

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 104 No. 33

Sunday, March 17, 2013

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Happy St. Patrick's DAY! March 17th

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OHS gets flag football win ... Page 19

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OCSO trains for 'active' school shooter

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

It was a quiet Friday afternoon and many teachers were seated comfortably in the library at Osceola Middle School to listen to Captain Gary Bell talk when, out of nowhere, a lone gunman burst into the room and fired off several shots—hitting deputies as they stood by the speaker's podium.

The gunman—18-year-old Casey Hurst—then checked on his father, Deputy Matt Hurst, who was one of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) deputies shot.

"That's to show you how quickly something can happen," Capt. Bell told the stunned teachers.

Capt. Bell and his Special Response Team (SRT) were at the school during a teacher's

workday to show them how they would handle an active shooter situation at the school. The OCSO captain and Deputy Hurst also explained to the teachers what they should do when an armed suspect is on school grounds.

"Classrooms have concealment, but they don't always have cover," offered Capt. Bell, adding that a desk may conceal them but, de-

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Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp
A deputy with the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team keeps watch on the hallway as other team members search a classroom during an 'active shooter' scenario held Friday, March 15, at Osceola Middle School.

Irish priest heads into retirement

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

For Father Hugh Duffy it has been a long road from County Donegal, Ireland, where he was born in 1941 to Okeechobee, where he will soon retire after 29 years as pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.



Father Duffy grew up in Ireland where he served as an altar boy. He attended seminary in Dublin as well as the University of Dublin. He also studied in Poitiers, France, and earned a Masters Degree in Education. He eventually received a PhD from the University of Hull in England.

"When I was growing up, it appeared to me as the most worthy thing to do with my life," was his response when asked why he became a priest.

Upon completing his education Father Duffy spent the years from 1970 to 1975 teaching in Ireland. During his vacations from teaching he was involved in an organization called Christian Community Action that used volunteers to do such things as

Father Hugh Duffy

Petition seeks go-ahead to exhume bodies at boys school

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

MARIANNA—For the first time in years Bryant Middleton, and many other men like him, have a real reason to believe the truth about the Dozier School for Boys in Marianna will be unearthed and that the state will no longer be

able to turn its back on them.

The source of that hope came when Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi filed a petition this week asking the circuit court of the 14th district in Jackson County to grant Medical Examiner Dr. Michael Hunter permission to start

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Special to the Okeechobee News/Bobbi Poole

2013 Calf Scramble Winner

Waste Management sponsors calf scramble by giving t-shirts that read, "2013 Calf Scramble Winner" to first, second and third place winners of the contest. Calf scramble event is where kids enter the arena and chase the calves to get the ribbon tied to their tail.

Mutton Bustin' is a rodeo treat

(at right) Saturday's Mutton Bustin' winner at the Okeechobee Cattlemen's Rodeo was AJ D'Ariano.



(upper right) Saddle bronc rider James Greeson of Okeechobee was among those competing in the Okeechobee Cattlemen's Rodeo over the weekend.



(lower right) Tess D'Arinao won a new set of spurs for the longest mutton bustin' ride at the Okeechobee Cattlemen's Rodeo.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Bobbie Poole

Okeechobee Forecast

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Today: Partly cloudy. Fog early. High of 79F. Winds from the SE at 5 to 15 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Fog overnight. Low of 59F. Winds from the SE at 5 to 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Partly cloudy. Fog early. High of 82F. Winds from the SSE at 5 to 15 mph.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy. Fog overnight. Low of 63F. Winds from the SSE at 5 to 10 mph.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy with a chance of a thunderstorm and rain in the afternoon. Fog early. High of 88F. Winds from the SW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 30%.

Tuesday Night: Clear with a chance of a thunderstorm. Fog overnight. Low of 59F. Winds from the North at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 30%.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy. High of 81F. Winds from the ENE at 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday Night: Clear. Fog overnight. Low of 59F. Winds from the ESE at 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday: Partly cloudy with a chance of a thunderstorm. High of 84F. Winds from the South at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 30%.

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Commissioners have interest in Okee-Tantie

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The problem of what to do with Okee-Tantie Campground and Marina is still very much on the minds of the commissioners and was discussed again at a recent commission meeting.

Many times, when seeking to accomplish a specific purpose, county governments issue what is known as a Request for Proposal (RFP). It gives a broad outline of the scope of services the county is requesting. It lists bonding and insurance requirements to protect the county and the financial remuneration the county expects.

Developers will also make detailed proposals of what they are willing to offer.

Often times there is a deadline for submitting such proposals. After that deadline, the county evaluates the various proposals against the county's requirements. It also verifies the information in the RFPs, checks the developer's credentials and financial status and decides which proposal best meets their requirements.

In the case of Okee-Tantie, all that was asked for was a letter of interest to see what developers might be interested in doing. It was not an RFP requesting a response to a

definite set of requirements.

Only one letter was received. It was from Randall Henderson, who has developed several RV parks. The proposal kind of took on a life of its own and was treated as a response to an RFP. However, since there was no RFP the commissioners had no criteria by which to measure it.

After Mr. Henderson's proposal was rejected, he made another proposal to the commissioners. During the course of the discussion of the second proposal he decided to withdraw that proposal. In the meantime, the county received a letter from a partnership expressing interest in developing the park. This is simply a letter and there is no legal precedent or procedure to follow in response to it.

At the Thursday, March 14, meeting of the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners, commission chair Frank Irby asked if staff needed direction for an RFP.

"I don't know what you really want us to do," was the response of county administrator Robbie Chartier. "I know you want to advertise it, but what do you want to advertise?"

She asked about specifics such as if the entire facility would be included; would it be

a long-term lease; and, how would financing be handled?

"As a group, you have not come down to a conclusion as to what you really want there," she said.

Commissioner Irby stated that the commission has ruled out selling the park. Other than that, he said, he did not have a preference.

Commissioner Joey Hoover suggested staff prepare a template of legal, financial and other considerations involved in developing the park to form a starting point for discussion. Mrs. Chartier said such a template would be available to the commissioners in the near future.

Commissioner Ray Domer noted that sewage treatment is something that would have to be considered. The park is currently served by a package treatment plant that would not handle an RV park the size Mr. Henderson was proposing.

One of the problems that must be overcome is that the state has control over an estimated 55-acre section of the park formerly known as Hog Island.

Commissioner Bryant Culpepper told his fellow commissioners that he had recently gone to a public meeting at South

Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), where the disposition of surplus lands owned by SFWMD was discussed. Currently, SFWMD owns C. Scott Driver Park which is located across S.R. 78 from Okee-Tantie. Commissioner Culpepper suggested to district officials that they swap Scott Driver for Hog Island, and SFWMD would then own Hog Island. The county, in turn, would either lease, buy or otherwise obtain Hog Island from the district.

Commissioner Culpepper also expressed his concerns about the latest proposal for development of Okee-Tantie. One of the principals of the partnership proposing to lease Okee-Tantie is a real estate broker, who has brokered the sale of several RV parks. The commissioner expressed concern that this broker might get a long-term lease on Okee-Tantie, then turn the property over to a land developer for a very large profit at the county's expense.

At this point, the only thing certain is that the state requires a definite proposal from a developer before it will agree to release Hog Island.

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



Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsken

At the petting zoo

The petting zoo at the Okeechobee County Fair includes a friendly giraffe as well as a zebra and other exotic animals. Sunday, March 17, is the last day of the 2013 Okeechobee County Fair.



Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsken

Salley the camel

Kayle Corby was among those visiting the animals in the petting zoo at the Okeechobee County Fair on opening night. Salley the camel was eager for a treat.

Community Events

Eagles North hosting benefit

Eagles North F.O.E. 4137, is having a benefit for Margie Shelfer on Saturday, **March 23**. Items are still being accepted for an auction to be held at 3 p.m. Please contact The Eagles at 863-763-2552 to drop off items, or have them picked up. Dinners will start at noon. The benefit will start at 11 a.m. There will also be a poker run the same day starting at the Iron Eagle. All proceeds will go to Margie Shelfer her medical bills.

B.R.A.T. Club Teen Dance plans "Harlem Shake" video

The B.R.A.T. Club Teen Dance will be held at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus, 610 S.W. Second Ave. Saturday, **March 23**, from 7 - 10 p.m. Teens and 'Tweens from 12-16 are invited to attend. For only \$7! A "Harlem Shake" video will be recorded at this teen dance. Admission includes pizza, soda and chips. For information, please contact Teresa Chandler at 863-801-4996.

Democratic board to meet

The Okeechobee Democratic executive committee will be meeting on Thursday, **March 21**, in the meeting room of Beef O'Brady's beginning at 6 p.m.

Come Dine with the Doctor

Dine with the Doctor will be held on Tuesday, **March 26**, at Raulerson Hospital Cafeteria. Dinner is at 4:30 p.m. (\$5 each). The free lecture is at 5 p.m. Please RSVP to 863-763-9228.

City council meeting cancelled

The Okeechobee City Council meeting that was scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, has been cancelled. The next scheduled city council meeting is at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2.

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!

Sequestration

• Every night on the news is some new horror story of what is being cut due to Sequestration. They are obviously cutting programs that will get the most television time. There is no reason to cut basic programs because they actually have more money than they did last year. They cut 3 percent of the planned budget and it is still a higher budget than the previous year even with the cuts. So they should be able to provide the same service as last year. They just can't expand the way they wanted to. But if they cut by just not expanding, no one would really notice or complain. So they cut things people will notice so the people will agree to higher taxes.

• People are asking why Wall Street is doing so well even though the president said the Sequestration cuts would send the country into another recession. It's because the Wall Street folks know that if you raise the budget 5 percent and then cut it 3 percent,

you still have more than you started with. It's not a cut from the 2012 spending. It's more than the 2012 spending. Obama tried to scare the American people and they didn't believe him. He cried wolf one too many times.

• The Republicans offered the president the choice of making smart cuts to the budget, to cut things that are duplications or wasteful, rather than cutting programs people need. But he turned them down. He didn't want the responsibility of deciding what cuts to make. And when they offered a list of cuts to make instead of the across the board Sequestration cuts, he turned that down too. He would not agree to anything that did not also include higher taxes. He has already raised taxes on the middle class with the 2 percent increase in the payroll tax. He has already raised taxes on the wealthy with the higher income taxes. And he has increased taxes on all workers with the Obamacare taxes. But he wants more taxes.

• The president seems to have also forgotten that the Sequester was his idea in the first place. He played chicken with the Republicans and they didn't blink.

Gun control

• It does not matter how many laws are passed for gun control. The criminal or non-licensed gun holder will find a way to get a gun or guns. This is a fact. Convicted felons find ways to get guns. The gun laws only affect the law abiding citizen.

Letter to the editor

Thrown away children

This subject "thrown away children" has been on my mind quite some time. Being a mother and grandmother, I'm having a really hard time understanding today's parents.

This is my conclusion; Mom is a teenager when she has her child, so often she is not married, and dad, married or not, he still goes to hang out with his buddies. If he works, he thinks the money is his to do whatever he likes with it (my husband tried that too).

By the time the parents are in their mid-twenties, they have twelve-year-olds or teenage children. Parents missed out on their best

teenage years and now they know about life and most are ready to go wild. Now, remember, they have young teens by this time.

Mom and dad are off living their young life, and so are these "thrown away children." What else could you expect?

We all know the old saying "monkey do what monkey see."

So, with this said, we will all keep supporting these "thrown away children"—food stamps, housing, and oh yes, all those little babies. They know nothing about parenting. I feel sorry for all concerned.

Thank you,
Frankie Russell

Reflections from the pulpit

Clean it all out

By Rev. Allen Patterson

Late winter almost always finds me outside raking and cleaning up some accumulated debris of the previous months. Vast sections of my yard seem to have become dumping grounds. Leaves piled behind bushes, scraps of fast-food wraps and cups, paper that has blown out of the trash can, tufts of pillow filling, a piece of old shoe that The Dog has long since discarded.... you name it, I've found it in my yard.

It's almost like therapy - raking up and cleaning out. I come in, sore and tired, yet somehow invigorated. You can see the difference, and here in Florida, I need to see those differences! Spring is coming. I've cleaned up the garbage and gotten rid of all the trash.

Yesterday, while raking The Dog's section of the yard, (NOT a pleasant smelling section), I got to thinking about all the places in our minds and lives that have become dumping grounds, landfills if you will. I'm sure you've been there. I'm sure you have one. Everyone I know has a place where things are discarded, past sins stacked in piles, emotional wounds haphazardly buried, while good habits lay unused, attitudes rot upon the cold ground. Where if a curious child poked around long enough she might find some long discarded trinket or rusty, dusty once-sparkly bead that belies its true nature, and drag it into the house like it's a glorious treasure.

Now, dumping grounds are not necessarily bad things. We need a place to shed bad habits, faulty thought patterns, and harmful lifestyles. But too often, we fail to complete the process. It needs a good burning; it must be carried away, removed as far as the east is from the west. We need to clean it ALL out permanently.

You see, dumping grounds are not places we like to visit too often, and things accumulate there that ought not to be there! I think this season before Easter is an excellent time to rid out, clean up, throw away those things that our enemy loves to dig out and drag into the house. They smell bad, are slimy to the touch, and are greatly disgusting. We wonder why we get discouraged and down-trodden. Then again, there are scraps of trash that we haven't thrown out to begin with. We get used to seeing them lying around and just overlook things. Our nature is to let things slide. We'll get to it sometime.

As I was praying recently, I suddenly realized there were pieces of trash in "my house." They stunk, and I was surprised to see them lying there in the shadowy corner. The enemy had dragged them from the dung-pile and in the darkness of some unknown despair, snuck them into the room. I threw them out immediately, and the lightness, and the cleanliness that replaced them was invigorating. It brought new hope. Spring and Sunshine had arrived!

This passage from Isaiah 55 in the scriptures speaks directly to the heart of this process - and promises new life and blessing to all to listen:

"Hey there - are you thirsty? Come to the water! Are you penniless? Come anyway—buy and eat! Come, buy your drinks, buy wine and milk. Buy without money—everything's free! Why do you spend your money on junk food, your hard-earned cash on things that do not satisfy? Listen to me, listen well: eat only the best, fill yourself with only the finest bread.

"Pay attention, come close now, listen carefully to my life-giving, life-nourishing words. Seek God while he's here to be found, pray to him while he's close at hand. Let the wicked abandon their way of life and the evil their way of thinking. Let them come back to God, who is merciful, come back to our God, who is lavish with forgiveness.

"I don't think the way you think. The way you work isn't the way I work. For as the sky soars high above earth, so the way I work surpasses the way you work, and the way I think is beyond the way you think. Just as rain and snow descend from the skies and don't go back until they've watered the earth, doing their work of making things grow and blossom, producing seed for farmers and food for the hungry, so will the words that come out of my mouth not come back empty-handed. They'll do the work I sent them to do, they'll complete the assignment I gave them.

"So you'll go out in joy, you'll be led into a whole and complete life. The mountains and hills will lead the parade, bursting with song. All the trees of the forest will join the procession, clapping their hands in wild celebration. No more thistles, but giant cypress, no more thornbushes, but stately pines — monuments to me, to God, living and lasting evidence of God."

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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- To correct our errors and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
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- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.



OCSO

Continued From Page 1

pending on the ammo being used by the shooter, it may not protect them. "The floor is the best place to be."

Since the 1999 shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., the local SRT unit has gone to local schools to explain to teachers what to expect—not only from the deputies responding, but from the shooter.

And they tell educators what they can do to protect themselves and their students.

Deputy Sergeant Robert Coleman explained that law enforcement's thinking on how to handle an active shooter situation at a school has changed dramatically since Columbine. Instead of waiting for law enforcement to arrive, school resource officers (SROs) are now taught how to immediately handle such situations.

"If there's an active shooter, the school resource officer goes to them first," said Sgt. Coleman, a leader of the SRT unit. "Speed is the whole thing. The faster you take out the suspect the more lives you save."

That thought was later explained to the teachers attending the mock shooting scenario.

"Road patrol and the SROs will most likely be first on the scene," he said. "Minimize the danger as quickly as possible. That will be law enforcement's goal."

The simplest, and best, thing educators can do to protect their students is simply



Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp

Deputy Matt Hurst (right), a member of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team, spoke briefly with teachers during an 'active shooter' training exercise held Friday, March 15, at Osceola Middle School. He told teachers what to expect when law enforcement arrives on the scene and how they would handle that situation.

lock their classroom doors, he said.

Deputy Hurst, one of the unit's team leaders, spoke briefly to the teachers and explained to them what to expect from law enforcement when they arrive and take control of the situation. An active shooter situation, he told them, is the one time officers will not wait for back up.

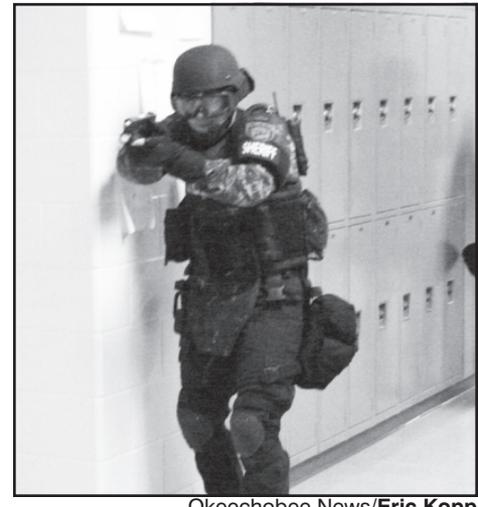
"This is the one time a police officer will put himself directly into harm's way," he said. "This is the only scenario where an

officer actually does what they do on television."

The reason for this is, again, minimizing the danger as quickly as possible.

"Every second is a life," he added.

After the situation had been explained, the SRT unit then put on a demonstration by entering a building and going from classroom to classroom and searching for the shooter. Then, as they were about midway through the building, Capt. Bell fired a cou-



Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp

A deputy with the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team keeps watch on the hallway as other team members search rooms and move along the hallway at OMS.

ple 'rounds' from a weapon simulator.

"Active shooter! Active shooter!" yelled team members, as they immediately stepped up their search and their intensity.

The whole idea behind Friday's exercise was not only to train SRT members, but teachers also. And, to stress how the teachers must remain vigilant and to remember that even though they live and work in a small town, danger is always lurking.

"It can happen here," said Capt. Bell.

PETITION

Continued From Page 1

exhuming bodies from an area on the property known as Boot Hill Cemetery.

Dr. Hunter, the M.E. for the 14th Judicial District, is asking the court's approval to exhume the bodies for the purposes of locating and identifying any unidentified graves and human remains, and to complete an autopsy and medical probe into their cause of death.

"I'm very happy about it," said Mr. Middleton in a phone interview Wednesday from his Fort Walton Beach home. "I think it will validate everything we've been saying over the years. A lot of people are excited about this."

Mr. Middleton, 67, was just one of the boys sent to the reform school that suffered physical abuse at the hands of guards and employees. Like many other boys, he has the infamous distinction of being known as one of The White House Boys.

The White House was a small concrete block building on the school's grounds where the boys were taken and beaten with a large leather strap by men who would often place wagers on which one could draw blood first. Many times the boys were beaten to the point their clothes were actually embedded in their skin.

Boys were also sexually abused by employees at the school.

There was a similar reform school in Okeechobee, where the boys were not only

reportedly beaten but were brutally sodomized with what guards called "the prod." The prod was a wooden rod with a ball on the end.

Each school was also known as the Florida School for Boys, and were both Department of Juvenile Justice facilities for alleged delinquent and wayward children. The property where the Dozier school is located is still owned by the state, while the facility in Okeechobee is now operated by a private company.

The Dozier school has been closed since 2011 and the state has been trying to sell the property. A pending lawsuit by a Polk County family who had a family member buried there in 1934 seeks to stop that sale to allow for the identification of that family member.

The attorney general's petition, filed on behalf of Dr. Hunter, came about after a University of South Florida team found what they believe to be 50 grave shafts in the Boot Hill Cemetery. That number is 19 more than was initially found in a 2009 investigation done by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).

That USF team is led by Dr. Erin Kimmerle, Ph.D., a forensic anthropologist and associate professor at the school. Her team consists of archaeologists, biologists, anthropologists, law enforcement, fire investigators and personnel from the Hillsborough County Medical Examiner's Office.

That team used ground-penetrating sonar to find those additional 19 grave shafts and, indicated the petition, possibly more. The graves are thought to be those of boys who died at the Dozier school from 1900 to

1952. Between 85 and 98 children died at the school during that time period, the petition added.

While some of those deaths have been found to be due to natural causes, such as disease, and a dormitory fire in 1914, a majority of them are unknown.

"Significant speculation has focused on whether any of the deaths were the result of excessive corporal punishment," states the petition.

Mr. Middleton explained that, because the school was segregated, the Boot Hill Cemetery was where blacks were buried. But now, he continued, Dr. Kimmerle may have found more grave shafts on the other side of the property where whites were buried.

"She's been looking on the white side and I believe they may have stumbled onto something. But, that's a gut feeling. I don't have any proof of that," he said.

While the petition does not state with specificity that another cemetery was found, it does lay the groundwork that would allow the USF team to investigate more of the school's property.

"Additionally, historic investigation has revealed the likely presence of another unmarked cemetery on the Dozier campus that has yet to be located," the petition points out.

While the state's Division of Historical Resources has issued Dr. Kimmerle and her team a permit to locate human burial sites, that permit expires in July of this year. If Circuit Court Judge William L. Wright grants the order, Dr. Hunter will have up to a year to exhume human remains from the property.

According to the petition if Dr. Hunter finds any bodies he will assume control of those remains. An autopsy will be done to try and determine the cause of death, and for possible identification. And, if possible, DNA will be taken from those remains.

Labs have been located that will conduct the necessary DNA tests under a federal grant. This would not only require samples from the remains, but from possible next of kin that have been found. Efforts to locate more family members are ongoing, the petition added.

If the bodies are identified they will be released to the family, if the family wishes. If the remains are not identified, or the family does not want them, they will be remanded to the state for "appropriate and respectful disposition pursuant to Florida law."

At this point it's not known where those unidentified remains would be placed.

"There is a need to determine who these people are and how they died, to answer questions for families, to allow families the choice of where their relatives are to rest and to ensure history is as accurate as possible," stated Dr. Hunter in the petition.

And for Mr. Middleton and others who survived Marianna, this will shed light on the atrocities they had to endure as children.

"This is a major turning point of the issue of Marianna and the abuse of children—and, The White House Boys," he said. "It's been a long six years to try and get the State of Florida to stop denying what happened."

Obituaries

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

Joy Thornton, 73

OKEECHOBEE — Joy Thornton passed away Mar. 12, 2013 at the Hamrick Home.

She was born Jan. 7, 1940 in Middlesboro, Ky. to the late Amos and Emily (Beaty) Sweet. She married Edward Thornton Sept. 27, 1957. She came to Okeechobee from Atlanta, Ga. in 1986. She was a homemaker, volunteered at a hospital in Ill., was Past Secretary of the Board of Trustees for the First United Methodist Church of Okeechobee as well as a member of the Okeechobee County Citizens Advisory Board at which time she helped initiate the recycling program in Okeechobee.

Mrs. Thornton is survived by her husband, Edward Thornton; daughter, Sharon Raulerson (Larry) of Ft. Pierce; sons, Richard Thornton of Fargo, N.D. and John Thornton (Sheri) of Milledgeville, Ga.; grandson, Christopher Sibley of Hopkins, Minn. and granddaughter, Melissa Reagan of Milledgeville, Ga.

Memorial services will be held 2 p.m. Sat., March 30, 2013 at First United Methodist Church of Okeechobee.

Those wishing to leave a message of condolence and sign the online register book may do so at www.BassOkeechobeeFuneralHome.com.

All arrangements are entrusted to the care of Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home, 205 NE 2nd Street, Okeechobee, FL, 34972.

Virginia Barnes Carlton, 94

OKEECHOBEE — Virginia Barnes Carlton passed away Thursday, March 14, 2013 in Okeechobee, Fla. She was born Sept. 26, 1918 in Jackson, Ga. She married Daniel Stephen Carlton Jr. in 1934 and enjoyed her family, traveling and volunteering at Raulerson Hospital.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Daniel Stephen Carlton Jr.; son, Daniel Stephen Carlton III; parents, Luther and Martha Barnes; and 12 siblings.

Mrs. Carlton is survived by her daughters, Sally Ayers (Irving) of Okeechobee, Carolyn Carlton Lowe (Mickie Bohlman) of New Orleans, LA; four grandchildren, Kenny, Keith, Christian and Clint; eight great-grandchildren; In addition she is survived by her long-time companion, James E. Durrance of Okeechobee.

The family will receive friends on Monday, March 18, 2013 from 12 p.m. until service time of 2 p.m. in the Buxton-Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home Chapel, 400 N. Parrott Ave. Okeechobee, FL. Pastor Bruce Simpson will be officiating. Interment will follow in the Carlton family cemetery in Fort Pierce, FL.

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of the Buxton-Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home, 400 N Parrott Ave., Okeechobee, Fl. On-line condolences may be made at www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.



Community Events

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Eagles plan St. Pat's dinner

Eagles North, 9985. U.S. 441 N., will serve corned beef and cabbage Sunday, **March 17**, at 2 p.m. for a \$6 donation. The public invited to celebrate the St. Patrick's Day dinner. All proceeds will go to the F.O.E. 4137 community benefit fund.

Moose hosting dinner in honor of St. Patrick's Day

Corned beef & cabbage dinner at the Okeechobee Moose, 159 N.W. 36th St., on Sunday, **March 17**, from 3-7 p.m. Music will be by Lisa. Thursday bingo is at 1 p.m. Lunch starts at 12:30 p.m. Friday night bingo starts with Bonanza at 6:30 p.m. Food is available. Sunday breakfast will be served from 8-11 a.m. There will be free pool all day! All month! All proceeds go to support Moose Charities programs.

Ladies group offers breakfast

Buckhead Ridge Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW 9528 will hold their monthly breakfast on Sunday, **March 17**, from 9 to 11 a.m. We will have biscuits and gravy, sausage, home fries, eggs any way you want them, toast, juice and coffee for a donation of \$5. Please join us; we are open to the public. For more information, please call our post at 863-467-2882.

VFW Post 9528 hosting St. Patrick's Day Events

Buckhead Ridge VFW Post 9528 will hold a St. Patrick's Day events on Sunday, **March 17**. Entertainment will be by Nancy Sheperd from 1-5 p.m. If you have seen Nancy before you will want to see her again, if you haven't see Nancy before you will not want to miss this opportunity. Corned beef, cabbage, Irish potatoes, Gordie's Hugh carrots, dessert will be served from 2-5 p.m. for a \$7 donation. Proceeds go towards homeless veterans. For more information, contact Gordie 863-467-2882.

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For a complete list of Obituary Notices, click on your community, then click on "Obituaries".

[newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

Legion has Sunday bingo

American Legion 64 will once again host Sunday night bingo beginning on **March 17**, at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. in the bingo area. The kitchen will offer a limited menu. Payoffs will be determined by player attendance. All proceeds to benefit the American Legion veterans' programs. The event is open to the public.

VFW offering St. Pat's dinner

VFW Post 10539 will hold a St. Patrick's Day dinner of corned beef and cabbage with the fixin's for a \$7 donation, on Sunday, **March 17**. They start at 4:30 p.m. with a \$500 Pot O' Gold drawing. Tickets available at the post.

Orchid Club to meet March 18

The Orchid Club will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, **March 18**, at the Extension Center, 451 U.S. 98 N. The Garden Club meets at 6 p.m. Bring your favorite orchid or a problem plant to discuss. For more information, call 863-763-6469.

Historical Society to meet

The Okeechobee Historical Society will have its monthly meeting Monday, **March 18**, beginning at noon in the Historical Society Museum on U.S. 98 N. Anyone is invited to attend, we only ask they bring a covered dish to share. Membership dues are \$10 per year to join.

Shrine Club offers dinner

The Okeechobee Shrine Club, 1740 S.W. 53rd St., will hold a spaghetti dinner Tuesday evening, **March 19**, from 4 - 7 p.m. Reservations are not required. The Shrine Club is pleased to offer smoke free dinning. For your listening and dancing pleasure, music will be provided from 5 - 8 p.m. The complete dinner is available for a donation of only \$6. All proceeds benefit Shrine charities. For more information on the activities of the Okeechobee Shrine Club, please contact Kip Gardner at 863-357-0427; Dr. Randall Mims at 863-763-9200; or, the Shrine Club at 863-763-3378.

Ask-A-Lawyer at the library

Attorney Glenn Sneider and Florida Rural Legal Services, Inc. will present a free Ask-A-Lawyer session on Tuesday, **March 19**, from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Okeechobee County Public Library boardroom, 206 S.W. 16th St. Please call to register. Walk-ins will be accepted based on availability.

For information and to register call Florida Rural Legal Services, Inc. at 772-466-4766 or 888-582-3410.

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Companies lend support to stop child abuse

FORT PIERCE—CASTLE's Stomp Out Child Abuse ninth annual 5K Run/Walk will take place Saturday, April 20, at the Tradition Field (Mets Stadium) in St. Lucie West with more than 1,100 anticipated attendees. The course has been certified by J7 Sports. Sponsor so far are QVC, All Villages Presbyterian Church and School, Ardalan Pediatric Dentistry, Braces for us, BUILDING 252, DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley and Barnes P.A., Everglades Farm Equipment, Harbor Community Bank, The Law Offices of Bon-

nie Brown, Road ID, Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers, St. Lucie County Professional Fire Fighters Benevolent Association and Harbor Insurance. Sponsorship opportunities are still available.

"Community businesses of all sizes do their part in supporting CASTLE and the many programs that directly benefit from this event" said Rossana Gonzalez, Community Development Specialist. "We cannot do what we do without you and that's everyone from businesses to churches to school

classes all of us working together to save and change lives".

For registration and sponsorship opportunities, call Rossana Gonzalez at CASTLE at 772-465-6011, extension 238 or e-mail at rgonzalez@castletc.org. All proceeds from this event will benefit CASTLE's programs for the education and prevention of child abuse.

About CASTLE

CASTLE is a Florida non-profit agency offering parenting education via in-home counseling, monitored visitations, and classes for first time parents, parents going

through a divorce and children experiencing confusion due to divorce. CASTLE serves the Treasure Coast and Okeechobee counties including Stuart, Port Saint Lucie, Fort Pierce and Vero Beach. CASTLE's mission is preventing child abuse and neglect through education and awareness.

CASTLE is a United Way partner organization and is supported by the area Children's Services Councils. CASTLE facilities are located in St. Lucie County at 772-465-6011, Martin County at 772-781-4510 and Indian River County at 772-567-5700. You can also visit them on-line at www.castletc.org.

Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

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

	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:	LAST WEEK:
COWS:				
800-1000	60.00	- 96.00	75.22	77.04
1000-1200	60.00	- 95.00	81.86	80.70
1200-1400	71.00	- 96.00	87.19	82.25
1400-1600	75.00	- 93.00	82.75	82.62

	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:	LAST WEEK:
BULLS:				
1200-1400	87.00	- 104.00	95.60	86.00
1400-1600	94.00	- 110.00	105.00	101.50
1600-1800	100.00	- 104.00	102.00	101.40

	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:	LAST WEEK:
STEERS:				
150-250	250.00	- 275.00	266.25	255.00
250-300	200.00	- 215.00	202.59	217.00
300-350	185.00	- 200.00	191.55	205.00
350-400	185.00	- 192.50	188.39	192.24
400-450	170.00	- 190.00	176.18	183.28
450-500	160.00	- 175.00	166.71	173.33
500-550	145.00	- 167.50	156.72	162.36
550-600	142.00	- 150.00	147.50	153.17
600-650	127.00	- 147.50	137.54	134.40
650-700	122.00	- 137.50	129.75	131.88

	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:	LAST WEEK:
HEIFERS:				
150-250	200.00	- 215.00	205.00	222.50
250-300	170.00	- 188.50	174.82	180.13
300-350	160.00	- 175.00	165.16	171.67
350-400	150.00	- 167.50	157.11	166.75
400-450	140.00	- 162.50	146.39	150.39
450-500	135.00	- 152.50	142.86	148.47
500-550	120.00	- 138.00	131.69	129.70
550-600	115.00	- 131.00	124.17	120.60
600-650	120.00	- 123.00	121.00	124.00

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

	MONDAY	TUESDAY
CLFS	333	642
COWS	93	316
STRS	8	25
HFRS	6	14
BULLS	14	24
YRLINGS	40	35
MIX	0	11
TOTAL	494	1067

Slaughter Cows & Bulls were a little stronger again this week. Best Ccows are bumping a dollar and best bulls are over a dollar! Calf prices are a little mixed, mostly steady to weaker. Good 500# steers are around \$1.65 and heifers around \$1.40. Not as much demand for heifers, it seems, which is kind of hard to figure! All in all, everything is selling strong.

Fra-Mar Enterprises, Okeechobee, topped the calf market with a high of \$2.75 bought by Foy Reynolds.

D3 Farms, Zolfo Springs, topped the cow market with a high of \$6.00 bought by Central Beef. See ya next week, Todd



Special to the Okeechobee News/CASTLE

Everglades Farm Equipment is among the sponsors for CASTLE's Stomp Out Child Abuse ninth annual 5K Run/Walk, which is planned for Saturday, April 20, at the Tradition Field (Mets Stadium) in St. Lucie West.



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Fri., Tues. & Thurs. 7:00 & 9:15.
Sat., Sun. & Wed. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:15. Mon. 3:00 & 7:00

ADMIT ONE PG



Special to the Okeechobee News

Grand Oaks residents enjoy tea party

Grand Oaks Assisted Living Facility was proud to host a ladies afternoon tea party. Members of the Okeechobee American Business Women's Association Women of Tomorrow Chapter and The Young Ladies Oakview Student Ministry enjoyed pampering the women residents at Grand Oaks. The women enjoyed a variety of teas and cookies, manicures, games, conversation and sharing stories of sisterhood and the importance of strength among women. ABWA chapter president Karin Ammons and vice president Jennifer Shatto Dodd were among the attendees. "It is very important that the young women of today gain knowledge and strength from the generations that came before us. Through their experience and life lessons there is a definite example of how far we have come and how much more we can succeed" stated Ms. Dodd.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Grand Oaks sweet day out

Marcella Sweda and Regina London from Grand Oaks enjoyed delicious treats at the Brown Cow Sweetery including milk shakes, sundaes, banana splits and homemade chocolates.

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Special to the Okeechobee News

Kiwanis Club hosts guest speaker

Nick Anderson is a longtime winter resident of Okeechobee and owner of Lana Enterprises which farms market hogs. Anderson recently spoke to the Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee talking about the evolution of market hogs over the years. Anderson spoke of social pressures associated with raising livestock citing conditions and the recycling of manure and feces. Anderson says a significant accomplishment of the industry has been the ability of to grow a 40 percent larger hog using 30-40 percent less resources. According to Mr. Anderson, one out of 10 humans receive a heart valve from a pig at some point in their life, most skin grafts and diabetic insulin come from pigs. Mr. Anderson noted the biggest challenges for the swine industry as local control, pollution legislation, welfare issues, subsidies for alcohol (affecting the price of corn) and the conflicting ideas of urban legislatures and the agricultural community.

March blood drives planned

Following are the blood drive sites where the blood bus will be in Okeechobee:

- Sunday, March 17 - Golden Corral, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 19 - Raulerson Hospital, 1 - 6 p.m.

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Know the symptoms and signs of appendicitis

The appendix is a small organ attached to the large intestine. The condition known as appendicitis occurs when it swells or fills with fluid, perhaps due to blockage or infection. Appendicitis is serious, painful and requires immediate medical attention.

What symptoms typify appendicitis?

Signs vary depending on the person, especially in children and pregnant women. Symptoms include:

- Visible swelling of the abdomen;
- Nausea or no appetite;
- Vomiting;
- Fever;
- Bowel movement problems such as constipation, diarrhea or the inability to release gas;
- Pain that: prevents you from sitting comfortably; is located near the naval and may move to the lower right abdomen; increases over a few hours; or, is tender to the touch.

What treatment is available?

If you observe any of the above signs, head to the emergency room. After administering tests, your physician may recommend

an appendectomy -the removal of the appendix.

In some cases where fluids have accumulated, a procedure known as abscess draining occurs before the appendectomy, sometimes as much as several weeks prior.

A traditional appendectomy requires a large incision (two to four inches in length) made in the abdomen. Minimally invasive surgery - also known as laparoscopic surgery - is also available: several small cuts allow a tiny camera to be inserted in order for the surgeon to better view the site before removing part or all of the appendix. Usually, the appendix is stapled or sewn off and the infected part is removed.

Know the signs of appendicitis so that you can act fast. Locally, Raulerson Hospital's Services Department excels in the care and recovery of appendicitis patients. For more information call Raulerson Hospital at 863-763-2151 or visit the website at RaulersonHospital.com. For a free physician referral or answers to healthcare questions, call Consult-a-Nurse at 863-763-9228.

Kids fight 'big tobacco'

Kids in Okeechobee want you to know that tobacco kills no matter how big tobacco sugarcoats it.

Students Working Against Tobacco and the Tobacco Free Partnership of Okeechobee are speaking up and taking action against flavored tobacco for Kick Butts Day, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids national day of activism that empowers youth to fight back against Big Tobacco.

Okeechobee High School and Yearling Middle School SWAT club members will conduct activities at their schools to raise awareness to the dangers of tobacco use and encourage students to live tobacco free.

Sweet Deception

Nationally, the issue of flavored tobacco products has not gone unnoticed. Fruit- and candy-flavored cigarettes were banned under the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act in 2009. However, menthol cigarettes, flavored cigars, cigarillos and smokeless products were not included.

With cigarette smoking rates on the decline in the United States, the tobacco industry helps insure its livelihood by marketing products like flavored tobacco to attract a new generation of tobacco users. Many children and teens mistakenly believe flavored tobacco products are less harmful than their non-flavored counterparts. Once youth start using one tobacco product, they

are more likely to experiment with others.

The tobacco industry also loses customers because 1,200 people in the U.S. die from smoking every day. Yet every day, 3,800 young people under 18 years of age smoke their first cigarette. In fact, nearly nine out of 10 smokers started by age 18.

"Youth have always been a target for the tobacco industry," said State Surgeon General Dr. John Armstrong. "Numerous internal tobacco industry documents reveal that the tobacco companies perceive youth as an important target. In light of big tobacco tactics, we are redoubling tobacco free collaboration across Florida."

Protecting Youth

Cities and counties across Florida have taken on flavored tobacco. On Nov. 29, 2012 Okeechobee County Commissioners passed a resolution urging tobacco retailers to restrict the sale and marketing of flavored tobacco products. Learn more about the dangers of flavored tobacco at www.tobaccofreeflorida.com/flavoredtobacco.

Kick Butts Day

Kick Butts Day is a national day of activism that empowers youth to stand out, speak up and seize control against Big Tobacco. Kick Butts Day is organized by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and sponsored by the United Health Foundation. The first Kick Butts Day was held in 1996.

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The Okeechobee Community Choir

Under the Direction of Sandy Perry,

Will Present its 14th Annual Easter Cantata Concert,

Exalted One!

Easter Favorites Concluding with Handel's Hallelujah! Chorus, During Which Audience Participation is Encouraged!

Friday, March 22nd 7pm	Saturday, March 23rd 7pm	Sunday, March 24th 3pm
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First United Methodist Church - 200 NW 2nd St - Okeechobee
(Northwest of Walgreen's at the intersection of US 441 & SR 70)

The **45** singers comprising this season's choir represent singers from **Fifteen** area churches who began rehearsing in February.



Composer, Concert Pianist, Director of Music & Arts at Good Shepherd United Methodist, West Palm Beach and Special Guest Accompanist, Frank Carter, composed his third Easter Cantata, *Exalted One!*

Especially for the Okeechobee Community Choir!

Frank Carter, Accompanist Nicolle Wood, Narrator Sheila Brown, Sound

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PRIEST

Continued From Page 1

building housing for the handicapped and for seniors, a drug and alcohol center and a community center.

In 1974 he was asked to come to America to give a workshop at Notre Dame, which was sponsored by the Catholic Committee for Urban Ministry, to explain his community service in Ireland. The vice president of Notre Dame asked the Father Duffy to come to the United States.

Then, when he went back to Ireland, he received several letters from American bishops asking him to come to this country.

Father Duffy chose to work in Florida and came to Orlando in November of 1975. He worked in a number of parishes including Lakeland, Orlando, Mintland and Daytona before coming to Okeechobee. It was in Daytona that he met NASCAR driver Bobby Allison.

In 1984 he was offered the parish in Okeechobee. There was no resident pastor at the time, just an administrator.

The church facilities were in a very run-down condition and he realized it would take a long-term commitment to improve things.

Over the past 29 years there have been extensive remodelling and refurbishing of church facilities.

The existing church was remodelled and enlarged so extensively it is almost like a brand new building. The entire \$2.5 million project includes stained glass windows,

cushioned pews, marble steps and flooring in the altar area, a covered entrance way and seating has been increased from 150 to 350. The church is awaiting a marble statue from China to be placed in the cupola.

Father Duffy is proud of the fact that the church building program is completely paid for and the church is debt free with some money in reserve.

"We had a lot of obstacles," he said of the building program. "I see it like a golf course -- your goal is to get on the green."

Even though there are water hazards, trees and sand bunkers that have to be overcome, "You can't let the obstacles interfere with your focus," he added.

During the time Father Duffy has been at Sacred Heart the church has grown from 150 to 750 registered members. As with all Okeechobee churches there is a large influx of winter visitors. In in the summer the total attendance at all masses is 400. In the winter, the combined attendance is 3,000. All this has been accomplished with only two part-time staff members, the same number he had in 1984. Father Duffy said he relies heavily on volunteers.

During the building program, health problems caused Father Duffy to realize he was going to have to slow down. He resolved that he would retire after the building program was completed.

"I felt like my work was done," Father Duffy said after 29 years.

However, he plans to stay active in church work.

"I could be busier retired than working," he said. "The only thing I will leave is administration."

He said administration is one of the hardest things in church work.

In addition to church activities Father Duffy has a blog and several Facebook pages to keep him busy.

"Freedom is the ability to do what you like," he said. "Happiness is when you love what you are doing."

Father Duffy will soon have even more opportunity to experience freedom and happiness.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda
Father Hugh Duffy stands by one of the stained glass windows in recently renovated Sacred Heart Catholic Church. The priest will soon retire serving as pastor of the church for 29 years.

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Special to the Okeechobee News

Students of the Week

Congratulations to the Students of the Week at South Elementary School for the week of Feb. 18 - 22. They are: Brandon Hernandez, Caleb Click, Mckenzie Neal, Sarah Rodriguez, Emma Raulerson, Abigail Bozeman, Kain Joles, Hannah Dotson, Cassidy Hastings, Zoe Bayless, Zayda Ramirez, Yesenia Leon, Mary Higueta, and Chase Pellicer.



Special to the Okeechobee News/CES

Students of the week

Central Elementary would like to Congratulate the Students of the Week for the week of March 3-8. They are: Ziryn Flores, Aaliyah Brifil, Tyger Armstrong, Alanah Tinajero, Kaleigh Whidden, Aiden Scalf, Delaila Sandoval, Milagros Santibanez, Yuritzi Flores, Jesse Reyna, Anthony Smith, Bradley Raulerson, Esmeralda Campos, Elizabeth Velasquez, Casey Perry, Emmabelle Pippin, Juan Serrano, Sheyla Velasquez, November Chrisley, Madisen Cosme, Jerett Butts, Haley Garcia, Sierra Pounds and Luis Ramos.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Osceola Middle School Students of the Week are OSCAR worthy!

Walking the red carpet for Best Students in the Student of the Week Category are: Damian Stephens, Simran Merchant, Hannah Holley, Alexandria Ducott, Mitchell Johnson, Michaela Myers, Alea Stokes, Estela Gomez, Laura Sanchez And Best Teacher of the Week: Mr. Bobby Ellis! Congratulations!



Special to the Okeechobee News

Students of the Week

Congratulations to the South Elementary School Students of the Week for Feb. 25 - March 1. They are: Jean Carlos Mayo, Taylor Allman, Malcom Roders, Tyler Jarriel, Selina Boswell Estrella, Spring Diaz, Gabriel Garcia, Jennifer Aguilar, James Neville, Landyn Jones, Matlyn Staton, Kendra Henderson, Ashley Skinner, Rosalia Jaimes, Madison Henry, Lizette Sanchez, Mayah Higueta, Bryan Leonard, Jaedra Hill, Brian Burton, and Lucas Clay.

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 with 6 golden shrimp & 1 side
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Special to the Okeechobee News

Rotary guest speaker

The Okeechobee Rotary Club welcomed Santos, a former percussionist who played with the Marshall Tucker band, the Charlie Daniels band and others during a meeting on March 12. The self-described "Gospel Doo Wop" crooner, who now runs a drug and alcohol ministry, belted out a couple of songs for us. Learn more about Santos and his mission at his website (www.SantosMinistries.org). He is pictured here with longtime friend (and Okeechobee Rotary Club President), Jim Benton.



Special to the Okeechobee News

March of Dimes walk winner

Congratulations to Bethany Whirls one of the winners of Healthy Start Coalition's spirit booth give-a-ways at the March of Dimes walk.



Special to the Okeechobee News

CARE Award

The Economic Council of Okeechobee awards the Culbreth family with the Community Award Recognizing Enhancement, or CARE Award, for the murals added to the Historical Bank of Okeechobee Building located at the corner of State Road 70 and Osceola Avenue. In addition to beautifying the area, the murals add historical value to the community by depicting businesses that were housed in the building from 1924 to 1960 including a bank, grocery store, dress shop, jewelry store and drug store. . Pictured (L to R) are Jon Geitner, Christa Culbreth Luna, Bert Culbreth, Marie Culbreth, Gil Culbreth, Sandy Perry, Fred Fanizzi, Bob Riedel and Teresa Chandler.

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Arrest Report

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

• Randall Wayne Milner, 30, Bridlewood Drive, Okeechobee, was arrested March 14

by Deputy Aric Majere on a DOC warrant charging him with the felonies of violation of probation - possession of cocaine, violation of probation - possession of methamphetamine and violation of probation - driving while license suspended, and the misdemeanor of violation of probation - driving under the influence. He is being held without bond.

• Brandon Michael Smith, 19, Dale Road, West Palm Beach, was arrested March 14 by Deputy Elbert Kline on an Okeechobee

County warrant charging him with felonies of violation of probation - dealing in stolen property (four counts) and violation of probation - giving false information to a second-hand metal recycler (four counts). He is being held without bond.

• Cathy Gordon, 48, Pennington Court, Palm Beach, was arrested March 14 by Deputy Elbert Kline on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with the felonies of violation of probation - possession of methamphetamine and violation of probation

- sale/manufacture/delivery of methamphetamine. She 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

ASSAULT

- 3100 block of N.W. Third St.
- 7200 block of U.S. 441
- 200 block of S.E. 13th Ave.
- 1400 block of N.W. 47th Terrace
- 1400 block of N.W. 47th Terrace
- 2800 block of U.S. 441 N.
- 2800 block of U.S. 441 N.

BURGLARY

- 8300 block of S.W. Ninth St.
- 9200 block of S.E. 57th Drive
- 3600 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
- 1400 block of S.E. 28th St.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

- 3000 block of S.E. 34th Court
- 1600 block of N.E. 14th St.
- S.E. 38th Ave.
- 6700 block of S.E. 88th Trail
- 3000 block of S.E. 39th Ave.

FRAUD

- 700 block of S.W. 11th Ave.
- 9000 block of S.E. 57th Drive

THEFT

- 4300 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
- 900 block of N.E. 104th Court (identity)
- 3300 block of S.E. 33rd Terrace
- 17000 block of U.S. 441 N.
- 1000 block of N.W. 34th St.
- 2700 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
- 7800 block of N.W. 82nd Court (vehicle)
- S.E. 38th Ave.
- S.E. 38th Ave.
- 2600 block of S.R. 70 W.
- 9700 block of S.R. 78 W.
- 1000 block of N.W. 34th St.
- 16500 block of N.W. 258th St.
- 16800 block of N.W. 144th Ave. (identity)

tity)

- 5200 block of S.E. 42nd Trace
- 1600 block of N.W. 43rd Ave.
- 6300 block of N.W. 240th St. (vehicle)
- 3000 block of S.E. 35th Ave.
- 3300 block of S.E. 21st St.
- 3200 block of N.W. Fourth St. (identity)
- 1700 block of S.W. Ninth St.
- 3900 block of S.E. 18th Terrace

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<p>3002-M: Brindaban Forest spacious MH on 2 lots, 2364 TSF/1680 under air, Master Bathroom has hers & his sink, A/C only 3 yrs old and ceiling fans throughout the home. \$85,000 MLS #206558</p>	<p>5016-H: Viking 3/2 Modular house on 1.25+/- acre. 1508 sq ft under air/2173 TSF, built 2004. Easy to get to right off Pea Vine and easy to show. Offered as a short sale. \$129,000 MLS #206652</p>
<p>ON 6.27+/- ACRES</p> <p>5026-M: 3 bd, 2 ba Doublewide mobile home, 1536 sq ft under air/2112 TSF, fenced and crossed fenced, barn with horse stalls, and pond. \$90,000 MLS #206642</p>	<p>5004-M: Larkee Lakes (SE 58th DR) MH with additions. Screened porch, open porch in back, power generator, large carport and shed. 1380 Total Sq Ft. Nice location for east cost commuters. \$29,000 MLS #206600</p>
<p>5032-M: Otter Creek 3 bd, 2 ba DWMH on 1+/- acre. 1712 TSF/1512 sq ft under air, screen back porch. Offered as a short sale. \$55,000 NOW \$48,000 MLS #206579</p>	<p>FORECLOSURE</p> <p>5031-H: Okeechobee Hammock, 15-A, 3 bd, 2 ba, 2005 Modular House with an extra room that could easily be a 4th bedroom. Easy to show. \$54,900 MLS #206567</p>

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 For Sale or Rent w/option to buy. 9441 Hwy 78 West, Adult Park, 3BR/1.5BA, Fully furnished, W/D, Big Florida room, Lots of updates.
 \$15,000 OBO
 (219)384-3407

FOR SALE 35FT RV PARK MODEL, FLORIDA ROOM, CONCRETE CARPORT, C/A/H, VERY GOOD CONDITION, VANTAGE OAKS \$10,000 O.B.O. CALL 863-467-0079

Palm Harbor Homes Demo your mobile home/ free tear down at Palm Harbor, New mobiles \$39K off list, John Lyons 800-622-2832 ext 210

Recreation
Boats

2011 Lowe St. 195,90hp, trolling motor 8ft Minn Kota Talon, (2)23 gallon live wells, fish finder, 4 tanks of fuel since new. Warranty good thru Aug. 2015. Located in Buckhead Ridge.
 \$16,500 724-388-4075

Boats

FOR SALE
 1995 Harris-Kayot Deck Boat 24' with 115HP Mercury excellent condition. No trailer \$8,000.00
 Call Howard at 863-447-3327 or 863-904-8406

It's never too late to find the perfect gift. Look for it in the classifieds.

Campers/RVs
Wanted all Travel Trailers, Motor Homes and Fifth Wheels. Any Condition, Cash paid on the spot
 Call 941-347-7171

Earn some extra cash. Sell your used items in the classifieds

Fifth Wheels
2006 KZ New Vision 37ft High Quality 5th Wheel Trailer, Excellent Shape Will Deliver Within 25 Miles \$26,500 or O.B.O
 Call 863-332-6008

Your new home could be in today's paper. Have you looked for it?

For Sale: 2011 Big Country by Heartland 5th Wheel, 38' with 4 slides, fire-place, central vacuum, kitchen island, lots of storage, like new condition, used less than a month. Motivated seller, Wife passed away. \$40,000. 815-535-3850

Automotive


Autos Wanted
CASH FOR CARS
 No Title Needed, Any Condition.
 268junk.com
 Located in Okeechobee
 Call (863)484-2012

The classifieds are the most successful salesperson in town.

Utility Trailers
Car hauler - 2011 Sure-trac open car hauler, used once, paid \$5500, like new sell \$2,300.00/or best offer. (954)214-6903.

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

Public Notice
Notice of Hearing
Okeechobee County Code Enforcement
Special Magistrate
 The Okeechobee County Special Magistrate will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. The public meeting will be held at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, located at 1728 N.W. 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida. For more information, contact Faye Huffman at the Planning and Development Department, 1700 NW 9th Ave., Suite A, Okeechobee, Florida, 34972, (863) 824-3001.
 All interested parties shall have the opportunity to be heard at this public meeting. Any person deciding to appeal any decision by the Code Enforcement Special Magistrate with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made and that the record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal will be based. Code Enforcement tapes are for the sole purpose of backup for official records of the Department.
 Faye Huffman, Secretary to the Code Enforcement Special Magistrate
 438800 ON 3/17/2013

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
 1 "Yipe!" (or an apt title for this puzzle?)
 5 San Antonio shrine
 10 "___, sesame!"
 14 Skin cream ingredient
 15 Popular plastic wrap
 16 Without a stitch on
 17 It's roughly between a batter's chest and knees
 19 Terminates
 20 Ryan who played Granny on "The Beverly Hillbillies"
 21 Cornerstone abbr.
 22 "Shoo!"
 23 Polynesian wrap
 25 Quarter half
 27 Puts to work
 29 Within view
 32 Put in the "circular file"
 35 Recent: Pref.
 37 Sing soothingly
 38 Actor Holbrook
 39 Maynard G. Krebs of old TV, notably
 42 "Ease on Down the Road" musical, with "The"
 43 Self-mover's rental
 45 2,000 pounds
 46 ___-ran: loser
 47 Visible means of ___
 50 Pesky little biter
 52 Mad magazine specialty
 54 Play in the pool
 58 Brad of "Ocean's Thirteen"
 60 Attorney's matter
 62 Expensive fur
 63 Arab ruler
 64 Begin traveling
 66 Doily material
 67 Like neon and xenon
 68 Crisscross pattern
 69 Toddler
 70 Slalom curves
 71 Europe's highest active volcano
- DOWN**
 1 Desert refuge
 2 Extreme
 3 Gadget to remove apple centers
 4 Abominable, as a crime
 5 Enzyme suffix
 6 Stretch out in the recliner, say
 7 Stood up
 8 "Praying" insect
 9 Tense
 10 Poor movie rating
 11 Whence fruity drinks are ladled
 12 Old Norse poetry collection
 13 Bird's home
 18 Barbie counterparts
 24 Kelly of song and dance
 26 "What the ___!"
 28 Dead ___ Scrolls
 30 Superman's Lane
 31 Automaker Ferrari
 32 Therefore
 33 Pearl Harbor's island
 34 Pie-throwing comedy
 53 ___ Park, Colorado
 55 Scrub the launch
 56 Done in, as a dragon
 57 Hopper of old gossip columns
 58 Animal hide
 59 "If ___ make a suggestion ..."
 61 To be, in Bordeaux
 65 Elevs.

ANSWER:

8	2	3	1	6	4	5	7	9
4	5	7	2	3	9	6	8	1
6	9	1	8	7	5	4	2	3
7	3	2	5	1	6	9	4	8
9	6	9	4	8	3	7	1	2
1	8	4	7	9	2	3	5	6
9	4	9	6	2	8	1	3	7
3	1	8	9	4	7	2	6	5
3	4	1	3	6	3	5	9	7

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
17				18					19				
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63					64				65				
66					67						68		
69					70						71		

Community Events
Library book sale planned
 Friends of the Okeechobee Library will hold their semi-annual book sale fundraiser Wednesday, **March 20**, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Thursday, March 21, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday, March 22, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and, Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Books, videos, and DVDs are \$1 a pound. On Saturday, a bag of books is \$2 and a box is \$5.
 For more information, call 863-763-3536.

VFW ladies host dinner
 Buckhead Ridge Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW 9528 on Wednesday, **March 20**, at 5 p.m. will host the monthly Wednesday night dinner, and will have barbecue country ribs, baked beans, potato salad, roll & strawberry shortcake prepared by Karen Charest for a donation of \$7.
 Please join us. We are open to the public.
 For more information, please call our post at 863-467-2882.

IRSC offering March 21 workshop for writers
 The Fielden Institute for Lifelong Learning at IRSC will present a one-day workshop, the Creative Habit for Writers based on the book "The Creative Habit" by Twyla Tharp. The workshop will be led by author Suzanne Fox, MFA, on Thursday, **March 21**, from 1-4 p.m. at the Williamson Conference Center in Okeechobee.
 The \$25 registration fee includes a performance by Tharp at the McAlpin Fine Arts Center, Fort Pierce, on April 12, at 4 p.m.
 To register, call 772-462-7880.

Library hosting Open Mic
 Friends of the Okeechobee Library are hosting an Open Mic event on Thursday, **March 21**, at 5 p.m. Come share a slice of your original fiction or non-fiction.
 Please bring up to five pages as each person will have up to five minutes to read. The public is invited to come and enjoy the work of local writers.
 For more information, call Jan at 863-357-9980.

SUDOKU

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 Level: Intermediate

By Kelly Clark
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Lady Brahmans basketball banquet

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Carley McCoin was named Most Valuable Player and Amari Roberts was named the Brahman Award winner at the annual Lady Brahman basketball banquet held Tuesday night at Mama Flego's Restaurant.

Head Basketball Coach Erin Morrow also confirmed that she has resigned the position and will not return to coach in 2013-14.

Okeechobee really had a great start to the season as they were (8-4) before the Holiday Break. When McCoin went down with a knee injury, the team slumped and finished the year with losses in nine of their final 10 games. OHS finished the year at (9-13).

Morrow said the girls should expect to improve every year and she challenged them to work on their games in the offseason and improve their speed, agility, and strength.

"The good news is most of you have a chance to come back next year. You can grow as student athletes and you can get better if you hold yourselves accountable," she said.

She said she was disappointed that girls missed a total of 101 practices this year.

Scholar athletes on the team this year included Cheyenne Nunez, Baylee Farless, Sha'Dajia Williams, Bethany Stuart and Ami Edwards.

Seniors honored at the banquet included

Ami Edwards, Shamarah Shanks and Lexi Manson.

McCoin will undergo ACL reconstruction surgery in the next few months after exhaustive physical therapy. She said she will work hard to rehabilitate the knee in the off season and really wants to get back on the basketball court.

"I'll be back as soon as I can be. I know another girl who had the same surgery and is back better than ever. I really have confidence that I'll be back just like I was," she added.

The all-state guard was praised for her leadership by example on the floor. Coach Morrow said she was a great leader and that her hard work and effort speak for themselves.

McCoin said it was an honor to earn team MVP and she thanked the Okeechobee community for showing their concern when she was injured.

"This has been like the worst thing that ever happened to me. I think it was a good thing because I got a break from basketball. Now I want to play so bad. When I get back I'll be a lot better because I will push myself more and strive to get to that next level," she added.

Roberts won the Brahman Award for her attitude, attentiveness and team work this year. Coach Morrow said when she asked

Amari to do something, she always did it, no questions asked.

"I was surprised to win the award," Roberts admitted, "I didn't talk; I just listened and did what they asked me to do."

Roberts became a key player off the bench late in the year. She was only a freshman this year but quickly realized that the speed of the high school game was much faster than middle school.

"I think I learned a lot by watching. I tried to do the drills they asked us to do. I didn't focus on making points, just focused on helping the team," she added.

Roberts said she is now playing flag football to keep herself in shape for basketball.

"I really didn't know what the award was about, but now I know it's important and it does mean a lot to me. My brother will be jealous," she added.

Morrow said it was a difficult decision to resign her position. She said she wouldn't be surprised if she returned to coaching at some point because she loves the game of basketball.

"It was definitely tough. I'm really attached to a lot of these girls and their families. I hope they stay in touch because I really care about them," she added. "I was kind of ready to focus on other things in life, so we'll see what happens. I definitely love the game too much to stay away too long."

Your right to reply.



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

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

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

How are we doing?

Let us know by emailing feedback@newszap.com or call your editor.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Community Service Through Journalism



Special to the Okeechobee News

Benefit golf tournament sponsor

Exalted Ruler, Jerry Jones of the newly formed Lake Okeechobee Elks Lodge #2871, presents Russ Papy, VFW Senior Vice Commander a check to help sponsor their golf tournament. The benefit is to help homeless Florida Veterans. If you would like to learn more about the new lodge call 863-467-2658.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Imari Roberts took home the Brahman Award for girls basketball. She is joined by Coach Erin Morrow (center) and Asst Coach Morgan Ungerott (right).



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Carley McCoin won the MVP Award for the second consecutive year. She is flanked by Coach Erin Morrow (left) and Asst Coach Morgan Ungerott (right).

4th Annual Softball Tournament

All proceeds will go towards the **Devon Venables Memorial Scholarship.**

Donations can be made directly to the **Okeechobee Education Foundation** with a notation in the "memo" of your check

"Devon Venables Memorial Scholarship"

For more information please contact
Kim Hilliard
863-634-4553 or
Jill Rogers
863-634-0870

In Memory of Devon Venables

June 15, 1989 - August 1, 2009

When: April 6, 2013

Where: Adult Softball Fields - Okeechobee

Time: Start 8am

Early Registration \$200 if pd by 3/23

- Registration \$250 at the field
- Bring you own balls, 44 Core-ISA Rules
- Bracket will be determined by # of teams



Hargraves leads OHS to 25-13 flag football win

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Kyla Hargraves threw for 248 yards and four touchdowns and an opportunistic defense forced five South Fork turnovers as the Lady Brahmans defeated the Lady Bulldogs 25-13 in the season opener for flag football at a frigid Brahman Stadium on Thursday.

Baylee Farless caught two touchdown passes of 60 and two yards and Thad Sanders caught touchdowns of 40 yards and 17 yards to lead Okeechobee.

Destiny Nunez had two interceptions, one of them in the end zone when the game was still in doubt in the third quarter.

Laurie Scott had a big game for the Bulldogs as she returned an interception 50 yards for a touchdown and ran 40 yards for a second touchdown.

South Fork led (6-0) in the first quarter but on the play after their touchdown, Har-

graves found Farless behind the end zone for a long touchdown to tie the score. A 25-yard pass to Sanders set up a short touchdown pass from Hargraves to Farless which gave Okeechobee a (12-6) lead at halftime.

Brooke Snyder, Kailey Hoover and several other players were strong on defense for the Lady Brahmans.

Hargraves capped a 60-yard drive in the third when she found Sanders in the back of the end zone to make the score 19-6. Scott answered with her interception return to pull South Fork to within 19-13 in the fourth quarter. Sanders clinched the game in the final five minutes when she caught a ball over the middle near the 20-yard line and raced to the end zone for her second score.

Hargraves said the Lady Brahmans were united and stayed focused even after a few mistakes. She said coaches told them to forget the last play and recover.

"A couple of my passes were a little off but our receivers just went after the ball and were very aggressive," she noted.

She praised Sanders who she said is always ready to run after she catches the ball, and Farless, who showed her confidence and ability with her receptions.

"I asked her if she was nervous and she said I wasn't nervous at all. She has confidence and I have confidence and trust in her," she added.

Sanders said the first game was really fun and she was glad the team didn't give up after they fell behind. "It was pretty tough out there. I do whatever it takes to win. Overall it was a good game," she added.

Nunez praised the defense as they were intense and despite a few mistakes was able to recover and force turnovers.

"We knew the offense would need help and that every point counts. On the interception in the end zone I saw the ball coming right toward me so I went for it and got it," she added.

Nunez said the defense covered the Lady Bulldog receivers well and shut down Scott for the most part.

"It was our first real game and we definitely wanted to be on the winning side. It is a good way to start the season," she concluded.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Quarterback Kyla Hargraves eludes the rush in Thursday's game. The senior threw four touchdown passes in Okeechobee's victory.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Baylee Farless caught two touchdown passes in her first varsity game as OHS defeated South Fork Thursday, 25-13.

Okeechobee Sports News in Brief

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School **boys' baseball** team won their third game in a row Wednesday night as they defeated Lincoln Park Academy 8-3 at Lawnwood Stadium in Fort Pierce.

Layton Thomas had three hits while Al Fludd added two hits and Paul Jackson added a two-run double.

LPA fell to (5-7) while Okeechobee improved to (3-8). Kutter Crawford picked up his first win of the season and Christian Crews got the save.

- The **OHS softball team** was blown out at Jensen Beach Wednesday night 10-0. They compete in the tough South Florida Slam Fest this weekend.

- The **OHS boys track team** finished third out of four teams at the Port St. Lucie Classic on Tuesday. Port St. Lucie won the boys title. The Lady Brahmans finished in fourth place. Jensen Beach won the girls title.

Eddie Neal finished sixth in the boys long jump. Ami Edwards won the girls discus throw with a toss of 71 feet 9 inches and the shot put throw with a toss of over 31 feet. Rosa Borja finished in third place in that event. Devion Wigfall took third place in the boys discus throw. Robert Garza took sec-

ond place in the boys shot put throw.

The boys 4x800 meter relay team was victorious behind Frank Adamo, Cole Owens, Hernan Baltazar and Emmanuel Gaona. Baltazar took second place in the boys 1600 meter race and the 3200 meters. Gaona finished fourth in the 3200 meters.

The girls 4x 100 meters were victorious behind the legs of Shania Bays, Ami Edwards, Keirstin Bostwick and Mercedes Washington.

Sha'Dajia Williams won the girls 400 meter race with a time of 1:03.05. Washington finished in third place.

Frank Adamo took fourth place in the boys 400 meters while Cole Owens took fourth in the 800 meters.

Alexis Muller took fourth place in the girls 1600 meter race.

- The **OHS tennis team** split their match at John Carroll on Wednesday. The boys team was victorious 6-1 while the Lady Brahmans fell 6-1. Brendon Jonassaint, Lucas Penido, Cody Walker and Colt Root were impressive in singles matches. Okeechobee also won both doubles matches via shut-out.

The only victory for the Lady Brahmans came from Chelsea Walker in number five singles over Caecilian Fissler, 8-0. Okeechobee boys improved to (7-2) while the Lady Brahmans fell to (3-6).

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Special to the Okeechobee News

North Elementary Student Council

NES Student Council recently participated in a community service project. All the students picked up trash around the NES, YMS, Peace Lutheran, OK Softball fields and IRSC neighborhoods. After their hard work, the students enjoyed lunch at Golden Corral and a walk on the pier at the lake. Thanks to all students who participated!



Special to the Okeechobee News/SES

Students of the Week

Congratulations to the Students of the Week at South Elementary School for the week of March 4 - 8: Isabel Duarte, Marymar Mendoza, Bradley Gomez, Logan Hamblen, Jatravian Kelly, Erin Starling, Mason Boney, Chelsea Hastings, Daniel Nyerges and Robert Waugh.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Students of the Week

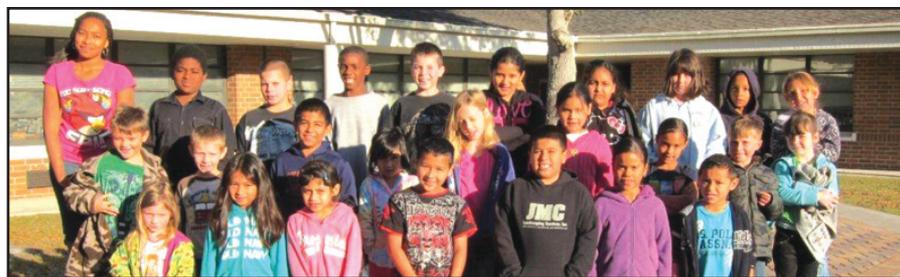
Everglades Elementary School students achieving excellence in the classroom for the week of March 11-15 include: Kindergarten students, Oliver Saunders, Levi Courson, Youvani Beltram, Jabier Yanez, Zachary Saroka, Lilliane Villarreal; first grade students, Whitney Hunt, Analis Guerrero, Haley Lyons, Nathaly Brandt; second grade students, Jasmin Catalan, Emily Bianco, Isis Guerrero, Kaleigh Carter, Aaron Johnson, Cayson Jarriel, Tatyana Santibanez; third grade students, Diana Ruiz, Aubrie McWhorter, Anya Collick, Allyson Broadrick; fourth grade students; Francisco Lopez, Destini Becerra, Mackenzie Crum, Levi Weniger, Iliana Boyer; fifth grade students, Jehosafat Tapia, Kolby Yingling and Brenda Sixto. Congratulations to our many outstanding students.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OMS

Students of the week

Osceola Middle School Students are SPRINGING FORWARD with daylight savings time! Congratulations to: Delaney Jones, Rocky Chauhan, Daniel Parker, Genesis Gaucin, Megan Underwood, Gavin Beal, Taylor Pelham and Brittney Mackanick. Not pictured are Alex Aguirre and Mrs. Denney, our teacher of the week!



Special to the Okeechobee News

Students of the week

Seminole Elementary would like to congratulate their Students of the Week for the week of March 15: Orrin Wilkerson, Clayton Wolf, Katelyn Tran, Bryan Reyes, Katelyn Comer, Malek Alvarado, Ki-Amber Mingo, Preston Rush, Johnny Henry, Rylee Kesner, Jay Thomas, Jayla Leon, Jessika Oliviera, Isela Palacios, Chase Pafford, Justin Ray, Michaela Suthard, Maritzsa Flores, Diosili Martinez, Hailey Jones, Marcos Gomez, Antonio Yanez, Lia Nieto, Gired Aguilar, Elizabeth White and Jose Valdez.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Place mats for Okeechobee Healthcare Facility

Student Council members made place mats for Okeechobee Healthcare Facility residents on March 7 during our meeting time as a service project. We delivered them to OHCF the week of March 11.