila Pendarvis, Ronald King, Maddox Quinlin, Jolene Sutton; fifth grade students, Marissa Forde, Cheyenne Stadler, Ernesto Delira, Lionor Peña and Tydarius Cochran.

March 5-11 is National Sleep Awareness Week

Special to the Okeechobee News

March 5-11 is National Sleep Awareness Week. Approximately 40 million Americans suffer from a sleep disorder. Raulerson Hospital's Sleep Lab is dedicated to diagnosing and treating sleep-related disorders, all of which directly affect an individual's daily lifestyle. Raulerson Hospital's Sleep Lab offers patients the latest technology in diagnostic equipment, techniques to monitor and evaluate sleep disorder; and a warm, comfortable environment similar to your personal amenities at home.

In the security of a monitored bedroom, a formally trained Registered Respiratory Therapist observes patients throughout the night using the latest infrared video equipment and an advanced computerized monitoring system. These devices are used to track breathing patterns, brainwaves and the heartbeat of the sleeping patient. Additionally a sensitive intercom is used to trace sounds such as snoring. Some of the most common sleep disorders which can easily be diagnosed at the Raulerson Hospital Sleep Lab include the following:

- Sleep Apnea
- Narcolepsy
- Insomnia
- Nocturnal Myoclonus

Don't let sleep disorders keep you or your family awake. Sleep disorders are usually easily treated. Raulerson Hospital's Sleep Lab can develop an individual treatment designed specifically for you. For more information, contact Raulerson Hospital at 863-763-2151 or visit RaulersonHospital.com.

Red Cross offers WSI Class

Water Safety Instructor (WSI) Class will be held at Okeechobee Sports Complex Pool in April. Cost is \$100 person.

WSI trains instructors through the American Red Cross to teach swimming to others through the Learn to Swim Program.

Applicants must be 17 years old and have the ability to swim different strokes: Front Crawl (free style), Back Stroke, Breast Stroke, Butterfly, Elementary Back Stroke, and Side Stroke. For more information, call Shellie at the Sports Complex 863-467-7667, and leave your name and number. Classes will be April 11 and 12 from 5:30 to 10 p.m. and April 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Classroom training will be at the American Red Cross, 323 N Parrott Ave. There will also be training at the Sports Complex swimming pool.

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Special to the Okeechobee News

Blue Cypress RV Park donates to Hospice

Blue Cypress RV Park held a golf tournament on Feb. 19, to raise money for charity and presented the donation to Hospice of Okeechobee on Feb. 27. Accepting the donation of \$865 from Susie Rulong, event coordinator, and Bruce Alliger, VP of the Blue Cypress Homeowners Association, is Frank Irby board president of Hospice of Okeechobee. In her flyer to the members of the park, Ms. Rulong said, "I feel it is important to give back to the charities that help us and almost everyone has experienced the kindness and helpfulness of hospice."

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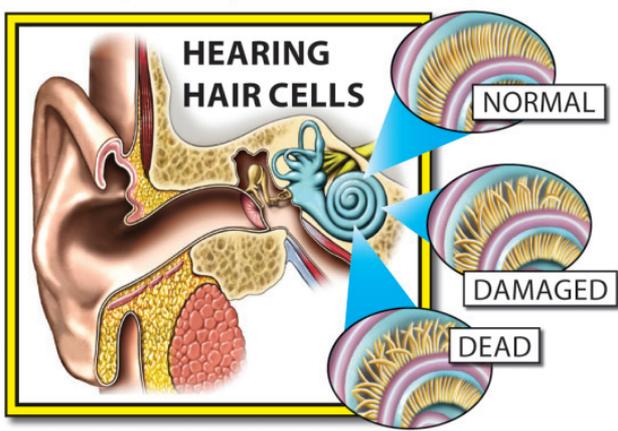
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WHY DO I HEAR... BUT NOT UNDERSTAND?

Study by Cambridge University in England Reveals Key Answer

Until recently, there was no practical way to identify dead regions of hearing cells in the ear. However, a new British-developed procedure using standard test equipment now allows for identification of dead hearing cell regions. The study suggests that the presence or absence of dead regions may have serious implications in the fitting of hearing aids.



This research reveals that amplifying dead cells is a mistake, which will result in poorer speech understanding in noise. A new type of digitally programmable microcircuit is now being released from Audibel—the world leader in nanoScience technology—that can be programmed to bypass the dead cells. As a result, the patient's usable hearing cells receive amplification, thereby improving speech understanding in noise.

"We are able to achieve maximum speech understanding by frequency-shaping this new hearing aid," said Bill Smith, Hearing Aid Specialist. "The results have been phenomenal!"

These new products come in all shell sizes, including the smallest digital models. During its release, the Hearing Aid Specialists at Audibel Hearing Care Centers are offering this new frequency-shaping hearing instrument on a 30-day satisfaction trial. "Your satisfaction is absolutely guaranteed," said Smith.

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DIKE

Continued From Page 1

the guiding document for projects we execute in the future.”

At the meeting on Thursday at the Okeechobee County Health Department, Mr. Willadsen explained that they originally planned to work on the dike by dividing the repairs into projects for the eight “reaches.” The first reach, which goes from Port Mayaca to Belle Glade was considered to have the highest risk of failure. The dike repair project started in that area, with a cutoff wall to prevent water seeping through the dike from eroding the earthen berm. Most of the work on that project has already been completed with some finishing work expected to be completed this year.

Mr. Willadsen explained that the dike, which was started in the 1930s and completed in the 1960s was built with the materials that were available at the time—gravel, rock, limestone, sand and shell. He said the dike does not meet modern construction standards. In some areas they don’t even know the exact geological makeup of the materials used.

He explained that high lake levels build up pressure against the earthen berm, and causes water to seep into the dike. The danger to the dike occurs when this seepage turns into piping as water moving through the dike washes away part of the material that makes up the dike. If enough material washes away, this can lead to catastrophic embankment failure.

Since 2007, the Corps has spent more than \$300 million on projects designed to reduce the risk of catastrophic failure of the aging structure.

In 2011, the Corps changed the approach to the dike work. Rather than use a reach by reach approach, the Corps decided to look at it as one large system and prioritize the projects that would do the most good, “getting the most bang for the buck,” he ex-

plained.

The next project on the priority list was replacement or removal of culverts. Many of these old water control structures were built in the 1930s. From a structural integrity perspective, culverts pose a risk of failure due to the loss of embankment material into and along the culverts. As part of the federal culvert replacement program, the Corps will replace or remove 32 culverts within the HHD system. Culvert 14, north of Canal Point, was removed in 2011.

Replacement work began in 2012 at Culverts 11 and 16 south of Port Mayaca, at Culverts 1 and 1A east of Moore Haven, and at Culverts 3 and 4A near South Bay. Additional contracts for the replacement of other structures are expected to be awarded by the fall. The Corps anticipates removing or replacing all the culverts with construction continuing through 2018.

Mr. Willadsen said they have not determined what work will be done on the north side of the lake because they have not completed studies to find out exactly what materials were used to build that portion.

Don Fox, biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, said they will have to work around the nesting season for the endangered Snail Kites that have been nesting in the area around Lock 7.

History of the HHD

The first embankments around Lake Okeechobee were constructed by local interest from sand and muck, circa 1915. Hurricane tides overtopped the original embankments in 1926 and 1928, resulting in over 2,500 deaths.

The River and Harbor Act of 1930 authorized the construction of 67.8 miles of levee along the south shore of the lake and 15.7 miles along the north shore. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed the levees between 1932 and 1938.

A major hurricane in 1947 prompted the need for additional flood and storm damage reduction work. As a result, Congress passed the Flood Control Act of 1948 authorizing the

first phase of the Central and South Florida (C&SF) Project, a comprehensive plan to provide flood and storm damage reduction and other water control benefits in central & south Florida. The new dike system was completed in the late 1960s and named the Herbert Hoover Dike.

The dike system consists of 143 miles of levee with 19 culverts, hurricane gates and other water control structures.

The Corps will accept public comments on the study through March 18. Comments may be emailed to HHDEnvironment@usace.army.mil, or mailed to Angela Dunn, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Planning Division, Environmental Branch, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, Fla. 32232-0019.

For more information on the study online, go to www.saj.usace.mil.



Special to the Okeechobee News/ACE Crews install cutoff wall into Herbert Hoover Dike near Canal Point.

OKEE-TANTIE

Continued From Page 1

discussed by the commissioners.

The proposal came in the form of a letter dated Feb. 20 addressed to Mrs. Chartier and signed by Davidson Barlett.

Mr. Barlett, along with the husband and wife team of Andre and Odette Perreault make up Okee-Tantie Partners. Mr. Barlett has been in the RV resort and campground brokerage business in Florida since 1998 and until recently worked for Keyes Commercial Realty in Miami. He claims that he and his former associate have been involved in the sale of several RV parks in south Florida. He was the general manger of a partnership that bought the Clewiston Holiday Trav-I Park in 2004 and converted it to a KOA Campground. By 2007 the revenue of this property had doubled. The Perreaults are successful apartment owners/mangers, marriage counselors and hotel entrepreneurs in Montreal and are looking for a business opportunity that would allow them to spend winters in Florida. They already own an apartment building in Daytona Beach.

The Perreaults intend to market Okee-Tantie to Canadian winter visitors while Mr. Barlett intends to promote events targeted toward south Florida residents.

Mr. Henderson’s proposal involved selling RV lots. Evidently Okee-Tantie Partners does not intend to sell the lots. Their income would derive, in part, from the rental of camping and tent sites, and cabin, cottage and lodge rentals. There is no mention in the proposal of sales of lots. The county would receive 10 percent of rental incomes plus applicable taxes.

One of the sticking points in Mr. Henderson’s proposal was that part of the property comprising Okee-Tantie is controlled by the state and the state would require a percentage of the income from that area. Okee-Tantie Partners would solve this problem by entering a management agreement in five-year increments for the state controlled property. Okee-Tantie Partners would lease the remainder of the property from the county for 50 years.

Okee-Tantie Partners’ proposal includes leaving the basic layout of the property intact, building a centrally located recreation hall, a swimming pool and additional playground fixtures and other family-oriented fixtures

using the master plan as a guide. They plan to invest a minimum of \$500,000 in cabins, lodges, new common recreational facilities, RV and boat storage area, upgraded electrical service and other physical improvements to the sites, and water and sewer upgrades as needed.

They would like to open the section of the park near the marina by the fall of this year.

Okee-Tantie Partners claim that this lease/management arrangement would allow the county to exercise a measure of oversight and accountability over the property and yet allow the advantages of private management and marketing.

The partners would not allow any privately owned RV to remain over six months and would not permit any privately owned park models.

The letter ends with a request to discuss the plan in greater detail and determine the next step in the process. So the ball is in the county’s court. It remains to be seen how this proposal will be received.

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

A ‘watchdog’ with manners?



A legitimate role for the press is that of “the public’s watchdog.” Most citizens can’t spend the time necessary to personally observe their public officials at work, or to determine how well public institutions are carrying out their public mission.

But too many newspapers these days act more like “mad dogs” than “watchdogs.”

We’re proud to be different. We try to carry out our “watchdog” role as humble representatives of the public, always maintaining a courteous tone and our reputation for purposeful neutrality.

How are we doing?

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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Community Service Through Journalism

Okeechobee Arrest Report

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

- Julie Francis White, 29, S.E. Commerce Ave., Stuart, was arrested Feb. 28 by Deputy Bryan Cross on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with the felony of grand theft-auto. Her bond on that charge was set at \$5,000. She was also arrested on another Okeechobee County warrant charging her with failure to appear - possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. She is being held without bond on that charge.

- Jesus Musical, 25, N.W. 16th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 28 by Deputy Fred Bradley on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the misdemeanors of violation of probation - driving under the influence, violation of probation - resisting a law enforcement officer without vio-

lence and violation of probation - no valid driver's license. He is being held without bond.

- David Lee Thomas Jr., 21, N.W. 12th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 28 by Deputy Nathaniel Mitchell on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - possession of marijuana with intent to sell. He is being held without bond.

- Jesus DeLapaz, 19, S.W. 21st St., Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 28 by Deputy Nathaniel Mitchell on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felonies of violation of probation - sale of another drug within 1,000 feet of a school (10 counts) and violation of probation - possession of a controlled substance without a prescription (two counts). He is being held without bond.

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.

OCSO Investigations

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office investigated the following reports of crimes last week.

ASSAULT

- 5300 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
- 1000 block of N.E. 16th Ave.
- 7400 block of S.R. 70 E.
- 3700 block of S.E. Eighth St.

BURGLARY

- 2300 block of S.E. 38th Trail
- 2400 block of S.E. 38th Trail
- 3600 block of S.E. 21st Ave.
- 5900 block of S.E. 95th Trail
- 2500 block of S.E. 38th Trail
- 2200 block of N.W. 42nd Ave.
- 2400 block of S.E. 38th Trail
- 2200 block of N.W. 42nd Ave.
- 400 block of S.W. 72nd Terrace
- 9800 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
- 18900 block of N.W. 258th St.
- 28400 block of N.E. 55th Ave.
- 2200 block of S.W. 28th St.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

- 1300 block of N.E. 13th Ave.
- 2700 block of U.S. 441 S.
- 1600 block of S.R. 70 W.
- 3900 block of N.W. First St.

- 1600 block of N.W. Seventh St.
- 2200 block of N.W. Sixth St.

FRAUD

- 8600 block of S.W. Ninth St.
- 2700 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
- 1800 block of N.W. Ninth St.
- 400 block of N.W. Third St.
- 2500 block of N.W. Eighth St.

THEFT

- 9400 block of N.E. 48th St.
- 2600 block of S.E. 31st St.
- 7900 block of S.R. 78 W.
- 3000 block of U.S. 98 N.
- 4200 block of S.R. 70 E.
- 1800 block of N.W. Fourth St.
- 3100 block of N.W. Third St.
- 28100 block of S. Warfield Blvd.
- 2100 block of S.E. 27th St.
- 4200 block of S.R. 70 E.
- 2200 block of U.S. 98 N.
- 3100 block of N.W. Third St.
- 28100 block of S. Warfield Blvd.
- 5100 block of S.W. 16th Ave. (identity)
- 3600 block of U.S. 441 S.
- 3200 block of U.S. 441 N.
- 500 block of S.E. 36th Terrace
- 900 block of N.E. 12th Ave.
- 500 block of N.W. Fourth St.

Rep. Pigman files 'Born Alive' law

SEBRING—State Representative Cary Pigman (R- Avon Park) filed HB 1129 on Friday to create Florida's Born Alive Law.

Florida's Born Alive Law would establish that any infant born alive during or immediately subsequent to an attempted abortion is entitled to the same rights, powers, and privileges as any other child born alive in the course of natural birth.

It also provides for the reporting of violations of this law to the Florida Department of Health to ensure the safety of these infants.

"Society is measured by how it treats its weakest members and this legislation aims at protecting the most fragile and innocent of our citizens," said Representative Pigman. "As a doctor, I understand the importance of protecting the sanctity of life and this bill makes it clear that Florida is serious about protecting our most helpless infants. This bill sets clear guidelines for doctors to care for these infants as soon as they are born and provide them with all of the protections that every citizen deserves."

Sexual Predator Notification

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office is disclosing this information to the public in order to enhance public safety, awareness, and protection.

This information is not intended to increase fear; rather it is this agency's belief that an informed public is a safer public. This bulletin should be used only for information purposes. Citizen abuse of the information to threaten, intimidate, or harass offenders will not be tolerated, in any manner.

The individual who appears in this bulletin has served the sentence imposed on them by the courts. They are NOT wanted by the police at this time. Sex offenders have always lived in the communities. The only change is the public is now better informed.



Anthony Thompkins

Anthony Thompkins, 49, is 5'8" tall has black hair and brown eyes. His current address is 4101 Hwy. 441 South, the Flamingo Hotel, Room #126. Thompkins was convicted of five counts - Lewd & Lascivious, child under 16 and kidnapping on March 31, 1997, in Brevard County, Fla. The victim was a minor.

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, contact Michele or Connie at the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office at 863-763-3117, extension 240 or website <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us>.

G.O.

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OHS flag football team is ready for new season

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee flag football has improved each year and the team is expected to compete for a District Title in a newly-formed Treasure Coast District this year.

The team has a number of four-year players on the roster and has so much interest in the ninth and tenth grades that they had to create two junior varsity teams this year to accommodate the athletes. They also had to cut 15 players.

Coach Bruce Jahner said the coaches are really excited this year. The team returns nine seniors and all of them have grown and matured and improved over the past four years. He said the goal is a district championship.

One big hurdle will be replacement of four starters at wide receiver. Paige McCrary and Maranda Serrano graduated and Carley McCoin and Darby Jones are out with leg injuries. Only Maci Thomas returns from the wide receiver corps from previous seasons.

"We have some younger players we hope will fill in and get us back on track," Jahner explained.

Kyla Hargraves also returns at quarterback. She has thrown for over 1,000 yards in the past two years and improves her accuracy and arm strength each season.

"I think she is more comfortable in the pocket and not afraid to move. She has matured and I really hope for a good season for her," he added.

Kyla is senior class secretary and secretary of the national honor society at OHS. She intends to study to become a nurse. She said she understands the game but still is learning because there are always new challenges. She praised the coaches like Robert Coleman and Jimmy Mills for doing excellent jobs when they prepare game plans.

"We have the potential to win districts. I hope we keep up the winning from last year and give it all we've got and do our best," she added.

She said the team has improved each year because they work hard and they enjoy the game and being together.

Thomas said she expects to catch a lot of balls this year and has high hopes for team success. She said she is impressed with the younger players and predicts they will make an impact. She also enjoys spending time with her friends and likes to be active in sports. She intends to study to become a dental hygienist.

She said the key to being a good flag football player is to be confident and not afraid, "You have to be confident. You can't go into a group of defenders and be scared. You have to catch the ball and play physically."

Thomas said the team has a lot of depth

and each player has to work hard to keep their starting job.

The strength of the team might be their defense led by Aubrey Robertson, Destiny Nunez and Sha'Dajia Williams.

Robertson said her goal is to increase her interceptions on defense. She had eight picks last year. She intends to enroll at Tallahassee Community College and study sports broadcasting. Her career goal is to be a sideline reporter for major sports networks.

"My senior year is a bittersweet feeling. I'm a four-year player and each year we've gotten a little better. We hope to win districts and move on this year," she explained.

She thanked all of the team's supporters and fans and hoped for good crowds at the home games this year.

Nunez will also play a big role on the defensive unit. She said the team has good

chemistry and that the girls have stuck together for four years because they love the game.

"It definitely requires athleticism but I have a lot of fun playing it. Our freshman year was really rough but we've stepped up our games and I predict it will be a good season," she added. Nunez intends to enroll at the University of Central Florida and study forensic science.

The Treasure Coast District is not as imposing as the old Palm Beach County district. Instead of state champion Seminole Ridge, Okeechobee will face teams like Martin County, Fort Pierce and Treasure Coast. Some district opponents are in their first year of flag football. Okeechobee's first home game is Thursday, March 14, against South Fork. Three games will be played with action to begin at 5 p.m.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

(L-R) Destiny Nunez, Maci Thomas, Aubrey Robertson and Kyla Hargraves are key players for the OHS flag football team this year.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Kyla Hargraves hopes to continue her improvement as the starting quarterback for the flag football team this year and lead OHS to their first district title.

THEFTS

Continued From Page 1

in which the suspects bought at least \$5,000 worth of items. In this case, however, that dollar amount may actually turn out to be more.

These transactions apparently took place in December of 2012, and January and February of this year.

However, the transactions stopped when the local businesses started asking for identification.

The suspect(s), added the OCSO investigator, are buying items in bulk. And, in at least one occasion, the business had to special order the item requested by the customer because the store didn't carry that item.

Also, continued Detective Morrison, on

at least one occasion when an employee at the business swiped the credit card nothing happened. So, the employee then typed in the card numbers and the transaction was then authorized.

"That's a no-no," said the detective. "If a card doesn't work when it's swiped, I would be cautious in completing the transaction."

She added that caution should be also used when dealing with a customer who is unfamiliar to you—especially, when they are buying a large amount of something.

To date, said Detective Morrison, these are the only two local businesses that have reported being ripped off. But there may be more, she added.

If you or your business have run into this situation and have had large amounts of money charged back, you are asked to contact Detective Susan Morrison at 863-763-3117.

OHS boys tennis team beats Lake Placid, 6-1

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee boys tennis defeated Lake Placid 6-1 while the Lady Brahms fell to the Green Dragons 6-1 in a tennis match played Thursday at the Okeechobee Sports Complex.

Okeechobee sat two senior boys to give some of the younger players a chance to compete and they performed well. Otto Ramirez continued to roll in number one singles with a 6-0 and 6-2 win over Royce Adela. Lucas Penido battled with Syed Abbas on many long rallies before he prevailed 6-2 and 7-5. Colt Root kept up the pressure as he dominated Mike Norwood, 6-0 and 6-2. Dylan Ferneau got a chance at #4 singles with a 6-1 and 7-5 win over Tyler Kelsen. Brandon Ball moved in at #5 singles and defeated Will Hernandez 6-2 and 6-2.

In the doubles matches Brendon Jonas-saint and Cody Walker defeated the team of Adela and Abbas 8-3 to remain undefeated on the season. Norwood and Kelsen defeated Brahms Kirby Dobbs and Saif Ali Mem, 8-4.

Coach Morgan Ungerott said the match was a good one for the team. She played nine guys because all have worked hard at practice and deserved an opportunity. She said Ramirez played a solid match while Pinedo continues to work on different parts of his game in singles. She praised Root for a strong serve and the newcomers Ferneau and Ball for solid play.

"It's nice to have a team where the guys root for each other on and off the court. This is one of the most unselfish teams I've ever been around. It's truly a breath of fresh air," she explained.

Ramirez said he felt the team is really

good this year but that he has a lot of work to do and practice ahead. He said he enjoys tennis when he plays guys that are on his level.

"You can't be over confident against any play and you must always play your best," he added.

Ramirez is a former USTA player who was ranked in the 32 in the state when he was 10 years old.

He predicted the team has a chance to make regional this year.

Root said he felt a little more pressure in this match as he played #3 singles. He has played tennis for five years and gets lessons from former Brahman Coach and instructor Dave Ellis. He continues to work on the weaker parts of his game like his backhand and plays some weekend and off-season tournament.

"I have worked real hard to make myself better this year. I have focused on what I need to do this year. Maturity is a big thing for me right now," he explained.

Root said he felt he can compete with the other #5 singles players in the district this year.

The Lady Brahms played without two of their top players as they fell to the Green Dragons. Jenna Rath battled Hannah Waller in a tough match in #1 singles 7-6 and 6-4. Brahman Kearstin Dorrance overcame Stephanie Rodriguez 6-4 and 7-6. Alley Lopez played a tough first set before she fell to Claire LeBlanc, 6-4 and 6-0. Elizabeth Santillices also played a competitive first set before she lost to Jenna Blount, 7-6 and 6-1. Kayla Orr was swept by Rachel Shattler in #5 singles, 6-0 and 6-0.

The doubles team of Rath and Dorrance lost 8-4 to the team of Waller and Rodriguez.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Otto Ramirez returns a volley from Royce Adela in his singles victory Thursday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Alley Lopez played well in the first set in a loss to Claire LeBlanc of Lake Placid on Thursday.



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Brahmans fall to 0-6 with diamond loss to Titans

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Treasure Coast pounded out 10 hits and broke open the game with a three-run fifth inning rally to defeat Okeechobee 6-1 in boys high school baseball action Thursday night at OHS.

Matt Lewis, Rich Furline and Willie Micco all had two hits for the Titans (1-3). Daniel Martinez added a key double for Treasure Coast.

Alex Estremera had two hits for the Brahmans, who fell to 0-6 on the season. Tyler Barber delivered a sacrifice fly to account for Okeechobee's run. Dalton Murray, had a double and run, and scored for OHS.

Okeechobee had a chance to get in the game when they loaded the bases in the sixth inning on singles by Estremera, Barber and Christian Crews and Kutter Crawford hit

a shot into the gap in right center field. The Titans ran down the ball to halt the comeback attempt.

Jack Radebaugh started and pitched well for the Brahmans as he held Treasure Coast to single runs in the third and fourth innings. Jeff Almeida kept the Brahman hitters off balance with five solid innings on the mound for the Titans.

Brahman coach Jeff Blackstone said the guys are working and trying to get better. He said the focus is on improvement on offense, better swings, and a better offensive approach.

"We have a long way to go but we must take some pressure off our pitching and defense," he suggested.

While the team has played better defense and pitched better, the team hasn't done much on offense. Blackstone said the team appears to be pressing and tentative

at the plate. He said there are good hitters on the team and if they can string a few hits together, everyone will relax and the team will score runs.

"I think if we loosen up a bit at the plate and get some hits we can make something happen," he added.

Blackstone also praised Radebaugh who kept the team in the game until the fifth inning. He also said the team needs a few breaks like on the ball Crawford hit that could have easily been a bases-clearing double.

"He hit the ball right on the nose and if it's two to three feet higher it goes to the fence and we have a totally different ball game," he added.

Okeechobee will visit South Fork on Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Public Notices

Public Notice

Public Notices

Public Notice

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT WILL HOLD A MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2013 AT 9:00 A.M. AT 17429 NW 242ND STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972 (FIELD OFFICE). A COPY OF THE PROPOSED AGENDA MAY BE OBTAINED UPON REQUEST FROM THE UNDERSIGNED. IF ANY PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING; THAT PERSON WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND FOR SUCH PURPOSES THAT PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, WHICH INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED, IS MADE. ANY PERSON WISHING TO SPEAK AT THE MEETING MUST HAVE THEIR NAME AND TOPIC PLACED ON THE AGENDA ONE WEEK BEFORE THE DATE OF THE MEETING. ALL PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN THE DISTRICT ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, PERSONS NEEDING A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION OR AN INTERPRETER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCEEDINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE DISTRICT'S OFFICE BY CALLING (863)-763-4601 AT LEAST TWO (2) DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE MEETING.
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CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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437712 ON 3/3/2013

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs
ACTION: Notice of Availability

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Eastern Regional Office has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed federal approvals of the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and Native Area (NA) Burn Plans on the Brighton Reservation. The proposed project would be the prescribed burning of 77 units (17,709 acres) in the WUI and 96 units (17,842 acres) in the NA. The units are based on existing fence lines and ditches. It is proposed that the Tribe, with BIA approval, could burn up to 12,000 acres per year (6,000 acres in each unit) on a rotating schedule over four years within these 173 units.

The BIA has reviewed and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA), dated February 2013 and titled Brighton Prescribed Burn Plan, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department (ERMD) to determine the environmental impacts associated with the project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

NOTICE: This is a Notice of Availability, that the EA and FONSI for the project are available for public review. The FONSI determination was based on review and analysis of the information in the EA. You may obtain a copy of the EA and FONSI from the BIA Eastern Regional Office or the Environmental Resources Management Department of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, 6365 Taft Street, Suite 3008, Hollywood, FL 33024, telephone (954) 965-4380.

This FONSI is a finding on environmental effects, not a decision to proceed with an action, therefore cannot be appealed. 25 C.F.R. Part 2.7 requires a 30 day appeal period after the decision to proceed with the action is made before the action may be implemented. Appeal information will be made publicly available when the decision to proceed is made.

For further information please contact Chet McGhee, Regional Environmental Scientist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern Regional Office, 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37214, telephone (615) 564-6830.

Scott C. Meneely
Director, Eastern Region
Bureau of Indian Affairs
437526 ON 3/5/2013
Date: 2-21-2013

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

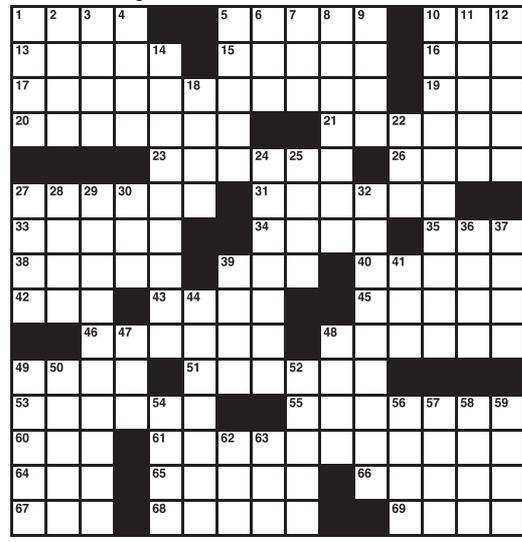
- ACROSS**
- 1 Highlands miss
 - 5 Soup and a sandwich, sometimes
 - 10 "The dog ate my homework," e.g.
 - 13 Issues
 - 15 Opener
 - 16 Hosp. area
 - 17 *Aid for loose-leaf filing
 - 19 '90s collegian, probably
 - 20 Chemistry subject
 - 21 Actor Matthau
 - 23 Certain two-seater
 - 26 Quite
 - 27 Goal
 - 31 Go by
 - 33 Refuse
 - 34 Done, in Dordogne
 - 35 Piece of work
 - 38 Former Fiesta Bowl site
 - 39 Geese flight formation
 - 40 Unrefined
 - 42 Hosp. areas
 - 43 Highlands family
 - 45 Popular Japanese beer
 - 46 American realist who painted "The Gross Clinic" (1875)
 - 48 Was overly sweet
 - 49 Bridge call
 - 51 Sprout incisors
 - 53 Apartment dweller, often
 - 55 Commits piracy, in a way
 - 60 Former press secretary
 - 61 Trouble at the starts of the answers to starred clues
 - 64 ___ Pepe: sherry brand
 - 65 Consumer
 - 66 He's got the life
 - 67 Egg producer
 - 68 Serengeti grazer
 - 69 Like variable work time
- DOWN**
- 1 Mormon prophet, or the Utah city named for him
 - 2 Israeli writer Oz
 - 3 Missile housing
 - 4 "Let it stand"
 - 5 Summer suit material
 - 6 Auntie's mate
 - 7 Utmost degree
 - 8 Sailor
 - 9 Dance involving a chair, perhaps
 - 10 "Pay for a verdict"
 - 11 Frozen sodas
 - 12 Sancho Panza's mount
 - 14 "Random sample"
 - 18 ___ the crack of dawn
 - 22 Spanish article
 - 24 Moat purpose
 - 25 Writer Wiesel
 - 27 "Beetle Bailey" dog
 - 28 Uncle Remus title
 - 29 "Improvisational" gig
 - 30 Psychic power
 - 32 "Dell container"
 - 36 "Garfield" dog

- 37 Road turn
- 39 Roof spinner
- 41 Brazil's capital until 1960
- 44 Word-for-word
- 47 Biblical mount
- 48 A la mode
- 49 "The Bell Jar" author
- 50 Eagle's home
- 52 Wade Boggs's base
- 54 Fencing blade
- 56 "I ___ you are": "Ready?" answer
- 57 An amoeba has one
- 58 Patella's place
- 59 Charon's river
- 62 Part of a pilot's announcement, briefly
- 63 TV room

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

S	A	G	I	M	P	E	I	S	C	I	O	N		
U	S	A	M	A	I	D	S	P	A	R	R	Y		
S	H	I	P	P	I	N	G	S	E	R	V	I	C	E
H	E	N	I	E	S	A	U	D	I	S	A	T		
I	N	S	E	A	M	R	E	S	T	S				
				C	O	T		Z	E	L	I	G		
G	R	A	P	H	P	A	P	E	R	R	O	M	E	
O	O	N	A		U	R	A	N	O		I	R	A	N
R	A	T	S		P	O	S	T	O	F	F	I	C	E
P	R	I	S	M		S	K	I						
				E	A	T	I	T	S	T	P	E	T	E
A	A	H		N	O	N	O	S		N	I	X	O	N
B	R	O	A	D	W	A	Y	T	H	E	A	T	E	R
A	L	A	R	M		L	O	U	I	S		R	I	O
B	O	X	E	S		L	U	B	E	S		A	N	N

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OHS rallies for 5-4 softball win over Suncoast

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Jordan Lawlis' single brought home Carissa Licata with the winning run as Okeechobee



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Jordan Lawlis blanked Suncoast after the second inning as OHS rallied to defeat the Chargers Thursday.

bee rallied from a 4-0 deficit to defeat Suncoast 5-4 in high school girls softball action Thursday night at OHS.

Suncoast had pounded out eight hits and scored four times in the first two innings of the game and appeared poised to defeat Okeechobee.

Okeechobee though had other ideas as they loaded the bases in the sixth inning and watched as Jaryaca Baker delivered a two-run single and Sarah Davis added a two-run double to tie the game.

Brahman coach Heather Gillis said the team has been late blooming all season but also has the confidence to know they can come back in games.

"It's all about confidence and all mental with them. They didn't guess at the plate and had a better plan. They have the physical ability to do it," she explained.

Gillis said the team didn't get down early in the game and also in the sixth when Davis was thrown out at the plate. She said the senior took it in stride and didn't get discouraged and that rubbed off on her teammates.

"She reacted positively as a leader and didn't deflate and the girls realized they weren't done yet," she added.

Once Licata reached base on a walk in the seventh, Gillis knew her team was in pretty good shape because Licata's speed is hard to defend.

"It takes a very talented team to control her. She puts pressure on defenses and forces them to make good catches, good throws

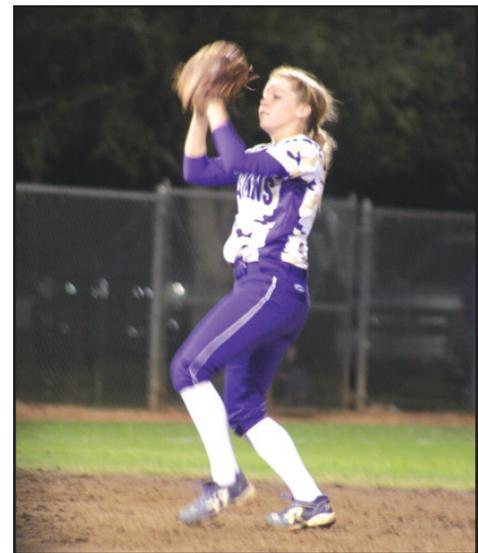
and good tags and that is hard to do when you're nervous at the end of the game," she added.

Licata said she loves to steal bases and has the green light almost all the time. She said on the game winning hit she knew she would score and that the team wanted to finish the game right there. She also said the team never gets too discouraged regardless of the score.

"You can't get down or you'll never come back and win like we did. I wanted to help my teammates as much as I could and get on base," she added.

Licata is also a part of a strong defensive unit that rarely makes errors or miscues. Shortstop Stormy Stokes is another key player on defense. Stokes admits she does everything she can to help her team and isn't afraid to dive for a ball. She said the team stayed positive despite the 4-0 deficit.

"We just work together and pick each other up. We know we have to get it done. The rally was exciting and really intense. We are really pumped right now," she explained.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Stormy Stokes continued to shine on defense with several strong putouts against Suncoast on Thursday. OHS improved to 5-3 on the season.

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1. Curbside Bin Recycling

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2. Drop Off Centers

Waste Management provides two recycling drop-off locations. The same materials are accepted at the Drop-Off Centers as curbside routes.

Okeechobee County Vehicle Maintenance Facility

306 N.W. 9th Avenue Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. - Noon and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Waste Management Viking Convenience Center

24031 N.W. 192nd Avenue (Corner of Peavine & Eagle Island Road)
Monday through Friday 6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The following county neighborhoods are serviced as well as the City of Okeechobee: Quail Acres, R-Bar Estates, Rookerville, Oak Park, Eagle Bay Drive, Echo Estates, Seminole Cove, Ousley Estates, Palm Village Ranch, Taylor Creek Isles, Treasure Island, Kings Bay, Pioneer Estates, Larkee Lakes, Okeechobee Hammock, Pine Ridge Park, Okeechobee Park, Palm Creek

Recycling for Residents

DOs

Paper Newspapers, magazines, bulk mail.

Cardboard Please flatten and place large cardboard boxes between your bins.

Aluminum • Metal Cans
Soda cans, soup and coffee cans.

Plastics (# 1 - # 7) PET water and soda bottles, HDPE natural and colored bottles and jugs, and other plastics. Check bottom of container for number.

DON'Ts

Mirrors • Windows • Window Glass
Household items • Glass Cookware
Bakeware • Toasters • Microwave Trays
Light Bulbs • Ceramic • Porcelain
Styrofoam • PVC • Coat Hangers
Electric Cords • Garden Hoses
Christmas Lights • Plastic that is not numbered • * Plastic Bags

*Please bring plastic bags back to local stores that accept them for recycling and use re-usable shopping totes when shopping.



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