

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 104 No. 147

Sunday, December 8, 2013

75¢ Plus tax

Drivers cautioned about smoke and fog ... Page 17

OHS wrestlers fall to PSL ... Page 23

Rotary plans wild game dinner ... Page 2

Are you a good candidate for total knee replacement? ... Page 12

Lake Levels

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

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Special to the Okeechobee News/James Overstreet/Bassmasters

Bassmasters tournament on the Big O

Professional anglers tried their luck on the Big O this week in the Bassmaster Classic Wild Card Tournament presented by Star Tron. Forty-nine anglers fished the first two days of the tournament on Thursday and Friday. The field was cut to the top 12 for Saturday's final. Above, (foreground) Shaye Baker led the field after Friday's competition.

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County Commissioners will soon be asked to approve an \$110,000 project to resurface the sports complex pool.

The pool built in 1990 was resurfaced back in 2000.

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Neafsey said the pool is only a few inches shy of being able to have swimmers use dive

Residents warned of wildfire danger

By Katrina Elsken
Okeechobee News

The dry season brings increased risk of wild fires and the Florida Forest Service wants local residents to be prepared.

On Thursday, a wildfire burned 60 acres of flatwoods near Ortona in Glades County. On Friday, Forest Service firefighters battled a 20-acre wildfire off U.S. 98 near the Okeechobee/Highlands County border.

Residents should prepare their homes, said Melissa Yunas, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist Florida Forest Service. "If they live near nature, then they can be at risk of wildfire danger."

Preparing your home includes removing any dry brush and dead plants near your home and keeping a defensible green space between your home and wooded areas.

In addition to wildfire dangers, another kind of tree brings fire danger this time of year. The Forest Service asks residents to take special care with

See FIRE — Page 8

Swimming pool upgrade too costly says county

By Charles M. Murphy
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starts. He said it would take a lot of construction to refit the pool and costs would be tremendous.

"It is unfortunate that nothing could be accomplished. The revenue we could make from hosting larger meets in this town would be great," he said.

See POOL — Page 8



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Rotary announces wild game dinner

Come join the Rotary Club of Okeechobee as it teams up with Real Life Children's Ranch to hold an exciting new fund raising event, "Walk on the Wild Side" wild game dinner at Quail Creek Plantation at 5 p.m. on Jan. 25, 2014.

A percentage of the funds raised at this event will go directly to Real Life Children's Ranch and the balance for scholarships for graduating Okeechobee High School students and a multitude of local charitable organizations that the Rotary Club of Okeechobee has supported over the years.

Tickets are \$40 per person and include a unique dining experience, two tickets for

beer or wine, a commemorative T-Shirt, live music along with a silent and live auction.

The menu will include items such as stuffed jalapenos with venison, swamp cabbage, pheasant, axis deer, frog legs, venison kabobs, red stag patties, quail, pulled pork, turkey and more.

A variety of sponsor opportunities ranging from \$400 to \$1,500 are available that include free tickets, advertising placements and verbal recognition at the event.

Can't make the dinner? Help out by donating an auction item or by making a cash donation.

This is an event you won't want to miss!

For more information on sponsorship packages, tickets or auction donations contact Donna Gaiser at 863-610-9416 or canvas.shop@yahoo.com.

Okeechobee Forecast

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Today: Sunshine and clouds mixed. High 81F. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 mph.

Tonight: A mostly clear sky. Low 66F. Winds light and variable.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Generally sunny. High around 85F. Winds SSE at 5 to 10 mph.

Monday Night: Mostly clear skies early will give way to low clouds and fog after midnight. Low near 65F. Winds light and variable.

Tuesday: Areas of fog early, then partly cloudy in the afternoon. High around 85F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph.

Tuesday Night: A few clouds. Low 66F. Winds light and variable.

Wednesday: A few clouds early, otherwise mostly sunny. High 82F. Winds NNE at 5 to 10 mph.

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Special to the Okeechobee News

Courthouse now a historic place

Jennifer Williamson of Cray Buchanan presents county administrator Robbie Chartier (right) with an artist rendition of the Okeechobee County Historic Courthouse, which is featured on candy jars distributed by the firm to thousands of people and businesses during the holiday season and includes a brief description of the building's historical significance. "The Courthouse is now listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, and stands as a tribute to Okeechobee County's proud heritage." Special thanks to Williamson and Cray Buchanan for recognizing Okeechobee County's Historic Courthouse located in the 19th Judicial Circuit.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Toys for My Aunt's house

Community Collaborative Council members have generously donated Christmas toys, clothes and gift cards for needy children. All donations have been given to My Aunts' House for distribution. My Aunt's House (501c3) gladly accepts gently used clothing, baby furniture, holiday items and back to school supplies year round. Everything at My Aunt's House is free with a referral from a supporting agency. My Aunt's House does not have regular store hours as clients are seen by appointment only.

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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!

School fees

- I do have issues with the "activity fees." They are expensive, and again, I believe OHS and the school board needs to re-think how this is done. There's a lot of kids out there with great talent and skill that are missing the opportunities granted to the more affluent students. That is certainly more of a tragedy than a teacher not having "tenure"... Perhaps the same amount of energy and passion for seeking tenure, salary increases, etc., should be devoted to this obvious and evident social injustice. Solve that and perhaps I'll support tenure; in that case, the teachers will deserve some additional consideration.

- What are the taxes paying for? The teachers shouldn't have to dip into their own pockets one red cent. If I were one, I would teach with what is provided to me and nothing else. And another note. My neighbor just showed me the graduation cap and gown fees and announcement cards and such. Just to order the cap & gown is \$60. How do kids with parents who are struggling financially to even put food on the table able to afford their cap and gown.

- The next time they discuss the school budget, maybe more parents should be there asking questions. How much tax money is spent on teachers' salaries. How much goes to administration? How much on buildings? How much on sports? Just doing things "the way we always have" is not working. Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result.

Turn signals

- With the cold weather hitting the northern states, more of our winter residents are back in town. Now is the time that traffic starts to pick up and it is important for everyone on the road to make sure they use turn signals to let the other drivers know if they plan to change lanes or turn. Communicate with the other drivers before you slow for that turn and we will all be safer.

Students fall behind

- I think American students are falling behind in math, science and English because the schools don't encourage academic excellence enough. They need to make sure all of the children are engaged and challenged by the work. So many times, the kids seem to be doing busy work instead of learning.

- All of the problems facing our society today go right back to the breakdown of the family. If women would put off having children until they are married, it would make a big difference. Children deserve two parents who are committed to each other and to the kids. In this country, a family with a mom and dad who are married and who were married to each other before they had kids is no longer the norm. To succeed in school, children need encouragement and support at home,

- What is wrong with American schools compared to those who in other countries who are beating us academically? We put too much emphasis on sports. In other countries, school sports is just physical exercise. The top awards and prizes are for academics. If we took the emphasis off sports and put it on academics, it could make a big difference. What good does it do if a kid can catch a football if he can't pass the Math tests?

Obamacare

- I am sure that now with the death of Nelson Mandela, Obama is breathing a sigh of relief because this will give the media something else to focus on for a few days instead of Obamacare.

- I just learned that because Obamacare does not let insurance companies place a lifetime maximum payout on a policy, that I no longer have an annual "maximum out of pocket" on my policy. After the deductible is met, I have to pay 80 percent of some expenses (like hospitalization) with no limit. Previously, there was a maximum and after that the insurance company paid 100 percent. I am paying more for my health insurance, higher deductible and no maximum out of pocket. So much for "affordable." So much for "if you like your insurance plan, you can keep it."

- Since Obama now only has a 40 percent approval rating, can we have a recall election? A lot of people have changed their minds and three more years is a very long time to have to wait to make a change.

Reflections from the pulpit

Advent Meditation: How can I work the works of God?

By Loy Mershimer, Pastor
Okeechobee Presbyterian Church

How can I work the works of God? This is really a trick question. Because the first confession of the Christian life is that we cannot do the work that God requires. We are categorically unable to do holy work, in ourselves. Jesus tells us that the work of God is simply to believe in Him, the One whom the Father has sent (Jn. 6:29). In other words, our work of faith is no work at all (in ourselves), but belief in the One who has worked salvation for us.

In this faith, trusting in the work of Jesus for us, there is a subsequent following through in obedient works: we are ordained for good works, and sanctified to them. But even this task can be overwhelming, if we look at it in totality. At any moment of our life, if we look at what we are, compared to what we are called to be, it can be overwhelming. Discouraging. Paralyzing.

But God doesn't look at us like that. God doesn't demand the finished product, nor place its expectations upon us. He lovingly looks at us in Christ, and then faithfully conforms us to the image of Christ, over time, into eternity. It is thus that He can look at what we consider failure, and bring eternal good from it (Rom. 8:28-29). When we judge ourselves based on the weight of finished expectations, we are judging ourselves in pride, with self as the focus. The better way is to make Christ the focus, trusting His work — and then working humbly on the next simple task at hand. We confess that we can't work what we should, but that Christ can work it through us... and then we look for the next thing at hand in which we can show obedience. In faith, we "do with our might what our hands find to do" (Eccl. 9:10). Like this, something miraculous happens: In our very confession that we cannot work as we should, somehow the work of God happens in us and through us.

In the Lark Rise to Candleford Christmas, a former seafaring man struggles with this paradox. He is weighed down with what it means to be a faithful man — a husband and father. In his mind, he never will be what he thinks he should be. So he secretly plans to abandon his family. After all, if he can't live up to everything that his wife and children need, then they'd probably be better off without him. And he'd be better off without family responsibility: If no responsibility, then no unmet expectations. So his thinking goes, in pride.

He plans his escape to the sea. He writes a letter to a sea captain, requesting crew work

that will take him far from home. But his wife sees the address of the letter before he posts it, and his secret escape is not so secret. She privately weeps in anguish, sensing that her husband is going to abandon his family again.

She confides her fears to a wise friend; this friend, in turn, speaks perchance to the husband. "Why are you leaving your family, when they need you so?" she asks him. He responds that the weight of what he should be for his family is too much for him. And his solution is to run.

The wise friend simply turns to him and says, "Surely we can do for one day what is impossible for a lifetime!" In other words, yes, the full weight of what you see for yourself is impossible. But by God's grace, you can go home and live for just one day, being present for your family, meeting their needs — humbling yourself just for one day: the day called Today.

That sentence shocks the husband. It breaks through the fog of pride and the misery of narcissistic expectations. He returns to his family table in time for Christmas, perhaps truly present for the first time, and hopeful for a faithful future. Surely, we can do for one day what is impossible for a lifetime!

The secret of working the work of God is an apparent paradox. We have to give up any hope in ourselves, and place it in our Lord. We confess our utter need, and then humbly focus on the task at hand — no matter how seemingly insignificant, the task of today. J.C. Ryle says, "Expect less of yourself and more of Christ." It's good advice. The work of God is accomplished in the humble works that we find before us today — for our family, for those closest to us, for those whom God brings into our lives, for those whom God bids us pray. Today!

Confession: Less of me, and more of Christ, in all I do and say. If it is Christ at work in me, then no task is too humble. The pie that is baked: It is Christ in me. The ham that is cooked: Christ in me, for family. The house that is cleaned: Christ in me, the hope of glory. The neighbor that is helped: Christ in me, speaking peace and hope...

Truly, the work of God is before us, in the very next thing at the door of our conscience, and the very next person at the door of our house. All God asks is the next moment, the day called Today.

Give God this day, today, the whole way through Advent, and you will be working His work — even with all your faults. And this Christmas, you will encounter Him as never before. Alleluia!

Amen.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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

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- To correct our errors and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

MEMBER OF:



Florida must address serious water issues

By Steve Crisafulli

Florida House of Representatives
Speaker-Designate

One of Florida's most precious resources is water. Our state is world renowned for our 1,200 miles of beaches, springs, and more than 7,700 large lakes. Yet Florida's water supply is more than just a tourist attraction — it's also the heart of our agriculture industry and the source of drinking water we all depend upon to live our lives.

Water is so essential to our existence, yet water policy is often overlooked or tackled in a parochial manner; neither approach is right. To ignore the growing demand for and the quality of our supply leaves our state incredibly vulnerable. Focusing on one community at a time in a piecemeal approach can lead to new problems in another down the road.

As an example, look no further than South Florida's recent challenges. This year, the region faced one of the rainiest summers on record. To reduce the chance of flooding, excess fresh water from Lake Okeechobee was pumped into South Florida estuaries.

While this addressed the immediate problem of relieving pressure on the dike maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, it also upset fragile coastal ecosystems downstream and negatively impacted the local economies.

Rightly, local public officials at every level mobilized to address the problem. Many of the ideas that have come out of the task-force spearheaded by Senator Joe Negron correctly consider the state as a whole and the connectivity of our waterways. But, with emotions high and attention so focused on one region, there is a need to guard against tunnel vision and focusing exclusively on one problem to the detriment of others.

It is why I am calling on policy makers on every level to embrace three principles as we look for water policy solutions and establish water funding priorities. First, as we deliberate on water issues, we must do so through the lens of a comprehensive, statewide approach to protect the long-term health of Florida's water ecosystems. Water has no boundaries, and it is imperative that policy makers, opinion leaders, and the pub-

lic reject a limited parochial view.

There are issues across the state, from the Northern Indian River Lagoon, located in the legislative district I represent, to the Apalachicola River, to our freshwater springs, and I intend to see that each of them gets attention in Tallahassee.

Secondly, Florida's water management policy must be flexible so that water managers can adapt to rapidly changing circumstances. In a state that is annually in the path of hurricanes and tropical storms, where the average doorstep is only 100 feet above sea level, and where the decisions of neighboring states can harm our water supply, having an effective water management strategy is critical for our survival.

Third, we must attack our water needs with long-term and short-term strategies. Water management strategy is not enough. We must also continue to invest in proactive measures to effectively deal with our immediate water quality issues. During the prolonged economic downturn, our state pulled back on funding local water projects. As the fiscal outlook improves, I believe it is criti-

cal that we reengage our partnership with local governments to strategically invest in projects that will improve our overall water supply and quality, such as the Everglades restoration bill we passed this year.

The 2014 Legislative Session is approaching, and the Legislature must work with Governor Scott, Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam, Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Herschel Vinyard, and the water management districts to craft a smart, comprehensive water policy for our state. As a growing population, weather events, and even decisions by neighboring states strain our water resources, it is imperative we have a comprehensive plan in place to protect water quality and access for all Floridians, not just today, but for generations to come.

Rep. Steve Crisafulli resides in Merritt Island, Florida. He serves as the House Majority Leader and was designated by his peers to be the Republican Speaker of the House for the 2014-2015 Legislative Sessions.

Letter to the editor

Thanks for Blood

Roundup help

The eighth annual Okeechobee Blood Roundup was a success thanks to these wonderful people and businesses.

We ask each year for your help and you unhesitatingly give it.

Thank you does not seem enough, but from the bottom of our collective hearts, it is all we have to give. The first part of the list is all the food providers, some who gave gift coupons, others who provided food to feed all the workers at the Roundup; many did both.

The second list is all the wonderful people and groups who participated in the planning and preparation of those two successful days.

The last group is those who gave gifts to be awarded our faithful blood donors. Because of their generosity, more than 175 prizes were awarded throughout the two days.

Finally, we thank the 524 persons who came to donate life. Yes, you'll be hearing from us again next year and yes, I know you will help. That's just the way it is in this family we call Okeechobee.

Thank you one and all.

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Okeechobee Sheriff's Department
Okeechobee the Magazine
Okeechobee Veterinary Hospital
Orchids and More
Pamper and Polish
Pine Creek Sporting Club
Plaster Play Time
PNC Bank
Pritchard's Insurance
Quail Creek Plantation
Quik-Change Oil & Lube
Raulerson Hospital
Reba Winchester
Regions Bank
Retired Teacher's Association
Rocky's Barber Shop
Rose Kennedy
Royal's Furniture
Rustic Furniture
Sandy Doone, Artist
Seacoast National Bank
SFWMD
Sherwin Williams Paints

Silver Spurs Signs
Southern Dun
Speedy Transmission
St. Lucie Battery & Tire
State Farm Insurance
Sun Trust Bank
Suzanne's Personal Care
Syble's Flowers
Tammie's Bling & Western Wear
Taylor Rental
TD Bank
Tenniswood Dental Associates
Thackerville Retrievers
The Alarm Company
The Gun Shop
The Oil Can
The Outpost/Kid's Corner
The Pickle Lady
The Tobacco Place
Thirty-One
Thrivent Financial
Tire Zone
Tires Plus
Toni's Chic Boutique
Treasure Island Discount Liquors
Tropics Tanning
Unique Bail Bonds
United for Families
Ver-Style Studio & Salon
VFW Post 10539
VFW Post 9528
VFW Post 9528 Auxiliary
Vinn's Tailor Shop
Virginia Larkin
W & W Lumber
Walgreen's
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Wemmer Family Orthodontics
Williams Pawn & Gun
Winn Dixie
WOTM Chapter 2036
WOTM Chapter 956
Raye Deusinger
Roundup Chairman

Community Events

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Legion hosting Sunday bingo

American Legion Post #64 will host Sunday night bingo on **Dec. 8** 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. The American Legion now has free WIFI for its lounge and dining room patrons.

Retired educators to meet

The Okeechobee Retired Educators will meet Monday, **Dec. 9**, beginning at 11 a.m. at the home of Sharlene Avant, 1609 S.W. 28th St. All members are reminded to bring a covered dish to share and canned food items to donate to the food bank.

Shrine has spaghetti dinner

The Okeechobee Shrine Club, 1740 S.W. 53rd St., will hold a spaghetti dinner Tuesday evening, **Dec. 10**, from 4 – 7 p.m. and reservations are not required. The Shrine Club is pleased to offer smoke-free dining. For your listening and dancing pleasure, music is provided 5 – 8 p.m. 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.

Masons offering breakfast

The Masonic Lodge, located at 107 N.W. Fifth St., will host a breakfast with all the fixings on Sunday, **Dec. 8**, for \$6 per plate. The public is welcome and carry-out is available. Breakfast will be served from 8 to 11 a.m. All proceeds go to local Mason giving. Call Hugh at 863-532-1097 with questions.

Okeechobee Sports News in Brief

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

• Sydney Townsend and Kasey Cox both had 11 points to lead Jensen Beach to a 51-28 victory over Okeechobee in girls basketball action last Thursday in Martin County.

Ronnesha Brown added seven points for the Lady Falcons who jumped out to an early 15-2 lead and were never threatened in the game. The Falcons led 29-7 at the break and 39-11 after the third quarter.

Bethany Stuart had nine points to lead Okeechobee (3-7). Hailey Greeson had six points and Cheyenne Nunez added five points for OHS.

Coach Morgan Ungerott said Jensen Beach had more intensity and fire early in the game and never really slowed down. "They were a step quicker than us and were more physical."

Ungerott said her girls had played three games in four nights and had come off an emotional win at Moore Haven so that might

Workshop planned for Dec. 9

The Okeechobee Healthy Start board of directors Winter Workshop will be held Monday, **Dec. 9**, at 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 401 S.W. Fourth St. The meeting is open to the public. The Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition is part of a statewide network of coalitions responsible for planning and implementing services for pregnant women and infants. The coalition is made up of citizens interested in promoting healthy families and healthy outcomes for babies in Okeechobee. For information, contact executive director Kay Begin at 863-462-5877.

Elks Lodge to meet

The only meeting for Elks Lodge 2871 for December will be Thursday, **Dec. 12**, at the VFW in Treasurer Island. This meeting will be the most special of the year because we have Florida Dignitaries visiting with us. We will have a cocktail hour starting 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. with a \$10 donation for the building fund. The meeting will start at 8:15 p.m. and will include new member initiations. All Elks members from other lodges are welcome. Come join us for a special time. Please note there will not be a meeting on Dec. 26.

Youth hoop sign-ups set

Parks and Recreation is offering 2014 co-ed youth basketball for 9-14 year olds. Registration will be through **Dec. 13** at the Parks and Rec office, 640 N.W. 27th Lane, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. The registration fee is \$50. For information, call 863-763-6950.

have been one of the reasons for the lackluster play.

"We did not play up to our potential. Jensen Beach is a beatable team and I think our team can compete if I have five girls working toward the same goal," she added.

Thaddricka Sanders continued to have a leg injury and the Lady Brahmans lost spark plug Baylee Farless to an ankle injury in the contest. That cuts the roster to only seven healthy players.

"I hope we can get through the next few weeks, get some rest over the holidays, and be ready for the last month of the season," Ungerott added.

• The Okeechobee **Youth football** league junior team played at the Rattler Bowl in Haines City and defeated Haines City 13-6. Robert Futch and Devonte Luellman scored touchdowns for the Junior team, comprised of 11 and 12 year old boys. The Pee Wee team fell to the Deland Dawgs 21-6 and the CFA Mustangs from Kissimmee 12-6 at the Nov. 30 tournament.

Health Expo is Jan. 25

The seventh annual Okeechobee Family Health and Safety Expo will be held Saturday, **Jan. 25, 2014**, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center, just off S.R. 710 There will be free parking and admission — everything is free. Take advantage of health screenings and education, demonstrations and first responder vehicles — including fire rescue, police, sheriff's office and helicopters. There will also be free entertainment and lunch, with over 100 vendor booths, giveaways and prizes. Apply for Florida KidCare, Medicaid and Food Stamps at the Expo. Complete the Know Your Numbers report card, which is a record of your free health screenings and an opportunity to win a prize. There is still lots of space available for vendors. For information, call 863-462-5000, ext. 257; or, 863-634-6464.

Gift drop-off sites named

The Guardian ad Litem program in Okeechobee County has two sites for dropping off gifts — The Alarm Company, S.R. 70 W., and D4 Powersports, 1460 S.R. 78 W. Gifts should not be wrapped — the ad Litem program will take care of that. The program consists of volunteers working with a coordinator to be the voice of the children in court and cases representing neglected, abused, abandoned children.

FEMA has locator system

FEMA's National Emergency Family Registry and Locator System (NEFRS) is activated following a Presidentially-declared disaster to reunite families that have become separated as a result of the disaster. Once the disaster is declared, Individuals and families can register online at www.fema.gov or by phone at 1-800-588-9822, 24-hours a day, when the system is activated. <http://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-local-state-tribal-and-non-profit/recovery-directorate/national-emergency-family>.

Toys for Tots drive underway

The annual Toys for Tots drive is under way in Okeechobee. Toys may be left at: Lake Okeechobee Insurance; Seacoast Main Branch; The UPS Store; Barracudas; Walmart; Walgreens; One Stop Party Shop; Don's Appliances; Morgan's Furniture; A Child's World; WOKC; Dairy Queen; Fire Stations 1 and 2; Trends; Okeechobee High School; or, Cowboys. All toys will be distributed to families and organizations who have submitted requests. Toys will be available for pick-up Sunday, Dec. 15, at A Child's World South, 4664 441 S.E. Only organizations and families who have submitted an application can pick up toys. Toys will be bagged and ready for pick up. Participants must bring photo ID matching the name on the application with an Okeechobee address.

Martha's House needs toys

It's the time of year when Martha's House Shelter and director Crystal Royal call on you to work a miracle. If you have a toy to donate, call Crystal at 863-763-0596.

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.

Etta Marie Gray, 77

OKEECHOBEE — Etta Marie Gray died Dec. 4, 2013.

She was born March 13, 1936 in Goldust, Tenn. She was a resident of Okeechobee since 1968. She was a school bus driver for over 35 years. She enjoyed dancing, spending time with her family and playing pranks on friends and family.

Mrs. Gray was preceded in death by father, George Mahoney, Sr.; her mother, Flossie M. Geans; stepfather, Clarence Geans; sister, Ethel M. Bricker; brother George "Snookum" Mahoney, Jr.; children, Donna M. Yates and Margie A. Stokes; grandson, Deke Padgett.

She is survived by her husband, Paul Lloyd Gray, Sr.; sister, Ellen Belk of Clewiston; children, Paul L. Gray, Jr., Gail Gray-Stark and Gena Gray-Lagos (Luis) all of Okeechobee; grandchildren, Tara Douglas-Newman, Kristin Gray, Donnie Yates, Joshua Gray, Corbin Davis and Isabella Lagos; great grandchildren, Cade Newman, Ashlyn Newman, Kaylyn Newman, Aleya Newman, Faith DeLargy-Padgett and Cash Gray.

Visitation will be 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, 2013 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9, 2013 at Church of God of Okeechobee with Pastor Johnny Jarriel of Victory Baptist Church officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery with Pastor Jerry Atkins of Cowboy Church in Arcadia officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Okeechobee, PO Box 1548, Okeechobee FL 34973.

Those wishing to leave a message of condolence may sign the online register book at www.OkeechobeeFuneralHome.com

All arrangements are entrusted to the direction and care of the Buxton, Bass and Conway families of the Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home, 400 North Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee Florida 34972.

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All Obituaries now include Online Guestbooks where family and friends can share reflections, remembrances and condolences.

Visit:

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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)

Spread holiday cheer with manatee, sea turtle decals

Those searching for a meaningful holiday gift should consider choosing one that helps protect Florida's manatees and sea turtles.

With a \$5 donation, people can receive a manatee or sea turtle decal from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

This year's decals celebrate the presence of manatees and sea turtles (los manatíes y tortugas marinas) 500 years ago in Florida

when Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon landed on this peninsula and named it La Florida, land of flowers.

People can order the decals online at MyFWC.com/ManateeSeaTurtleDecals or ask for them at local county tax collectors' offices. Decal donations support conservation of manatees and sea turtles, including research, rescue, rehabilitation and management efforts.

"The FWC's manatee and sea turtle decals illustrate how these species have been interwoven with Florida's history for 500 years as part of our rich natural heritage," said Carol Knox, the FWC's Imperiled Species Management Section leader. "With a \$5 donation per decal, people can be part of the effort to keep manatees and sea turtles as part of our wildlife legacy for at least 500 more years."

Manatees and sea turtles were among the native wildlife seen by Ponce de Leon and his crew. Ponce de Leon also designated a cluster of islands 70 miles west of Key West as Las Tortugas, because of the many sea turtles nesting there. As with other Florida

beaches, the islands of Dry Tortugas National Park still have loggerhead and green turtles coming back year after year to lay their eggs.

Today, the manatee is the state's designated marine mammal, and the loggerhead sea turtle is the state's saltwater reptile.

Purchase of a "Save the Manatee" or "Helping Sea Turtles Survive" license plate is another way to celebrate the holidays while protecting these imperiled species. Go to BuyAPlate.com.

For more on manatees, go to MyFWC.com/Manatee.

For more on sea turtles, go to MyFWC.com/SeaTurtle.

Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

DECEMBER 2 & 3, 2013

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

	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:	LAST WEEK:		MONDAY	TUESDAY
COWS:							
800-1000	70.00	- 84.00	74.75	75.89	CLFS	1095	936
1000-1200	70.00	- 91.00	78.07	75.76	COWS	149	265
1200-1400	70.00	- 88.00	80.04	78.81	STRS	27	73
1400-1600	72.00	- 86.00	79.83	77.80	HFRS	13	100
					BULLS	25	61
					YRLINGS	39	95
					MX	0	0
					TOTAL	1348	1530
BULLS:							
1200-1400	81.00	- 104.00	95.13	89.82			
1400-1600	81.00	- 102.00	90.67	94.69			
1600-1800	84.00	- 103.00	94.43	95.77			
1800-2000	85.00	- 98.00	93.00	100.6			
STEERS:							
150-250	170.00	- 280.00	222.50	229.11			
250-300	160.00	- 260.00	213.56	217.76			
300-350	150.00	- 255.00	213.76	200.84			
350-400	140.00	- 225.00	186.78	193.65			
400-450	145.00	- 205.00	175.56	179.50			
450-500	142.50	- 195.00	168.60	168.29			
500-550	135.00	- 187.50	162.10	158.31			
550-600	135.00	- 174.00	157.64	153.15			
600-650	132.50	- 150.00	141.57	145.82			
650-700	127.00	- 145.00	133.94	138.50			
HEIFERS:							
150-250	160.00	- 220.00	195.73	198.80			
250-300	150.00	- 200.00	164.32	177.56			
300-350	140.00	- 190.00	164.40	163.33			
350-400	130.00	- 215.00	160.21	156.99			
400-450	125.00	- 170.00	153.22	153.41			
450-500	127.50	- 185.00	147.44	150.64			
500-550	125.00	- 165.00	140.74	148.99			
550-600	125.00	- 160.00	139.14	145.98			
600-650	121.00	- 147.50	134.25	127.38			

Everything sold pretty good again this week. Cows and bulls fully steady to \$2 higher. The calf market is still strong with good demand, especially for winter grazing calves. We're seeing a lot of "clean up" calves coming in—everybody's getting down to the end of this year's calf crop! Only two more weeks of regular sales plus the Slaughter Cow sale on Monday, Dec. 23.

Call us if we can help with trucking arrangements or give you any more information.

Closed Dec. 23 - Jan. 3, 2014 for the holiday!

Ray Sheltra, Vero Beach, topped the calf market with a high of \$2.80 bought by Rush Creek Cattle.

Gene Mattson, Okeechobee, topped the cow market with a high of 91.00 bought by Central Beef.

See ya next week,
Todd

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) deadline is in January 2014

By John Crabtree, johnc@cfra.org, Center for Rural Affairs
Special to the Okeechobee News

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) just opened the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) for new enrollments in 2014. From Dec. 2 through Jan. 17, 2014, farmers, ranchers and foresters interested in participating in the program can submit applications to NRCS. The CSP rewards farmers, ranchers, and foresters for maintaining existing conservation practices and adopting additional practices on cropland, grassland, non-industrial private forestland and tribal lands. The program helps producers foster clean water, better soil management, improved habitat, energy efficiency, and provide other natural resource benefits.

The CSP is a continuous sign-up program that has periodic cut-off dates for ranking applications. Jan. 17, 2014 is the deadline for the coming year. Applications can be filed at your local NRCS office. The Center for Rural Affairs also encourages potential applicants to call the Center's Farm Bill Helpline to learn more about the application process and help uncover and overcome barriers encountered during the sign-up by calling (402) 687-2100 or emailing Traci Bruckner at tracib@cfra.org.

By 2013 CSP reached over 60 million acres enrolled nationally. CSP is one of the most popular and effective conservation programs, and many will apply, which is why the Center for Rural Affairs has fought so hard to protect threats to this funding in the current farm bill and appropriations debates in Congress. Producers interested in applying should contact the Center for Rural Affairs helpline and their local NRCS office as soon as possible to meet the deadline.

Brahman Theatres III

For Info, Call 763-7202

MOVIE TICKETS:

- Adults \$6.50
- Children 12 & under \$5.00
- Senior Citizens \$5.00 all movies
- Matinees \$4.50

PG-13

Fri., Dec. 6th - Thurs., Dec. 12th

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

II: "THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE"
Fri., Sat., Sun. & Wed 2:00, 4:30, 7:00 & 9:45. Tues. & Thurs. 7:00 & 9:30. Mon. 3:00 & 7:00

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

ADMIT ONE

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY
City Citizen Boards and Committees

The City of Okeechobee recognizes the importance of volunteerism in efficient and progressive municipal government. The City Council appoints residents to serve as volunteers on various boards, committees and councils. Now is your opportunity to **GET INVOLVED** in your community and local government.

We have vacancies to fill on the:

- Planning Board/Board of Adjustment/Design Review Board**
City and County residents may apply. The meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.
- Code Enforcement Board**
F.S. requires that only City residents be appointed. The meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
- Pension Fund Board of Trustees**
City and County residents may apply for this position on the City General Employees/OUA Pension Fund Board of Trustees. The meetings are held the second Monday in the months of February, May, August and November at 5:30 p.m.

Prospective Board members should have an interest or experience in the area of service desired and the necessary expertise to accomplish the goals and objectives of that Board.

Applications for appointment, Board and Committee full descriptions, eligibility requirement, and other information, may be obtained from and submitted to the Office of the City Clerk at 55 SE 3rd Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida, 863-763-3372 x 215 or downloaded from the City Clerk's Office page of the City web site cityofokeechobee.com.

Lane Gamiotea, CMC, City Clerk

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POOL

Continued From Page 1

Neafsey said he heard the original plan called for the pool to be deeper but due to budget concerns plans had to be cut back.

At issue is the depth of the pool. The walls of the pool and deck would have to be raised six inches at the shallow end and 18 inches at the other end to meet Florida High School Athletic standards to allow diving from blocks to start the races according to county officials. At the Okeechobee pool, the divers must get into the water before the race and start each race from the side of the pool.

Okeechobee County Capital Projects Coordinator Donnie Oden said the county staff looked at the cost of such a project and found it to be cost prohibitive. "They gave us probable costs of between \$450,000 and \$500,000 to raise the deck and resurface the pool."

That estimate came in the spring of 2012. The cost of a new 25-yard diving pool would run between \$750,000 and \$800,000. That estimate came at the same time.

County administrator Robbie Chartier said several parents have contacted commissioners about the pool improvement. She said staff did study the possibility and found it was not feasible to dig the pool deeper. The only options were either to raise the sides of the pool and the deck or build another pool.

"We don't want the public to think that we didn't consider it. We got the numbers

(prices) and it didn't seem feasible," she added.

Commissioner Joey Hoover said a separate competitive swim complex might make more sense.

Another issue, because the sports complex pool does not have a diving well (for a diving board), Okeechobee swim meets cannot include diving events,

Mr. Neafsey said several Treasure Coast schools and Heartland Schools are discouraged from coming to Okeechobee for swim meets because there is no diving allowed. Diving is a big part of the swim meets and teams earn points for diving. The OHS swim team is at a disadvantage many times because they gain no points for the diving portion of the meet.

"It is a long drive for the coastal schools and they lose interest in driving an hour when some of their swimmers can't compete," he added. Neafsey said there is no reason Okeechobee kids can't have a pool that is adequate and he'd love to get things fixed at the sports complex.

"Just because people wanted to cut edges when they built it shouldn't be a reason for our kids to not have the same privileges as other schools in the area," he noted.

Commissioner Bryant Culpepper said he would also be interested in knowing the actual cost of a new pool that met all state high school athletic regulations. He suggested the county search for grant funds to help with the progress.

Mr. Oden said the regulations require non-slip tile and a lift for disabled persons which have added to the costs of resurfacing the pool.

FIRE

Continued From Page 1

Christmas trees.

Christmas tree fires are more likely to cause a house fire; a wildfire can result from the flames.

Calin Ionita, Senior Forester with the Florida Forest Service provides families with a few tips on protecting yourself, your home and your property. One of the first things you can do to prevent Christmas tree fires is to pick the right tree.

"When choosing a Christmas tree, it is important to buy a fresh tree. Cut an inch off the bottom or ask the vendor to do it for you. This new cut will allow water to be taken up. Put your tree in water as soon as you get home and be sure to top-up daily. A fresh tree will drink about a pint a day for the first couple of days," the forester explained.

However, do not think the danger ends just because the holidays are over and the tree is down.

According to Ms. Yunas, "Get to know the burn laws in your area before your strike that match. It is unsafe and illegal to burn wrapping paper and gift boxes. Consider recycling instead of burning your Christmas trees in order to reduce the chances of sparking a wildfire." Christmas trees may be ground up for mulch or used to help stabilize sand dunes, build structure for fish in a lake or pond or provide shelter for birds and other wildlife. Contact your local Solid Waste Authority for recycling information.

If you decide to burn your Christmas tree,

here are a few outdoor burning tips:

- Never leave a fire unattended, and make sure it is out before you leave;
- Keep a shovel and water hose handy;
- Don't burn on windy days or when the humidity is below 35%;
- Your fire must be contained to an 8-foot diameter pile or non-combustible barrel and must be at least 25 feet from forests, 25 feet from your house, 50 feet from a paved public road and 150 feet from other occupied buildings; and,

• If your fire escapes, you may be held liable for suppression costs and damage to the property of others.

• Burning yard waste does not require an authorization from the Florida Forest Service, but you should check with your local city, county or Florida Forest Service officials to see if there are any restrictions in your area.

For information about picking out the perfect tree anytime of the year please call Calin Ionita, Senior Forester, Okeechobee District 863-655-6409 Calin.Ionita@Fresh-FromFlorida.com.

For additional fire prevention tips, burning rules and regulations contact your local Florida Forest Service office: Vero Beach, 772-778-5085; Port St. Lucie, 772-468-3915; Stuart 772-221-4045; Okeechobee, 863-462-5160; Sebring, 863-655-6407, and; Palmdale 863-674-4000. Please visit our website at www.floridaforestservice.com.

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Thursday, December 12

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Martha's
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Tammi's "TOP" of the Lake

The Best of Lake Okeechobee



By Tammi Kelly
Okeechobee News

ARS Power Sports, 4422 U.S. 441 N., is the place to go for all your dirt bike, ATV, street bike, scooter, sport bike and cruisers needs. They do everything from oil changes to full repair. They also carry a wide variety of bikes and ATVs in youth and adult sizes for sale. Don't know what to get the rider in your life for the holidays? Stop in and let the guys at ARS Power Sports help you find that perfect gift. Gift cards are always available for any occasion and they offer layaway. Don't forget to tell them Tammi sent you! They can be reached at 863-467-0900, check out there website at www.arspowersports.com or just like them on Facebook.

Okeechobee Veterinary Hospital, 2949 S.R. 70 W., takes care of every animal from cattle to cats. They offer all services, even emergency. So when Fluffy has gotten sick at 2 a.m. on a Sunday morning, you can give them a call and they will help in any way they can to make sure your pet is at ease. They do annual wellness visits and hospitalization for the sick. They can answer all your questions and will take care of your pet like it's their own. Call them at 863-763-2523 or check out their website at www.okeevet.com.

Chico's Burrito Shack, 309 S.W. Park St., is a great place to go and have a great lunch, or any meal for that matter. If you want a great Mexican style lunch that's healthy, then Chico's is the place to go. They cook with no grease. They have many options to choose from such as burritos, tacos, fajitas, quesadillas, burrito bowls and salads. Have a short lunch time? Chico's will get you in and out fast. They can be reached at 863-623-4345, and don't forget to like them on Facebook.

Did you know the *Okeechobee News* has one of the strongest business Facebook au-

diences in the area? These days, the paper is so much more than the trusty print edition. Our community website is florida.newspaper.com (where you can read my blog on the Okeechobee page) and it is updated with breaking information and news in between publications of our regular print editions. We now have a new free local online business directory BizSearch. You can claim your free listing by going to our site and clicking on the BizSearch logo at the top of the page.

The Christmas holiday is upon us and some of you may be looking for good gift ideas. This one is for all you guys out there who are just so unsure of what to get your mom, aunt, sister, wife or girlfriend. I took a poll on Facebook and asked women for the top 10 things that men would not think to get the woman in their life for Christmas. According to the poll, these women suggest the men in their lives consider buying them:

1. Clothes, new shirts, pants, jackets and shoes.
2. A plant, something they can put outside and enjoy all year round.
3. A homemade card or letter from you, something from the heart.
4. A spa day, just some time to relax and get some "me" time.
5. A date night, anything from dinner and a movie out or a home cooked meal and a DVD.
6. A new gun, equipment or accessories.
7. Chocolates.
8. Jewelry.
9. A new electronic device such as a new phone, laptop, Kindle, Nook or MP3 player.
10. A new car.

This week, I'll turn the tables and poll the men about gifts they would like.

Thank you for reading! As always you can find more on my blog at <http://florida.newspaper.com/topofthelake/>.



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Special to the Okeechobee News/CES

Student Council Representatives

Central Elementary's very own Student Council Representatives; Sara Haygood, Wyatt Friend, Paisley Norman and Anna San Martin are very proud to participate in the Festival of Trees for Hospice of Okeechobee. As always they did an awesome job decorating Central's tree. Also a special "thank you" to Mrs. Friend, Student Council Advisor.

St Lucie Battery & Tire makes Top 100 National List

As of September, St Lucie & Battery & Tire of Fort Pierce, has made the top 100 list in the category of "Largest Independent U.S. Retailers" recently released by TBM data source.

The dealership grew to 12 stores with the opening of three new locations in the past year which tied them for a "not too shabby" 73rd place nationwide.

Serving the Treasure Coast for over 40 years the company has gained regional market share selling over 8000 tires per month, and performing over 2000 oil changes monthly.

The company now operates service centers in St Lucie, Okeechobee, Martin, Indian River and Palm Beach Counties. Eleven of their locations provide full-service maintenance and repair of passenger vehicles and light-duty trucks by offering everything from tune-ups to oil changes, alignments to a/c service. Additionally, five of their locations provide commercial truck, fleet and RV service, as well as mammoth tractor tires to the agricultural industry.

"Our philosophy has remained the same since our humble beginnings in Fort Pierce," said founder Joey Miller. "We provide honest and reliable service to everyone who walks through our doors."

In early 2013 the company opened new locations in Jensen Beach, St. Lucie West and West Palm Beach providing new job opportunities for skilled technicians and managers. The company now employs over 140 skilled workers, managers and administrative personnel combined.

"We always listen to our customers. Providing industry leading service continues to be our core growth component." said company president Doug Miller. "As a result, most folks who visit us become long-time patrons. We continue to add quality products to our line, and we're proud to carry America's favorite's brands like Michelin, Cooper Tires, BF Goodrich, Uniroyal, Toyo and many others." said Mr. Miller.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Economic Council meets

The Economic Council of Okeechobee met Dec. 4 at Indian River State College Williamson Conference & Education Center with Florida Power & Light Economic Development Project Manager Crystal Stiles, who spoke on FPL's economic development efforts in Florida. FPL's public database, Powering Florida, provides detailed community profiles and available real estate in each community, searchable by site or building specifications, or by city, county or region. Community Profiles include community, demographics, consumer spending, wages, and workforce data; learn more at www.poweringflorida.com. Pictured, left to right, are: Crystal Stiles, county administrator Robbie Chartier, ECO executive director Tara Minton Rowley and Nick Blount, also with FPL.

Toy drive under way

Big Lake Mission Outreach is currently sponsoring their 18th annual toy drive for underprivileged children in the community through **Dec. 18**. We are in need of gifts for children from a day old to teens. Donations may be new toys, gifts or gift cards. Monetary donations can be made to the mission. For information, call 863-763-5725.



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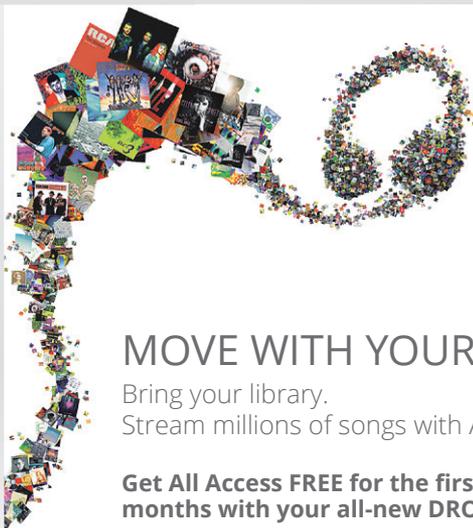
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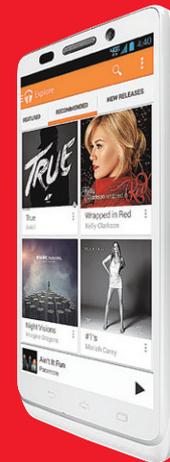
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Who is a good candidate for a total knee replacement?

If you're living with chronic knee pain, then a total knee replacement could be the best solution for you. After a period of rehabilitation, most people with knee replacements are thrilled to find that they can finally return to doing activities they love without the constant pain. Raulerson Hospital offers board certified orthopedic surgeons and joint replacement procedures. These are some signs that knee replacement surgery could be right for you.

Nothing Else Worked

Except in the case of a very severe injury, most orthopedic doctors won't suggest having a joint replacement surgery until all other options have been exhausted. Before having knee replacement surgery, your doctor may want you to try physical therapy, pain relief medications, and lifestyle changes before surgery. If these remedies don't work, or if they worked temporarily but stopped, then a total knee replacement could be the answer.

You Are Between 55 and 70

Younger and older patients can have total knee replacements, but the procedure is most effective in the 55 to 70 age group. For older patients, recovery from the procedure can take a little bit longer. Your doctor will help you weigh any age-related risks of

"If you're living with chronic knee pain, then a total knee replacement could be the best solution for you."

— **Consult-a-nurse**

surgery so you can decide what is right for you.

You Can Commit to Recovery

To recover from knee replacement surgery, you will need to take time off from work and limit your activities for several weeks. As with all joint replacement surgeries, you may also need to do physical therapy to build strength and mobility in your new knee. If you don't commit to recovery, your results could be compromised.

The best way to find out if a knee replacement surgery is right for you is to make an appointment with an orthopedic doctor at Raulerson Hospital. Find out more about our joint replacement surgeries, ER, and other services by calling 863-763-9228.



Special to the Okeechobee News

First United Methodist donates to Hospice

Pastor Jim Dawson delivered a wreath donated by the young people of First United Methodist Church, for Hospice's Festival of Trees. This year's theme is A Country Kinda Christmas.

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Special to the Okeechobee News/CES

Students of the week

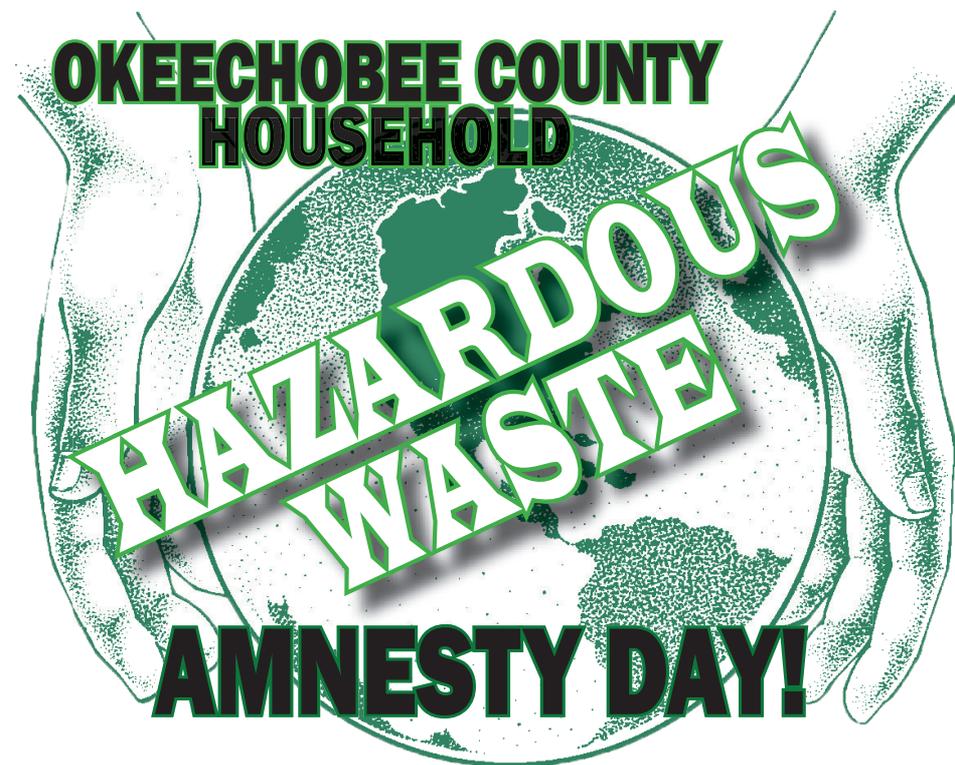
Central Elementary's students of the week for the week of Dec. 6: Jennifer DeNova, Layla Salazar, Alicia Flores, Michelle Campos, John Benji Haygood, Dustin Raulerson, Aiden Barron, Alejandro Castaneda, Caleb Cruz, James Hazen, Christian McCall, Charlie Schrichte, Jahmal Duhaney, Enekin Anthony Haylea Smith, Riley Carter, Sabastina Urbano, Symode Williams, Cody James, Luis Lerma, Kaliyah Blackmon, Jayda Cabrera, Ruby Garcia, Zach Rosemann, Kyle Shaw, Aaren Cruz-Gancerez, November Chrisley, Henry DeNova Logan Simmons, Melina Borjas and Jonathan Mederos.



Special to the Okeechobee News/SEMES

School Related Employee of the Year

Seminole Elementary would like to congratulate Rosa Ruiz for receiving the honor of 2013-2014 School Related Employee of the Year.



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Special to the Okeechobee News/SES

South Elementary Students of the Month

These high-soaring Eagles earned Student of the Month for November at South Elementary School. They are: Rebekah Thompson, Juan Sanchez, Kali Morse, Brianna McGriff, Brian Lewis, Aaron Gaucin, Jayda Rochelle, Gabriel Aldana, Lorena Urvina, Kelly Galletto, Ashley Phares, Matix Bishop, Deborah Stead, Raul Castellanos and Clayton Dempsey. Congratulations!

Toy drop-off sites named

Okeechobee Main Street and the Okeechobee County Chamber of Commerce will host a drop site for new, unwrapped toys at the chamber office, 55 S. Parrott Ave., from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OMS

Students of the week

These OMS Students of the Week are holding up items from the gift basket donated by Oak View Baptist for one of our Osceola Families for Thanksgiving! Thank you Oakview Baptist Church for your support of our students and their families during the holiday season.

Congratulations to the students of the week for Nov. 21: Makayla Belangia, Julissa Sanchez, Amy Trent, Damielle Marilao, Jacob Birdsall, Licett Castaneda, Kamakshi Dhillon, Triston Root and our teacher of the week, Mrs. Lauren Myers.



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Lady Warriors get first hoop win

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Megan Hargraves had 14 points and eight steals and Diamond Wiggins added 12 rebounds, four points and five steals as Yearling Middle School won their first game of the season, 26-17, over Oslo in middle school girls basketball action Thursday in Okeechobee.

Brook O'Hagan added three rebounds and five steals for Yearling (1-3). Oslo led 6-4 after the first quarter but Yearling outscored the Dolphins, 10-1, in the second quarter to take a 14-7 halftime lead. Yearling led 19-12 after the third quarter.

Hargraves put a couple of breakaway layups in the basket in the fourth quarter after Oslo had cut the lead to five points, to put the game away for YMS.

YMS coach Tammy Wright said she told the team they had to go hard for four quarters if they wanted to win and she knew it would be a physical and aggressive game.

"My girls hung in there and took the

punches and the abuse and came out with the win. It was pretty brutal out there, but I teach the girls to beat them on the score board and that is what matters in the end," she added.

Her team showed a tremendous amount of heart and effort in this game. Yearling had nearly 30 steals as a team and held their own on the boards.

"The girls are hungry for a good season this year. They want to have a winning season and not have so many losses, hopefully we're on our way after this win tonight," she noted.

O'Hagan was a part of the tough man-to-man defense for the Lady Bulls. The eighth grader said she thinks Yearling has a good team this year that is good on defense and improving on offense.

"I think we did well but we can do better. They fouled us a lot but you can't just give up if they rough you up. You must get back up, give 110 percent and never stop," she said.

O'Hagan said the girls devote a lot of time

during practice to defense, traps, and steals and that paid off in this game.

Wright said defense is never the problem but the team must execute better on offense to be a winning team this year.

"There has been very little progress on offense. We hope to pick it up in the next few games," she added.

Yearling will travel to play cross-town rival Osceola on Monday afternoon at 4:30 p.m.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Brook O'Hagan (25 in white) drives to the basket against Oslo. Yearling won a tight battle with the Lady Wildcats.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Diamond Wiggins (left) drives to the hoop for two points during Thursday's game between Yearling and Oslo.

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OCSO Investigations

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

ASSAULT

- 2800 block of S.E. 18th Court
- 3400 block of N.W. Sixth Ave.
- 400 block of N.W. 344th St.

BURGLARY

- 18000 block of U.S. 98 N.
- 1700 block of N.E. Second S.
- 8000 block of N.W. 240th St.
- 100 block of N.W. 28th Ave.
- 6600 block of E. Center St.
- 400 block of S.E. 38th Ave.
- 1200 block of S.E. Fourth St.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

- 8600 block of S.E. 59th Drive
- 4900 block of U.S. 441 S.
- 600 block of S.W. Second Ave.

- 1700 block of N.W. Ninth Ave.

FRAUD

- 2900 block of N.W. 32nd Ave.
- 11000 block of U.S. 441 S.E.

THEFT

- 26000 block of N.W. 32nd Ave.
- 13000 block of S.E. 46th St.
- 2700 block of S.E. 47th Terrace
- 3600 block of S.E. 34th Ave.
- 400 block of N.W. 26th Ave.
- 4300 block of S.E. 22nd Court
- 3400 block of N.W. 22nd Ave.
- 3200 block of S.E. 25th St.
- 900 block of N.W. 23rd Lane
- 1600 block of S.W. Ninth St.
- 3200 block of S.R. 70 W.

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).

- William Wilkerson, 52, U.S. 441 S.E., Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 5 by Deputy Timothy Porter on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felony of forgery. His bond was set at \$500.

- Christina Michelle Gregis, 41, Gem Stone Ave., Lorida, was arrested Dec. 5 by Deputy Heath Hughes on a misdemeanor charge of driving under the influence. Her bond was set at \$1,000.

- Robert Bruce Smith, 63, S.E. 21st Court, Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 5 by Deputy Mark Margerum on a Washington County warrant charging him with the felonies of

violation of probation - carrying a concealed firearm and violation of probation - possession of marijuana over 20 grams. His bond was set at \$3,500.

- Andrew Trevino Riojas, 34, N.W. Sixth St., Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 5 by Deputy Timothy Porter on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the misdemeanors of failure to appear - driving under the influence and failure to appear - possession of marijuana under 20 grams. He is being held without bond.

- Adrian Salgado, 24, N.W. 22nd Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 5 by Deputy John Hazy on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance (cocaine). His bond was set at \$2,500.

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.

FHP warns drivers to use caution

Visibility can change within seconds, so use extreme caution when driving within smoke and fog. To make sure drivers know what to do when you encounter smoke and fog, the Florida Highway Patrol urges the motoring public to travel with caution anytime there is reduced visibility. Wildfires, smoke, fog and heavy rain can all lower visibility on the roads, so it is important for motorists to drive as safely as possible in these conditions.

- **DRIVE WITH LIGHTS** on low beam. High beams will only be reflected back off the fog and actually impair visibility even more. Your lights help other drivers see your vehicle, so be sure they all work. Keep your windshield and headlights clean, to reduce the glare and increase visibility.

- **SLOW DOWN** - and watch your speedometer - before you enter a patch of fog. Be sure that you can stop within the distance that you can see. Fog creates a visual illusion of slow motion when you may actually be speeding. Speed is a major factor in fog-related crashes.

- **WATCH OUT** for slow-moving and parked vehicles. Open your window a little

and listen for traffic you cannot see.

- **REDUCE THE DISTRACTIONS** in your vehicle. Turn off the radio and cell phone. Your full attention is required.

- **USE WIPERS AND DEFROSTERS** liberally for maximum visibility. Sometimes it is difficult to determine if poor visibility is due to fog or moisture on the windshield.

- **USE THE RIGHT EDGE** of the road or painted road markings as a guide.

- **BE PATIENT.** Avoid passing and/or changing lanes.

- **SIGNAL TURNS** well in advance and brake early as you approach a stop.

- **DO NOT STOP** on a freeway or heavily traveled road. You could become the first link in a chain-reaction collision. If you must pull off the road, signal (people tend to follow tail lights when driving in fog), then carefully pull off as far as possible. After pulling off the road, turn on your hazard flashers (hazard lights should only be used when you pull over to show that you are parked on the side of the road). Move away from the vehicle.

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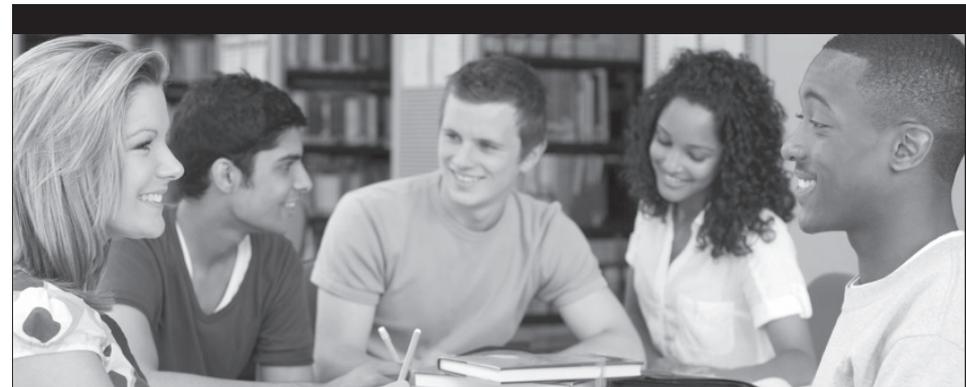
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Food for thought: Let's Go! 5-2-1-0

By Paula Smith
School Health
Okeechobee County Health Department

It's easy to remember to make a healthy lifestyle a goal every day when we practice: 5-2-1-0

5 - Fruits and Vegetables: Eat fruits and vegetables at least 5 times a day.

2 - Only 2 hours or less a day of recreational screen time (TV, computers, and videos)

1 - Be physically active at least 1 hour every day

0 - No soda or sugar-sweetened sports drinks or fruit drinks.

Let's talk about five or more servings of fruits and vegetables a day. It's more that matters.

Fruits and vegetables contain vitamins and minerals that are important for growth and development and support your immune system, keeping you healthy and less prone to illness.

Most fruits and vegetables are low in calories and fat which makes them a healthy choice anytime.

When was the last time you ate a fruit or vegetable or the last new fruit or vegetable you tried? If you are offered a new fruit or vegetable try the "three bite rule." Take at least three bites each time because it can take 7 to 10 tries before you like a new food.

Fill half of your plate with fruits and vegetables. Fresh fruit and vegetables are great with a healthy low fat dip or dressing or they can be mixed into the foods you already make such as soup, rice, pizza or casseroles. Fruit can be added to your cereal, pancakes or other breakfast foods. Washed and chopped veggies and fruits that are ready to grab and eat just can't be beat!

If fresh veggies and fruit aren't available, canned or frozen are just as good for you and cost less. Canned fruit packed in their own natural juice (not syrup), unsweetened applesauce and low sodium (salt) canned vegetables are the healthiest choice.

What are your family's favorite fruits and vegetables? Be sure you eat at least 5 a day and try a new one along the way!

LET'S GO! 5-2-1-0
This message is adopted from Let's Go!
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Okeechobee News • Caloosa Belle • Clewiston News • Glades County Democrat • Immokalee Bulletin • The Sun

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Announcements

Important Information: Please read your ad carefully the first day it appears. In case of an inadvertent error, please notify us prior to the deadline listed. We will not be responsible for more than 1 incorrect insertion, or for more than the extent of the ad rendered valueless by such errors. Advertiser assumes responsibility for all statements, names and content of an ad, and assumes responsibility for any claims against the INI USA. All advertising is subject to publisher's approval. The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject any or all copy, and to insert above the copy the word "advertisement". All ads accepted are subject to credit approval. All ads must conform to INI USA style and are restricted to their proper classifications. Some classified categories require advance payment. These classifications are denoted with an asterisk *.

Auctions

AUCTION
NEW YEARS DAY
 WED. JAN. 1ST 12pm
 Preview 9am-12pm
 4x4 Kubota Tractor, Welder and supplies, compressors, Tons of Craftsman tools, Work benches, Entire contents of shop being sold 13465 SW 16th Dr. Okeechobee, FL 34972
 Terms: Cash or Check w/ID
 10% Buyers Premium.
 Charles Holt Auctioneer
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 (863)447-9690

Garage/Yard Sales

KISSIMMEE RIVER
 FISHING RESORT IS HOSTING A CRAFT SALE W/LUNCH ON DECEMBER 14TH 9AM TILL 4PM, LUNCH 10-1 HWY 70 WEST SCREEN ROOM

Garage/Yard Sales

OKEECHOBEE - 9039 S.E. 64th Drive, 12/06/2013, 7:00 am to 5:30 pm. Yard/garage Sale. Household items & shop tools. start 12/6/13 thru 12/8/13 Dawn til dusk.

We Buy Estates
 Antiques, Collectibles, Household, Tools, Jewelry and etc.
 Call 863-697-8906

Services

2 GREAT CAREGIVERS AVAILABLE (WITH GREAT REF'S) TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR LOVED ONE WITH T.L.C. FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CALL BRENDA 863-623-6578 OR SAM 863-697-9201

RV DETAILING AND POWER WASHING. \$30 PER HOUR FOR MAN AND TOOLS. BEST PRICE IN TOWN CALL TODAY MIKE 812-767-6951

Special Notice

UP TO \$100 each for Okeechobee County Florida License Plate Before 1964 Beginning with 57. Rusty Bent Tags OK. Jeff Francis 727-424-1576 email gobucs13@aol.com www.floridalicenseplates.com



Employment Full Time

CDL DRIVER - Class A Must have DOT medical, clean driving history and 3 yrs. tanker endorsement. Call 863.467-9800. M-F 9:00 to 4:00.

Employment Full Time

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- Class A company CDL
- Must have minimum of two years driving experience & clean driving record
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Call Cassie at (800) 741-6500 or apply online www.walpoleinc.com

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Installation, maintenance, and repair of plumbing fixtures, water circulation, and irrigation systems.

Send resumes to: 954-967-3477 or Kabienaime@semtribe.com

Kissimmee River Restoration Project S-65EX1
 Cajun Constructors is hiring concrete labors, carpenters, crane operators, and Quality Control personnel. Six day work schedule. Overtime will be paid after 40 hrs. Call 863-357-0022 or apply @ 2403 SW Ruck's Dairy Road, Okeechobee, FL 34974

Shop here first! The classified ads

Employment Full Time

CITY OF OKEECHOBEE Now Hiring

POLICE/FIRE DISPATCHER

See website for Application & Job Description www.city-ofokeechobee.com Or in person at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave., Rm100 Okeechobee, FL 34974, 863-763-3372 ext. 215. Accepted until Monday, December 16, 2013, 4:30 p.m. Successful candidates are required to pass a pre-employment substance screening/physical. EEO/ADA/GINA/VP/DFWP. Lane Gamioeta, CMC City Clerk/Personnel Administrator

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Experienced Finish Dozer Operators, End Dump operators and Drivers with CDL & HAT MAT endorsement. Drug Free Workplace. EOE. Email resume to mash@optsv.com or fax to 863-467-8067.

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

Employment Full Time

Seacoast National Bank is looking for **Customer Service Associates** to join our team! Responsibilities include performing duties as a Teller or Branch Specialist which include paying and receiving monies, opening and closing accounts, and cross selling bank products and services. This Travel Team position will be for our entire Big Lake Region branches which are in Moore Haven, LaBelle, Clewiston, Lake Placid, Arcadia and Okeechobee. The home based branch for this position, when not traveling between branches, is in Okeechobee. A valid driver's license and dependable transportation are required. Mileage is currently being paid at .565 per mile. Please visit our website at www.seacoastnational.com to apply. We are proud to be an EEO/AA employer M/F/D/V. We maintain a drug-free workplace and perform pre-employment substance abuse testing.

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

Need a few more bucks to purchase something deer? Pick up some extra bucks when you sell your used items in the classifeids.

Seeking Office Manager for General Surgery practice. Experience preferred. Bring resume to 245 NE 19th Dr. or fax to 863-623-4487

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

Employment Full Time

Seacoast National Bank is looking for **Customer Service Associates** to join our team! Responsibilities include performing duties as a Teller or Branch Specialist which include paying and receiving monies, opening and closing accounts, and cross selling bank products and services. This Travel Team position will be for our entire Big Lake Region branches which are in Moore Haven, LaBelle, Clewiston, Lake Placid, Arcadia and Okeechobee. The home based branch for this position, when not traveling between branches, is in Okeechobee. A valid driver's license and dependable transportation are required. Mileage is currently being paid at .565 per mile. Please visit our website at www.seacoastnational.com to apply. We are proud to be an EEO/AA employer M/F/D/V. We maintain a drug-free workplace and perform pre-employment substance abuse testing.

Need a few more bucks to purchase something deer? Pick up some extra bucks when you sell your used items in the classifeids.

Need a few more bucks to purchase something deer? Pick up some extra bucks when you sell your used items in the classifeids.

Time to clean out the attic, basement and/or garage? Advertise your yard sale in the classifieds and make your clean up a breeze!

How do you find a job in today's competitive market? In the employment section of the classifieds

Financial

Business Opportunities

NOTICE
 Independent Newspapers will never accept any advertisement that is illegal or considered fraudulent. In all cases of questionable value, such as promises of guaranteed income from work-at-home programs - if it sounds too good to be true, chances are that it is. If you have questions or doubts about any ad on these pages, we advise that before responding or sending money ahead of time, you check with the Better Business Bureau at 772-878-2010 for previous complaints.

Some 800 and 900 telephone numbers may require an extra charge, as well as long distance toll costs. We will do our best to alert our reader of these charges in the ads, but occasionally we may not be aware of the charges. Therefore, if you call a number out of your area, use caution.

Services

Excavation

LESLIE SUMMERFORD EXCAVATING LLC. Call us for your excavation needs; land clearing ponds, hauling of fill dirt, shell, millings (when available) transportation of heavy equipment. Call Leslie for excavation needs. (863)763-9330 or (863)634-7659.

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

Merchandise

Appliances

FOR SALE A 2008 GAS DRYER, MAKE IS TRAM. \$900 OR O.B.O. LIKE NEW CALL BERTHA 863-801-6663

Buying a car? Look in the classifieds. Selling a car? Look in the classifieds.

Furniture

GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT - 72" TALL X 30" WIDE SOLID OAK MIRRORRED HALL TREE COAT RACK W/STORAGE EXCELLANT CONDITION - ASKING \$225 O.B.O. CALL (863)447-0742.

Miscellaneous

Authentic coach bags and accessories - New and gently used coach (863)447-3676

GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT - SPORTS-CRAFT ELECTRIC TURBO POWERED AIR HOCKEY TABLE W/DIGITAL SCORE BOARD 2 - 4 PLAYERS INCLUDES ALL GAME PIECES & MANUAL - PAID OVER \$300 ASKING \$185 O.B.O. CALL (863) 447-0742.

NASCAR Collectibles for gifts or resale. 50¢ - \$10 or deal on all. Call (863)763-8828

PICNIC TABLE - 8FT, \$50.00 (863)763-8761

Musical Instruments

GREAT GRANDMA'S ANTIQUE HAND-CRAFTED OAK LORETO CHICAGO PUMP ORGAN - PERFECTLY TUNED - SINGS LIKE A BIRD - WILL SACRIFICE AT \$800 O.B.O. CALL (863)447-0742.

Pets/Supplies

50 GALLON FISH TANK WITH HEAVY STAND, CLEANER INCLUDED \$110.00 865-235-5099

Wanted To Buy

Looking to buy Single wide Mobile home 92 or newer. Just Mobile Home. Call 772-370-5149

How fast can your car go? It can go even faster when you sell it in the classifieds.

Agriculture

Lawn & Garden

For Sale Dixon Extra Commercial 60 inch cut like new \$4,800. 1 Dixie Chopper older great shape \$2,500 Call 772-370-5149

FOR RENT Rentals

Apartments

2BD/1BA APARTMENT IN TOWN. WALKING DISTANCE TO STORES, NO PETS. FIRST, LAST & SECURITY \$550.00 A MONTH 863-634-2820

\$ 4 5 0 . 0 0 / M O . 1BD/1BA TREASURE ISLAND. GREAT SHAPE, SCREENED PORCH. 1ST & LAST, NO DOGS. CALL 863-801-1739

Apartment for Rent
2BR 1 1/2BA Large Town House In Town, Very clean, W/D \$650 mo, 1st, last & sec. Yearly Lease 863-697-1129

TRI-PLEX 2BD/2BA LIVING ROOM, KITCHEN, DINING AND WASHER DRYER HOOK-UP TILE FLOOR IN ALL AREAS EXCEPT BDRM, PATIO, FENCED BACK YARD, FREE LAWN AND TRASH SERVICE NO PETS \$690.00/MO 1ST, LAST PLUS \$500 SEC. DEPOSIT CALL 417-848-3424 OR 417-848-6360

Condos/Townhouses Rent

OAK LAKE VILLA #17, 2/2, w/all appliances. \$800/mo. 1st, last, and \$500 security required. (863)467-5965 leave a message.

Looking for a place to hang your hat? Look no further than the classifieds.

TAYLOR CREEK Condo 1BR, 1BA, furnished, No pets. Pool. \$650 mo. plus deposit. Yearly Lease. Call 502-468-5976.

Houses - Rent

2 FOR THE PRICE OF ONE. 4BD/2BA HOUSE W/ATTACHED 1BD APT. \$950.00/MO. FOR BOTH. GREAT MOTHER-IN-LAW, FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND. TREASURE ISLAND CALL 863-801-1739

2BR DUPLEX, CLEAN, QUIET. DIXIE RANCH ACRES AREA. PETS ALLOWED UPON APPROVAL. \$550/MO., WATER & LAWN MAINTENANCE INCLUDED. \$400 SECURITY. 863-610-0001

\$ 5 5 0 . 0 0 / M O . 4BD/2BA GOOD NEIGHBORHOOD, CITY WATER AND SEWER. 1ST AND LAST NO DOGS. CALL 863-801-1739

ADORABLE, OKEECHOBEE: In Town, 2 BR, 1 BA, W/D Hookup. Lawn Service. Non Smoking Env. Small pet okay. \$750 mo. 1st, last & sec. (941)504-3954

CLEAN, Nice: In Town, 2BR, 2BA, Washer & Dryer, Porch. Lawn Service. Non Smoking. Small pet okay. \$800 mo. 1st, last & \$500 sec. (941)504-3954

Grab a bargain from your neighbor's garage, attic, basement or closet in today's classifieds.

Dixie Ranch Estates, 3 bedroom 2 bath cbs house, all tile, fenced yard, 1 small pet okay, \$750.00 per month and 1st and security deposit of \$1,000.00 to move in also references needed. Please call 561-596-1344

OKEE- 2/1 - \$498.00 and 3/2 - \$ 625.00 - Newly updated 12 miles N.E. of town center. Lawn, pest, trash and water included Call for details. Mon -Fri. No Pets 863-467-9800.

ON RIM CANAL - Freshly redone, 3BR, 2.5 BA, garage, boat dock. \$750 mo. water incl. Call 772-359-1640.

Houses - Rent

WATER FRONT 1/1 NICELY FURNISHED HOUSE ON RIM CANAL - CLOSE TO TOWN - PERFECT FOR SEASONAL RENTAL FOR 1 TO 2 PEOPLE - SMALL PET WELCOME - 3 UNITS TO CHOOSE FROM - INCLUDES ALL UTILITIES - LONG OR SHORT TERM RATES AVAILABLE - 1ST & SECURITY - (863)467-4371

Your next job could be in today's classifieds. Did you look for it?

Office Space Rent

GREAT LOCATION SMART SET PLAZA ACROSS FROM McDONALD'S, HWY 70, 3080sq. ft. COMMERCIAL SPACE. CALL 561-996-7491

Real Estate

Houses - Sale

Direct River/Lake Access - No lock to go through. Very nice park model w/full Florida rm., screened porch & double car port. Fully furnished, comes with boat slip on Kissimmee River. \$32,500. 574-261-2045 or 574-784-2002.

The classifieds are the most successful salesperson in town.

Public Notice

Land - Sale

Land For Sale Hwy 78 By River 10 acre tract, City Water, Sewage, Elec. \$80,000 Firm Call 863-697-2566

Lots - Sale

1/2 Acre Lot, fenced, oak trees, house or mobile home ok, off of 15A & 710 Hwy. One mile to Lake. \$21,000 Call 863-610-1600

BUILD TO SUIT ON BLUE HERON GOLF COURSE LOT. GUARANTEED 90 DAY COMPLETION. BANK FINANCING, CALL ROLAND LICENSED GENERAL CONTRACTOR #CGC1511618 863-634-7722

OAKS OF BLUE HERON BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME. PRICED TO SELL BY OWNER. RESTRICTIONAL LOT ADJOINING THE GOLF COURSE. \$22,500.00 CALL 863-634-28220

TREASURE ISLAND - LARGE FENCED LOT WITH BEAUTIFUL OAK TREES. BUILD A HOME OR PUT MOBILE HOME ON LOT. \$14,500.00 863-634-2820

Mobile Homes

Public Notice

Land - Sale

NICE CLEAN Newly Renovated 2bd & 1bd homes in nice quiet park, small dog okay, Security required. 239-246-6301

Mobile Home Rent

1 AND 2 BEDROOM FULLY FURNISHED, GREAT LOCATION RENT INCLUDES ELECTRIC AND DIRECT TV. CALL 239-246-6301

2BD/1BA Nice Park, nice unit, central air, Fully furnished \$400 monthly, part of utilities paid Call 812-989-3022

BUCKHEAD RIDGE 2bd/2ba Dble Wide, central air, yearly lease. \$500 mo. plus sec. 3bd./2ba Dble Wide. \$600 mo. plus sec. No pets. Call 863-763-4031

DOUBLEWIDE - 3BR, 2BA, Treasure Island, lg. storage shed. \$700/mo. + sec. & dep. Call 863-467-2563 or 863-447-2172.

KISSIMMEE RIVER Estates, 2 Bedroom, 17216 Brynwood Lane, \$400 mo. + \$400 deposit. Lawn & Water maintenance included. 317-402-5441.

Public Notice

Mobile Home Rent

SMALL TRAVEL trailer, all utilities included. \$450/month. + \$300 security. On Rim Canal. Call 863-697-0214.

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

Mobile Home Sale

KOUNTRY AIRE home set up in park, Complete 4" insulated roofed over 1986 Top Of Line 40' KOUNTRY AIRE with 25.5'x14' Florida room. Lg. access extra door; Full tub/shower, New high-rise toilet, dress-in size bathroom. 1 King bdrm, 1 Queen 14'x9' lower bedroom. Roomy closets/kitchen/cabinets. Some newly custom made. New A/C. Very clean, (really) newly decorated. FULLY STOCKED. Came home, now unable to go back. Wanted \$15,000 but dropping to \$12,000 for quick sale. Vantage Oaks Park, Lot 31. Okee. neighbor showing it, call: 863-623-4780 leave message. Owner in Indiana: 765-538-3480 Home# leave message. Cell: 765-418-0938 (for financial & more details.)

Recreation

Boats

1989 SWAN POINT BOAT, FIBERGLASS, 17FT, CENTER CONSOLE, FISH FINDER NON-SLIP FLOOR, 75 HORSE, SUZUKI W/OIL INJECTION ASKING \$3,000.00 CALL GRETA 863-763-0899 LEAVE MESSAGE WILL CALL BACK

Campers/RVs

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

Travel Trailers

PONTOON BOAT 1995 18 Ft. Bass Buggy w/Trailer. 70 hp Johnson Tilt & Trim, Live well, trolling motor, Honda generator for night fishing. \$3000 Call 574-361-3717 to see.

Public Notice

Mobile Home Sale

OKEECHOBEE - 2/2, Seminole Village, furnished, carpet, Fla room, workshop, \$12,500. (863)763-8761

Palm Harbor Homes Modular & Stilt Homes Factory Direct/Save \$25K off list!!! John Lyons 800-622-2832 ext 210 for details.

Automotive

Automobiles

2004 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS GS V8 305 - LOW MILES - 1 OWNER - WELL MAINTAINED - COLD A/C - LEATHER - FULLY LOADED - RUNS GREAT - ASKING \$6390 O.B.O. - C A L L (863) 447-0742.

2013 Chrysler 200 LX
Economic 4cyl, fact. warranty, p/w & p/l Was \$16,995, Holiday Sale-Price just \$14,885 Call Rick at Alan Jay Chrysler @ (863) 983-4600

2013 Dodge Avenger
SE Sedan Sporty 4cyl, fact. wheel pkg, dk blue Was \$16,995, Holiday Sale Price only \$14,995 Call Rick at Alan Jay Chrysler @ (863) 983-4600

2013 Hyundai Genesis
3.8L Beautiful Car in Cabernet Pearl w/leather Was \$24,994, Holiday Sale Priced just \$23,875 Call Rick at Alan Jay Chrysler @ (863)983-4600

Public Notice

Travel Trailers

TRAVEL TRAILER w/Florida Rm. Completely Furnished, including 2 flat screen TV's, seasonal park, low lot rent & boat dock. \$2500 Pontoon boat also for sale. Call 574-361-3717 to see.

Automotive

Automobiles

2013 Chrysler 200 LX
Economic 4cyl, fact. warranty, p/w & p/l Was \$16,995, Holiday Sale-Price just \$14,885 Call Rick at Alan Jay Chrysler @ (863) 983-4600

2013 Dodge Avenger
SE Sedan Sporty 4cyl, fact. wheel pkg, dk blue Was \$16,995, Holiday Sale Price only \$14,995 Call Rick at Alan Jay Chrysler @ (863) 983-4600

2013 Hyundai Genesis
3.8L Beautiful Car in Cabernet Pearl w/leather Was \$24,994, Holiday Sale Priced just \$23,875 Call Rick at Alan Jay Chrysler @ (863)983-4600

Public Notice

Exhibit "A"

COUNTY OF OKEECHOBEE-FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 NOTICE OF BUDGET AMENDMENT HEARING

The Okeechobee Board of County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on December 12, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as possible, at the Okeechobee County Courthouse, 304 NW 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida, for the purpose of adopting budget amendments to the Fiscal Year 2013-14 Budget for Okeechobee County to reflect prior fiscal year encumbrances and adjust cash balances for same.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

FUND DESCRIPTION COUNTYWIDE FUND	REVENUES (SOURCE)			EXPENDITURES (USE)			AMENDED BUDGET FY 2013-14 \$
	CURRENT BUDGET FY 2013-14 \$	Balances Brought Forward \$	Operating Revenues \$	Total \$	Designated Reserves \$	Operating Expenditures \$	
General Fund	27,624,495	46,221	0	27,670,716	4,381,387	23,289,329	27,670,716
Transportation Trust Fund	8,840,811	167,650	0	9,008,461	3,799,643	5,208,818	9,008,461
Unincorporated Service Area	1,498,185	6,025	0	1,504,210	228,639	1,275,571	1,504,210
Fire Rescue Fund	8,922,770	90,922	0	9,013,693	3,231,810	5,781,883	9,013,693
Community Development Block Grant Fund	727,942	439,980	0	1,167,922	0	1,167,922	1,167,922
CDBG - Disaster Fund	507,897	385,747	0	893,644	151,497	742,147	893,644
Special Grants Fund /	2,605,771	174,788	0	2,780,559	403,109	2,377,450	2,780,559
Capital Improvement Projects Fund	5,935,648	136,294	0	6,071,941	1,265,503	4,806,438	6,071,941
Okee-Tantie Enterprise Fund	164,584	11,183	0	175,767	44,439	131,328	175,767
	56,828,104	1,458,810	0	58,286,914	13,506,027	44,780,887	58,286,914

PUBLISH: December 8, 2013

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA

Autos Wanted

CASH FOR CARS
No Title Needed,
Any Condition.
268junk.com
Located in Okeechobee
Call (863)268-5865

Four Wheel Drive

2013 Ram 2500 Crew Cab 4x4 Cummins, SLT pkg, under 15K miles! HUGE savings over new -- price at \$39,875 Call Rick at Alan Jay Chrysler @ (863) 983-4600

Sport Utility

2010 Mercury Mariner Premier Loaded 4cyl. w/ leather, very clean SUV! Was \$14,995 Manager's special only \$13,445 Call Rick at Alan Jay Chrysler @ (863)983-460

2013 Ford Expedition XLT 4x2 3 rows of seats, tow pkg, fact. warranty Save thousands vs. new! On sale for \$30,875 Call Rick at Alan Jay Chrysler @ (863) 983-4600



Public Notices

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO. 2013-CP-079

IN RE: ESTATE OF: URSULA ELISABETH HOWES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of URSULA ELISABETH HOWES whose date of death was May 16, 2013 and whose social security number is XXX-XX-6187, is pending in the circuit court, nineteenth judicial circuit of Florida, in and for Okeechobee County, Florida; probate division, which address is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The names and address of the personal representative and the attorney for the estate are set forth below.

ALL CREDITORS of decedent, and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, or whom a copy of this notice is required to be served, must file such claims with this court:

WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE, OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

ALL OTHER creditors of the decedent, and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, must file their claims with this court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this notice is December 8th, 2013.

JOHN R. COOK, Attorney & Personal Representative
312 NW 3rd St.
Okeechobee, FL 34972
(863) 467-0297
Florida Bar #262951
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Oslo claims 40-27 roundball win over YMS

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Jalen Cuff had 18 points as Oslo Middle School jumped out to an early eight-point lead and overcame Yearling Middle School, 40-27, in middle school boys basketball action Thursday in Okeechobee.

Oslo took a 24-13 half-time lead as they executed well on offense and shot a much higher percentage from the floor than the out-manned Bulls, who played without starting guard Janavise Futch who suffered a high ankle sprain on Tuesday.

Without Futch, Yearling could only get contributions from four players for most of the game and couldn't match the Oslo depth and athleticism.

Lamar Williams had 11 points and five rebounds for Yearling. Malcolm Chambers

had five points, three steals and three assists. George Marshall had four points and three rebounds. Kysell Richardson had two rebounds, three assists and two steals for the Bulls, (1-3).

Yearling cut the lead to six points in the third quarter on a three-point basket by Ethan Pelt but could get no closer in the fourth quarter.

Bulls coach Mike Wharin said the team lacks depth this year as the school limited the roster to only 10 players. With one player hurt, that left his starters in the game for more minutes.

"We had to run out a different starting lineup and depth was definitely an issue. When you don't have the depth to rotate in, it's a killer," he explained.

Wharin said his team was able to get a lot of good shot opportunities, many of them underneath, but was only able to hit 23 percent of their shots.

"That has been the pattern in our first four games. We get good looks at the basket but the shots just don't fall," he added.

Oslo had five kids that were 6 feet or taller and that created matchup problems for the Bulls. Wharin praised some of his bench players for their efforts, including Ethan Pelt, Bracen Harvey and Zachary Wharin, for his shorthanded club.

"You could tell we missed Janavise. I'm pleased with the effort and we left our hearts out there. We just wish the shots would start to fall so we have better results," he added.

Wharin expects a battle on Monday when Yearling travels to Osceola which appears to be a more competitive game this year. Osceola has not defeated Yearling in at least 10 years. The game will start at approximately 5:45 p.m.

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Traveler's Traverline
 - 6 Baldwin of "30 Rock"
 - 10 A month of Sundays
 - 14 Go after
 - 15 "Later, dahling!"
 - 16 Fictional sleuth who first appeared in the Saturday Evening Post
 - 17 Comedian for hire?
 - 19 Expresses delight
 - 20 Finis, in Frankfurt
 - 21 A month of Sundays
 - 22 Euripides tragedy
 - 23 What Shakespeare's parents had to do?
 - 27 Zoo re-creation
 - 30 Hippy dances?
 - 31 More than portly
 - 32 Frost, for one
 - 33 Opening
 - 36 ___ chic
 - 37 Low grade, or an appropriate title for this puzzle
 - 39 18-Down's love
 - 40 Orch. section
 - 41 Quarry
 - 42 Post-tonsillectomy treat
 - 43 Gauchos' gear
 - 45 Tabloid fodder
 - 47 Green that's hard to swallow?
 - 50 Material for some balloons
 - 51 Couple's pronoun
 - 52 Continental wine region
 - 56 Punta del ___
 - 57 Memoir title for Sela?
 - 60 Massage therapy pioneer Ida
 - 61 Way
 - 62 Support in a loft
 - 63 South Dakota's Wounded ___
 - 64 Hudson River city
 - 65 "That's just crazy talk!"

- 2 "All righty ___!"
- 3 Developer's need
- 4 Star of "61**"?
- 5 Ross ___
- 6 Buttonhole
- 7 Retired NPR host Hansen
- 8 It may be lent or bent
- 9 Grand Banks catch
- 10 Slide specimen
- 11 Easy to babysit, say
- 12 Number no longer used?
- 13 "Such a shame"
- 18 Princess with great buns?
- 22 Get weak in the knees
- 24 Had
- 25 K or G
- 26 Shades
- 27 Big bikes
- 28 Stand watch, say
- 29 Colt 45 holder
- 32 Layer
- 34 Teatro ___ Scala: Milan opera house
- 35 Parlor game
- 37 Movie monster, casually
- 38 Tip of the Yucatán peninsula?
- 39 Banish
- 41 Movie house suffix
- 42 Vase, in a pinch
- 44 Michael of "Caddyshack"
- 45 Like many ski slopes in April
- 46 Italian sweetheart
- 47 Uriah Heep, by profession
- 48 Is sporting
- 49 Numbers game
- 53 Freelancer's enc.
- 54 "South Park" co-creator Parker
- 55 Empty
- 57 On-target
- 58 Wheels
- 59 Neither masc. nor neut.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

B	A	R	R	A	B	E	L	A	O	T	S	E	
E	L	I	E	L	A	I	E	T	C	H	E	D	
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				I	N	T	T	B	I	L	L	S	
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S	I	T	T	I	N	G	I	N	A	T	R	E	E
O	C	E	A	N	I	A	T	O	R	T	V	A	
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C	H	I	C	H	I	N	E	A	R	B	E	E	R
P	O	N	I	E	S	A	R	U	L	N	A		
S	K	E	I	N	S	S	K	I	N	O	G	S	

xwordeditor@aol.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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63					64					65			

By John Lampkin
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SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:

DOWN
1 Part of a plot, often

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	5058-M: Lake Montaza -Investors Special! Two MHs on 4.88 acres. Both are SWs with 2 br, 1 ba, property is fenced. Call today to make arrangements to see. \$65,000 NOW \$50,000 MLS #207176		5057-H: Larkee Lakes 3 br, 2 ba MH in move into condition. New carpet, fenced yard, open porch, gazebo for family get togethers w/nice pavers. Large open living rm w/fireplace and much more. \$65,000 MLS #207147
	5051-H: Close to town 4 br, 2 1/2 ba, formal dining area, eat-in kitchen w/appliances, new carpet & tile floors, att/det 2 car garages, shed. In-ground pool and much more! \$220,000 MLS #207117		5037-H: Conners Gables Lg 4 br, 2 ba with 2708 total sq ft/2088 under air. Kitchen has island double sink plus extra sink and pantry. Beautiful tile flooring throughout. \$124,900 MLS #207356

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Brahmans suffer tough, 38-33, mat loss to PSL

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee dominated the lighter-weight classes but it wasn't enough as the Brahmans fell to Port St. Lucie in high school wrestling 38-33 Wednesday night in Okeechobee.

Todd Lanning and Matthew Lanning were victorious at the lighter-weight classes and Oscar Ayala was impressive at 190 pounds for the Brahmans.

The match came down to the heavy-weight contest as Greg Hernandez fell to the Jaguars 1-0 in a very competitive match.

Hernandez said he was disappointed that he couldn't pull the match out for his team.

"It is tough and nerve racking with all the pressure. I don't feel I was mentally prepared for this match," he said.

Hernandez had lost to the Jaguar opponent by one point earlier in the season. He said he plans to practice a lot harder, and hopes to turn his luck around in future matches.

Matthew Lanning said it felt great to go out there and get a win in his home town. His plan was just to give it his all and see what happened.

"I just go in and put it all out there and do

my best. I feel the team will rebuild from this and get better," he said.

Matthew Lanning defeated his opponent 8-5. He said the long, three-period matches really take a lot out of you physically.

Todd Lanning said it felt pretty good to get a win via pin fall in the first round. He said his adrenaline starts to pump when he hits the mat and he always pushes hard in practice by running, lifting weights and practicing his wrestling holds and techniques.

"Every time I win it is exhilarating. If there is anybody who wins and doesn't feel exhilarated, then something has got to be wrong with them," he explained.

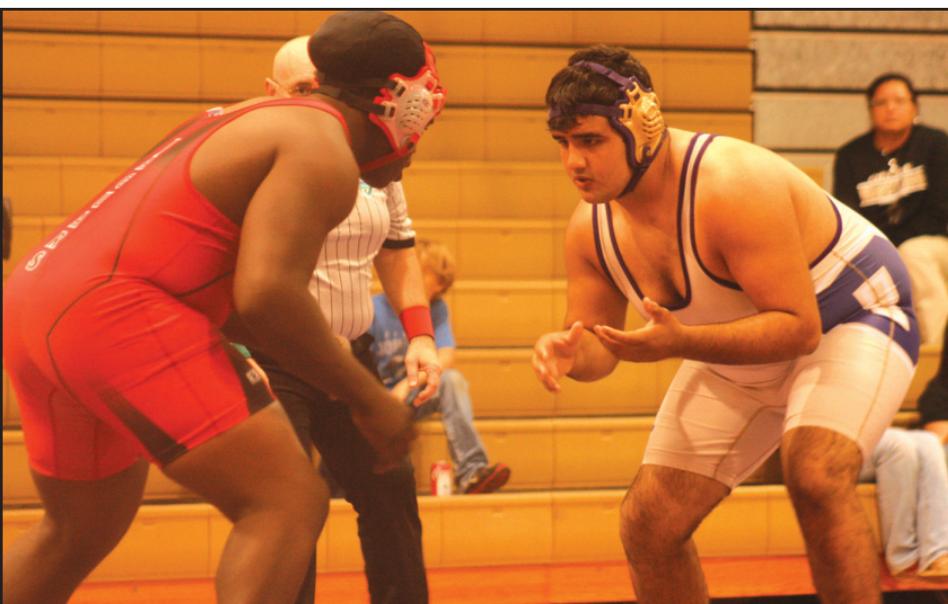
He attempted a chicken wing maneuver and his opponent made a mistake trying to escape, landed in an awkward position, and he took advantage with the pin.

Port St. Lucie dominated the middle weight classes. Cody Griffith suffered a rare home loss 15-4 at 138 pounds. Drayton Billie battled until the third round before he lost by a pin fall. Sebastian Fullea couldn't hold an early lead as he fell 11-5 at 152 pounds. Joe Turkish lost by pin fall in the first round. Jake Menendez lost by decision 10-3.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Drayton Billie gave a strong effort in the 144-pound match Wednesday versus Port St. Lucie.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Heavyweight Greg Hernandez fell 1-0 in the final varsity match of the night.

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