

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 105 No. 3

Sunday, January 5, 2014

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Crappie anglers enjoy happy new year ... Page 5

Floridians are concerned about food safety ... Page 2

Burned body found in Glades County... Page 19

Learn how to prevent cervical cancer... Page 10

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Thief targets winter homes

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

As many as 10 home burglaries were cleared with the arrest of an Okeechobee man, who now faces a multitude of felony charges.

A local detective said Justin Blake Chavers, 24, is a suspect in as many as 25 local home burglaries and the items

he stole total well into the thousands of dollars. He is currently charged with 19 felonies and two misdemeanors.

He is being held in the Okeechobee County Jail on a total bond of \$641,000.

Chavers was arrested Thursday, Jan. 2, on warrants obtained by Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) detectives Ted Van Deman and Howard Picker-

ing. Chavers is charged with the felonies of: burglary of a dwelling (six counts); grand theft (seven counts); burglary of a structure while armed (four counts); burglary of a conveyance; and, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

He is also charged with two misdemeanor counts of petit theft.

See **BURGLAR** — Page 9



Justin Blake Chavers



Special to the Okeechobee News

Community choir presents holiday concerts

The Okeechobee Community Choir, under the direction of Sandy Perry, presented its 15th annual Christmas program at the First United Methodist Church in December. The choir will soon start rehearsals for the Easter cantata. Seated left to right, front row are: Arleen Fanter, Alexis Devin, Joy Kidwell, Becky Fleeger, Elsie Landers, Shirley Schmeckpeper and Jan Sterling. Seated second row: Marlene Burns, Jackie Dunham, Carol Dorr, Debby Huntley, Barbara Wilson & Betsy Cheney. First row standing, Sandy Perry (Director), Melanie Mello, Suzy Rector, Savannah Simpson, Merle Bass, Dawn Rich, Brooke Synder and Judy Simpson (Flute); second row standing: Frank Carter, Concert Pianist/Accompanist, Ginny Bryant, Leah Suarez, Rebekka Giles, Brooke Carter, Canda Patterson, Kevin Kinnaird and Lister Goble; third row standing: Dale Bryant, Joy Jarriel, Dave Fanter, Joyce Klevan, Connie Shelton, Norma Entry and Verona Martin; fourth row standing: Barbara Neufeld, Nicolle Wood (narrator), Jon Fanter, Shane Coker, Sharon Suits, James Cox and Keith Abbott. Fifth row standing: Elsie Ratliff, Chris Askeland, Ken Martin, Hal Shoffeitt, Tommy Markham, Al Young and Anthony Armstrong. Not pictured are: Allen Patterson-photographer, Reid Ellinger-Soprano Sax, Victoria Davito, Bobby Huntley, Jo Norris and Mike Zierden. Those who rehearsed but unfortunately became ill just before the concerts were: Karyne Brass, Janet Holder, Jeanne Stickler and Sydney Thacker. For more, see page 9.



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'Perfect storm' needed for salmonella to spread

By Brad Buck
UF/IFAS

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — University of Florida researchers have gained new insight into produce-associated salmonella that they hope will eventually reduce the number and severity of the illness-causing outbreaks.

Tomato variety and weather can combine to make what the researchers call a "perfect storm" for salmonella to proliferate in harvested tomatoes, a new study shows.

It remains unclear how much each contributes to salmonella's spread, but scientists say understanding the process is key to eventually curbing produce-associated outbreaks.

The so-called perfect storm doesn't happen often, said research assistant professor Massimiliano Marvasi, the study's first author, but can be damaging to public health and the food crop business when it does.

During the past decade, fruits and vegetables have been among the foods most often linked to gastroenteritis outbreaks caused by E. coli and non-typhoidal salmonella, the study said. Those outbreaks resulted in public illness and multimillion-dollar losses for the food-crop industry.

Since 2006, at least 16 salmonella outbreaks have been linked to tomatoes, cantaloupes, sprouts, cucumbers, mangoes, peanut butter and peppers, in addition to frozen

foods containing plant products. But UF/IFAS scientists emphasize that less than 1 percent of supermarket produce contains salmonella or E. coli and the contamination becomes a problem only when it contaminates other food, or is consumed raw.

Gastrointestinal illnesses caused by pathogens such as E. coli and salmonella pathogens have been sporadic — with scientists struggling to pinpoint exact causes — and their random nature argues for a perfect storm scenario, the study said.

"It is now clear that salmonella and other human pathogens can contaminate produce at any stage of the production cycle, from farm to fork," the UF/IFAS study said.

Mr. Marvasi said the tomato industry follows strict protocols to prevent microbial food hazards in fresh fruits and vegetables.

Faculty members Max Teplitski, George Hochmuth, Jerry Bartz and Marvasi, all of UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, wanted to find out which crop production factors are associated with tomato salmonella outbreaks. Specifically, they wanted to know how irrigation levels, waterlogged tomatoes and crop and pathogen genotypes affect salmonella's ability to multiply in the fruit.

They grew three types of tomatoes — Bonny Best, Florida-47 and Solar Fire — during three production seasons over two years

in Live Oak and Citra. Tomatoes had been harvested and injected with seven strains of salmonella, Mr. Marvasi said.

Researchers chose those three varieties because, in preliminary greenhouse experiments, they showed varying degrees of salmonella resistance, said Max Teplitski, a UF associate professor of soil and water science. Bonny Best is an heirloom variety, often used as a control variety in plant pathogen experiments, he said. Florida 47 and Solar Fire are newer varieties, widely grown commercially in the Southeast.

The study, published in December by the journal PLoS One, showed that particular cultivars combined with drier, sunnier conditions work together to increase the chances that salmonella will spread.

Changing irrigation patterns caused little change in the potential for salmonella, researchers found.

Tomato maturity and cultivar, particular strains of salmonella and seasonal differences were the strongest factors affecting proliferation. And ripe tomatoes were more vulnerable than green tomatoes.

Salmonella infection ranks among the most common foodborne illnesses, often spread by raw or undercooked meat, poultry or eggs, but sometimes results from eating contaminated produce. Symptoms can include abdominal pain, fever, nausea and vomiting.

In 2008, federal health officials erroneously blamed a salmonella outbreak on domestically grown tomatoes, but later said imported contaminated peppers were responsible. Growers in Florida and other states lost an estimated \$100 million in sales.

vegetables were close behind, with nearly 60 percent of respondents perceiving them as safe.

And that, says Doug Archer, associate dean for research for UF/IFAS, underscores the public's lack of knowledge. Canned and frozen fruits and vegetables are actually far safer than unwashed raw produce, he said.

"The number of outbreaks of foodborne illness attributable to fresh produce has grown substantially in the last two decades to the point where the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration have become very concerned," Mr. Archer said.

Joy Rumble, an assistant professor in agricultural education and communication with the PIE Center, said the study also showed that while nearly half the respondents said they were worried about genetically modified or engineered food safety, many were unsure about possible advantages, whether they would ever buy genetically modified food, or whether genetically modified organisms (GMOs) might harm the environment.

But 52 percent approve of using genetic modification to help fight citrus greening, a disease that threatens the state's \$9 billion citrus industry.

Scientists use the term "genetic modification" to describe the ways genes can be used to add favorable traits in new plant varieties and "genetic engineering" or "transgenic development" to describe adding one or two desirable traits to an organism. For example, plants may be genetically engineered to survive herbicide treatments, or to confer pest or virus resistance. Currently the only genetically engineered crops are field corn, soybean, cotton, canola, sugar beet, papaya and a small acreage of squash.

Kevin Folta, interim chair of UF's horticultural sciences department, genetically engineers plants in his research, and welcomes public discussion on GMOs.

Okeechobee Forecast

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Today: Cloudy skies during the morning hours followed by thunderstorms in the afternoon. High 81F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 80%.

Tonight: Partly cloudy skies early, then becoming foggy and damp later at night. Low 64F. Winds light and variable.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Considerable cloudiness with occasional rain showers. High around 70F. Winds W at 10 to 20 mph. Rain chance 50%.

Monday Night: Cloudy. Low 41F. Winds NNW at 10 to 15 mph.

Tuesday: Mostly cloudy skies early, then partly cloudy in the afternoon. High 57F. Winds N at 10 to 15 mph.

Tuesday Night: Cloudy. Low 43F. Winds N at 5 to 10 mph.

Wednesday: Overcast. High 72F. Winds NE at 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday Night: A few clouds from time to time. Low 61F. Winds ENE at 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday: Isolated thunderstorms in the morning, then mainly cloudy during the afternoon with thunderstorms likely. High 81F. Chance of rain 80%.

Floridians concerned about food safety

By Kimberly Moore Wilmoth
UF/IFAS

GAINESVILLE — Food safety is near the top of most Floridians' concerns, behind only the economy and health care, a survey released today by the University of Florida shows.

The survey covered several food-related issues, including public perceptions about food safety, food insecurity and genetically modified foods. It also found knowledge gaps among Floridians, especially in the area of food safety, and detected conflicted feelings among the public about genetically modified foods.

"I think findings like this are telling us that, while there are some areas where there is correspondence between what consumers know and the actual facts, there are some significant gaps," said Tracy Irani, director of the UF/IFAS Center for Public Issues Education, or PIE Center, which led the study.

The October online survey reached 510 Florida residents, all 18 or older. The responses were weighted to balance geographic, age, gender, race and ethnicity data to ensure the information was representative of Florida's population.

Among a list of 15 issues, ranging from the economy to endangered species, food safety ranked third, with 85 percent of respondents calling it extremely or highly important. Food production practices came in ninth, with 74 percent ranking it as extremely or highly important. The issue of genetically modified foods was 14th on the list, with 57 percent calling it important, Irani said.

An example of a knowledge gap between respondents' perceptions and fact was the response to a question about the safety of different types of food products. For instance, frozen fruits and vegetables enjoyed high consumer confidence, with at least 72 percent of those polled saying they are safe. About 60 percent of respondents felt similarly about canned fruits and vegetables. Raw fruits and

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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!

Keep dogs on a leash

• Wouldn't it be interesting to discover what the thoughts are of folks who refuse to leash/control their animals. Obviously they don't want to and they must have a reason. A neighbor of mine had the view that dogs should be/run free, actually have more freedom than human beings. You couldn't possibly keep your own dog well trained when his came into the yard and did whatever he pleased — wherever.

• It is a shame how many dogs you see on the roads. People just don't seem to care if their dogs are hit by cars, or if they go into someone else's yard and cause trouble. One morning I heard a commotion on the front porch and walked out to find a strange dog had cornered my cat under a chair. My yard is fenced — the dog had dug under the fence.

Contract talks

• My concern is how this all affects learning. My first question is how will student growth be determined? By one standardized test? Which test? This type of testing puts too much pressure on students. The union should agree to the terms and let the teachers vote on the contract. Then we can see what they think about the terms. The students are affected by this conflict. Both sides are responsible in resolving the issues. Just remember that if there is impasse, the school board decides and the teachers get nothing.

• The school board is presented with the issues and sits while both sides present their case. Then they make an informed decision based on the information presented. You may want to ask yourself why they make the decisions they make. Could it be that the union's proposal is not in the best interest of the students and their performance? There has to be a reason, and I won't believe that the school board members are not being fair and impartial like some would want us to believe. That is a bullying technique the union is using to try to get the school board members to give them what they want without question.

• These teachers mold our future generations just as much, if not more, than their own parents. It's time for the people that actually work to get paid.

• The teachers went a whole year with no raise, and when it went to arbitration, the ruling was that pay did not have to be retroactive. Now they have gone another half of a school year and again there is no contract. We already know the school board does not have to make pay retroactive. I think the union should take the proposed pay scale to the teachers and let them vote on it. According to the stories in the paper, only a very few teachers were rated as "needs improvement." Most teachers got good evaluations and I suspect those very few with the low rating might actually need improvement.

Wild horses

• If you adopt a burro, don't be surprised if it won't be tamed. We rescued a Grand Canyon burro from its owner that didn't want her any more. She was used for breeding purposes and was very old when we got her. She got "tame" enough to reach her long lips out for a fig bar IF we were sitting in the pickup with our arm out the window as far as we could reach. Could never pet her but she was a joy to see. Wish I had the money and a place for another one!

• I am grateful for this event, but wish that the truth was told for the real reason that the horses are being removed which is fracking and mining.

• I do hope and pray all these animals get good, loving homes.

• Please adopt these horses and burros. Don't let the kill buyers get them.

• For those considering adopting a wild horse or burro, make sure that you read the information on the web site so that you have a proper pen and shelter ready before you take the animal home. You can't just turn these animals loose in the pasture. If you do that, you may never be able to catch them again. And these animals do not know anything about barbed wire, and they could seriously injure themselves if you release them in a pasture that is fenced with wire. If you take the time and effort to tame them and work with them, they can be wonderful animals and the horses can be trained to almost any discipline. But it takes time and effort. Don't adopt a wild horse on a whim. It's a commitment.

Thoughts to ponder

• The only person you should try to be better than is the person you were yesterday.

Reflections from the pulpit

Sealed Orders

Calvin H. Fryar, pastor
Brighton Baptist Church

Mark 10:37—"They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory. 38 But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?... 44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. 45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Ephesians 4:30—"And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." When James and John thoughtlessly asked the Lord to grant them a special place in the coming kingdom, Jesus' answered: "Ye know not what ye ask." They did not understand that Jesus was headed to the cross instead of the kingdom which they were dreaming of. They also did not understand that they were going to endure many things, both pleasant and unpleasant, for the Lord before they could enter the kingdom.

If you've ever been in the military, you know about traveling under sealed orders. Your orders say go to this point and fly to that place, or take the boat to this place. When you present your orders to the officer at the appointed destination and they are opened, they tell you where to go next. That's the way Abraham lived in the promised land.—Frank Pollard, "Do You Like Where You Live?" Preaching Today, Tape No. 104.

Every Christian is traveling with sealed orders but once we have arrived at our destination the seal will be broken and our orders opened. Death represents our travel destination and it is there that our orders will be opened—some travel for the world and others travel for the Lord Jesus. The decision is up to the traveler—for whom are you traveling. As long as you are able, you can choose the side which your orders come from—I call it the right side or the left side (saved or lost). Remember the two thieves crucified with the Lord—one was on His right and the other on His left as He hung on the cross? Their orders were sealed by nails but one chose from the right stack of orders. ONE WAS SAVED. He turned to Jesus and asked the Lord to remember him and his orders were changed. He would not see the reality of that change until they were opened in heaven. But sadly, the other thief refused—and sadly too many make the same mistake. This change is made possible because Jesus gave "his life a ransom for many." Mrs. Samuel Untermeyer once cabled her husband from Europe about a Gobelin tapestry she'd found: the price was \$25,000, and she wanted to know if she should buy it. "No," was

her husband's reply. "Price too high." But she returned from Europe with the tapestry and, when her husband asked why she had disregarded his reply, showed him the cable. It read: "NO PRICE TOO HIGH."—Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations. Jesus paid with His life—what price could be higher (See Jn.3:16).

Jesus came to give "His life a ransom for many." John the Baptist gives testimony to Jesus' stated objective—why He was born among men when he said, "Behold the Lamb of God" (Jn. 1:29, 36). The Bible with one voice has but one message, and that message is redemption and God's Lamb is that message! That is why Paul cried out in 1 Corinthians 2:2: "I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified."

At a great parliament of religions, held in Chicago many years ago, practically every known religion was represented. During one session, Dr. Joseph Cook, of Boston, suddenly rose and said: "Gentlemen, I beg to introduce to you a woman with a great sorrow. Bloodstains are on her hands, and nothing she has tried will remove them. The blood is that of murder. She has been driven to desperation in her distress. Is there anything in your religion that will remove her sin and give her peace?" A hush fell upon the gathering. Not one of the company replied. Raising his eyes heavenwards, Dr. Cook then cried out, "John, can you tell this woman how to get rid of her awful sin?" The great preacher waited, as if listening for a reply. Suddenly he cried, "Listen. John speaks: 'The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sins' (1 Jn. 1:7). Not a soul broke the silence: the representatives of Eastern religions and Western cults sat dumb. In the face of human need, the Gospel of Jesus Christ alone could meet the need. The sin of the race demanded the blood of Calvary.—Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations

WE ARE SEALED—Ephesians 4:30 tells us that we "are sealed unto the day of redemption." With a clear voice Jesus uttered one last word from the cross: "tetelestai." ("It is finished." (Jn. 19:30)) The papyri throw great light on this word. If a promissory note were paid, the one holding the note wrote "tetelestai" across it. A deed to property was not in effect until it was dated and signed. When this was done, the clerk wrote "tetelestai" across it.

Another example of its use was when a father sent his son on a mission. The son was not to return until he had performed the last act of the mission. When he did return from a successful mission, he used tetelestai to report it. In eternity, the Son gave the Father a promissory note that He would pay the price for humanity's redemption (See Heb. 10:5-7). On Calvary the note was paid-in-full. Tetelestai! The Son reported His completed mission to the Father. Tetelestai! Our orders which will be opened in eternity were sealed by His nails.

KEECHOBEE NEWS

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Crappie anglers enjoy a happy new year

Fish Busters Bulletin

By Bob Wattendorf
FWC



Welcome to 2014. Black crappie are favorite cool-weather targets for freshwater anglers, so join the fun, check your fishing license (License.MyFWC.com) and the list of top sites and tips below and go fishing. What better way to start off a new year than with some healthy outdoor activity and a mess of fresh fish?

Crappie are among the most popular

freshwater fishes in Florida. Their deep body with nearly symmetrical dorsal and anal fins and a speckled pattern on the body make them easy to distinguish. Crappie spend much of their time offshore, feeding on small fish. This time of year they will be preparing to spawn and, as the temperatures reach 62-65 degrees Fahrenheit, they move inshore to build nests in colonies. Nests over gravel or muddy bottoms in depths of 3-8 feet are fanned by males.

Crappie eat crustaceans, insects and small fishes. A bright, 1/16-oz. to 1/8-oz. jig or Hal-flies will produce once they are inshore. If they are schooling offshore, drift Missouri minnows or grass shrimp below a float, with a #4 hook and small split shot.

Depth is key, as crappie school at the same level, so experiment until you find the right depth.

Crappie (aka speckled perch or paper-mouth) longer than 14 inches or heavier than 2 pounds qualify for a Big Catch angler-recognition certificate (www.BigCatchFlorida.com). Youth under 16 can participate with an entry longer than 10 inches or heavier than 1.5 pounds. Easy registration makes people eligible for both Big Catch and TrophyCatch (which rewards anglers for catching-documenting-releasing largemouth bass heavier than 8 pounds), as well as a drawing to take place in October 2014 for a Phoenix bass boat powered by Mercury.

Looking for the best places to go? Florida

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) fisheries biologists compile annual lists of top fishing sites for bass, crappie, bream, catfish or striped bass. It is available at MyFWC.com/Fishing (select "Freshwater" and "Fishing Sites and Forecasts"). You can also find quarterly updated regional forecasts for other key water bodies, with links for more current information.

Crappie are considered to be some of the tastiest freshwater fishes. With general bag limits for crappie set at a generous 25 fish and no size limit, unless otherwise specified, you can easily take a "mess" home to eat. So, bring your family and friends and get out on the water.

Letters to the Editor

LOST without access

It took more than a decade of lobbying, planning, design, and construction to open up the levee to Lake Okeechobee for recreation and create the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (LOST). It took a small amount of time for the owners and managers of the Taylor Creek Resort and RV Park to shut down the recreational access to the LOST on the southeast side of Taylor Creek. This single action has created the only closed access point along the 120-mile trail, evoking angst among hikers, cyclists, and recreationists including our local Okeechobee residents and northern neighbors.

In 1993 the LOST was designated a part of the Florida National Scenic Trail. Shortly thereafter, a group of recreational enthusiasts led by author and state trails advocate Herb Hiller helped open up the levee to the Lake for recreational users and eventually led the charge to get portions of the trail paved, like the section between Taylor and Nubbin Slough. Hiller and others were quick to realize the economic benefits to the rural communities around the Lake by allowing levee access for various recreational activities. In 2010 the Trail received an official Greenways and Trails designation.

Today recreational enthusiasts from all around the world use the Trail. One of the most popular use areas on the north side of the Lake is the 2.5 mile section between Taylor Creek and Nubbin Slough. Unfortunately, due to the actions taken by the management of the Taylor Creek Resort and RV Park there is no longer recreational access to the Trail on the east side of Taylor Creek. If you're coming from the northwest, the only way to get back on the trail is to travel down highway 441 to Nubbin Slough. Conversely if you're coming from the southeast you have to use the highway to get back to the trail on the northwest side of Taylor Creek where there is still a public easement through the RV Park. Not only is this option completely unsafe, this is the only section of the 120-mile trail that has been shut down to public access.

I certainly understand why the owners of this park would want to shut down public vehicular traffic at this access point due to maintenance, security, and liability issues. Surely there must be some way to appeal to

their sense of community pride and neighborliness and convince them to, once again, allow access to the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail. I would think, with state and county waiver of liability laws, there is some type of partnership with either group which could hold them harmless if recreational access was reinstated. The Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail is good for the economy, it's good for the community, and it certainly provides a unique offering for the betterment of our quality of life.

I urge Taylor Creek Resort and RV Park to be a good neighbor and get with our community and give us our access back!

Sincerely,
Allison Murphy
"We will know the value of water when the well runs dry."

Kudos to commissioners!

I work at Waste Management and had a concern about the large canal off Berman Road which was hidden by tall, un-mowed grasses. I placed a call to our county commissioners, Brian Culpepper and Frank Irby to express the danger of the hidden water in the canal behind the grasses.

I explained that the area off to the side of the road would be deceiving to a driver having to pull over in a case of emergency. There is not a lot of roadside area for a car to get off the road. And, if a driver went a bit too far, they would end up in the water-filled canals making it very dangerous.

The two commissioners worked on my concern right away and the highways are now mowed with a clear view of the canals.

Thank you Commissioner Culpepper and Commissioner Irby for your assistance in getting the grasses mowed and making Berman Road safer for the drivers of Okeechobee!

Sincerely,
Teresa Chandler
Community Relations
Waste Management/Okeechobee Landfill, Inc.

Ride for the Fight

As I was met at the ticket booth by Cynthia Holmes, a cancer survivor, with her

most bright and glowing face, I knew this was going to be a great event, even though at times, downpours were flowing from the skies.

Nothing dampens the "spirit of a cowboy" with a purpose, or a cancer-fighting patient. THE SHOW MUST GO ON! As the crowd is beginning to fill up the stands, umbrellas are emerging from the cars, yellow rain jackets are appearing, while Katie Perry is resounding, "I am a champion, you will hear me roar." I actually never thought of this as a song having to do with a cancer-fighting patient, but it is a good one as we rally here today for them. Many, many little ones are making their way up the steps to the bleachers with their multi-colored cowboy boots.

A new generation of rodeo fans are grown right here, today. Faith Farm men are busy directing traffic, funny how grown men act in the rain.

In the air is the aroma of the usual concession foods, smelling delicious. It is so ever-lovin' good to be home in this Cattleman's Arena today. Its authenticity, its heritage, its muddy dirt floor—how can that be

put into words—as it is indescribable.

At this point, as the arena pick-up men are riding around, getting warmed up, with water dripping from them, this rodeo is not for the weak, and a cancer-fighting patient, must be strong to fight this dreaded disease with all their might.

As each rider comes out of his chute today, as he fearlessly rides—may each cancer patient equally fight, with 110 percent of courage.

"Fear not for I am with thee, says the Lord."

A great big shout out of thanks to Billy's Saddle shop, for all the generous gifts for the silent auction. You went above and beyond with generosity.

Thank you to the Corrona family for all you have done, to gather riders, secure the event, line up the rough stock, having great food for the concession stands, preparing the arena and the chutes.

Everything was done with insurmountable amounts of love today, as gifts and cash, donations were abounding.

Happy Trails,
Bobbi Poole



Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsen

The Ride for the Fight event included bull riding and bronc riding at the Okeechobee Cattleman's Rodeo Arena on U.S. 441 N.

Community Events

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Church hosts gospel group

Northside Baptist, 51 N.W. 98th St., will host the Southern gospel group The Kingsmen on Sunday, **Jan. 5**, at 6 p.m. The Kingsmen have encouraged and uplifted listeners with their unique style since the conception of the group in 1956. The Kingsmen have sold countless records and compilations, have Grammy nominations, four Dove Awards and an induction into the Gospel Music Association's Hall of Fame class of 2000, and The Christian Music Hall Of Fame in 2008. This certainly solidifies The Kingsmen as one of Christian music's most predominate quartet. A love offering will be taken. Come and enjoy the fellowship at an old-fashioned church where the music is Southern Gospel, the hymns are the ones you grew up on and Pastor Rick Giles preaches the word.

Obituaries

Frederick 'Fred' J. Alger, 48

OKEECHOBEE — Frederick "Fred" Alger of Okeechobee died Friday, Dec. 27, 2013.

He was born May 29, 1965 in Muskegon, Michigan. Fred graduated from Richwoods High School in Peoria, Illinois before joining the Marine Corps where he served seven years on active duty, two of which were as embassy guard in Moscow, Russia. He graduated with honors from the University of Maryland before receiving his MBA from Loyola University. He was a licensed CPA, working internationally several years. He was a member of Oakview Baptist Church and Okeechobee Masonic Lodge. He enjoyed working Masonic fund raising functions and marathon running, having completed marathons in over 15 states.

Mr. Alger was preceded in death by his brother, Tracy Jon Alger.

He is survived by his parents, Hugh and Kathy Alger of Okeechobee; and sister, Traca Savadogo of Seattle, Washington.

Services will be 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, contributions are requested to Okeechobee Masonic Lodge, PO Box 814, Okeechobee, FL 34973 for the Fred Alger Perpetual Membership Fund.

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.



Amvet posts new hours

Amvet 200 would like to thank everyone who made a donation to our bike run and Toys for Tots on Nov. 15. The new hours for the post are 3 - 10 p.m. On Saturday, we have card bingo at 6:30 p.m. On Sunday we will host jam sessions starting at 3 p.m. on **Jan. 5**. The Ladies Auxiliary meeting is the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Auxiliary Men meet the second Thursday of the month.

Legion offers Sunday bingo

American Legion 64 will host Sunday night bingo **Jan. 5** 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 will benefit the American Legion veterans' programs. The event is open to the public.

Jack H. Elledge

OKEECHOBEE — Jack H. Elledge passed away peacefully Sunday, December 29, 2013.

Jack was born in South Florida on February 7, 1927 of pioneer stock. His father went to Okeechobee the year after Henry Flager ran his railroad into South Florida and established Okeechobee Marine Ways and shipped fish from Lake Okeechobee to St. Louis on the new railroad.

Jacks mother was from Tennessee coming to Florida in 1916 and taught school in Okeechobee for the next 50 years off and on; therefore, she was known all over the country.

Jack graduated from the University of Florida in 1950. He did mining projects all over the world. Jack gave two papers on mining in the world before the American Mining Congress in New York. He and his wife Ruth traveled extensively.

Jack leaves behind his beloved wife of 67 years, Ruth Elledge; two wonderful sons, Jeff Elledge and Steve Elledge who love him so and are left brokenhearted.

The family will receive friends 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Friday, January 3, 2014 at Grace Episcopal Church, 245 Kingsley Ave., Orange Park, Fla. The memorial service will begin at 10:30 AM with Father Reed Freeman officiating.

In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to Grace Episcopal Church or a charity of choice. Interment will be private.

Arrangements by Helm-Gallagher Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 1811 Idlewild Ave., SR 16, Green Cove Springs. 904-284-9696. www.helmgallagherfh.com



Youth hoop sign-ups to start

The Okeechobee Recreation Department 2014 Youth Basketball League registration is under way at the Parks and Recreation Office, 640 N.W. 27th Lane. The co-ed program is for ages 9 to 14, as of March 15, 2013. Please bring the child's birth certificate to register. The registration deadline has been changed to Monday, **Jan. 6**, 2014. The Recreation Department office is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. It will be closed on holidays. Registration fees are \$50, which includes New Jersey-style uniforms. Games will be held at Yearling Middle School. Try-outs will be Jan. 7. Games will start Jan. 25. For information online go to <https://www.facebook.com/OkeeParksandRec>.

Shrine holding dinner

The Okeechobee Shrine Club, at 1740 S.W. 53rd St., will hold a spaghetti dinner Tuesday evening, **Jan. 7**, from 4 until 7 p.m. For your listening and dancing pleasure, music will be provided from 5 until 8 p.m. All proceeds benefit Shrine charities. For information on Okeechobee Shrine Club activities contact Kip Gardner at 863-357-0427, Dr. Randall Mims at 863-763-9200 or the Shrine Club at 863-763-3378.

Sit & sew slated for Jan. 7

ConKerr Cancer's next sit and sew will be held Tuesday, **Jan. 7**, from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church on Parrott Avenue. Bring your sewing machine and child-friendly fabric and sew with other ladies in our community who want to help make a difference in the life of a sick child. Also, you can still bring in your small scraps of material which will be given to a local 4-H group so they can make dog beds for the Humane Society.

Coalition board will meet

The Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition board of directors will meet Wednesday, **Jan. 8**, at 11 a.m. at their office located in the White House Plaza, 1132 S. Parrott Ave. 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. For information, contact executive director Kay Begin at 863-462-5877.

Elks #2871 will meet Jan. 9

The first meeting of the year for the Lake Okeechobee Elks, #2871, will be held Thursday, **Jan. 9**, at 7 p.m. at the VFW South in Treasure Island. We will have an important progress report from the building committee about getting a building.

Elks celebrate anniversary

It's the first anniversary for the Lake Okeechobee Elks, #2871, and they will be celebrating with a Country Hoe Down on Sunday, **Jan. 12**, from 5 until 8 p.m. at the VFW South. Music will be provided by Carl Cable and Sloopy Joe. A barbecue with all the fixins will be served for an \$8 donation. Bring a pot luck dessert or just come and enjoy. The public is welcome. All donations will go to our building fund.

Science Fair seeks volunteers

The Okeechobee County Science Fair is looking for volunteers to help judge science projects the morning of Thursday, **Jan. 16**. We would welcome your encouragement in promoting science in our community! No experience is necessary, and breakfast and lunch will be provided. If you are interested in helping to judge projects or would like more information, call Cindy Letcher at 863-462-5056, ext. *1191.

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.

Howard A. Gilmore, 89

OKEECHOBEE — Howard A. Gilmore of Okeechobee died January 2, 2014.

He was born July 20, 1924 in Portsmouth, Virginia to Andrew and Clara Gilmore. Mr. Gilmore proudly served our country in the U.S. Navy. His grandfather homesteaded and established what used to be known as Gilmore, Florida along the St. Johns River near Jacksonville. He was a resident of Okeechobee for 30 years. He was known for going to the flea market and passing out Bibles. He enjoyed golf and yard sales. He was a member of the Church of the Nazarene.

Mr. Gilmore is survived by his wife of 70 years, Eva Gilmore; son, Doug Gilmore (Shirley) of Camden, South Carolina; two daughters, Patricia Welty (Russ) of Jacksonville and Brenda Gilmore of Vero Beach; six grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren.

The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. until services at 11 a.m., Monday, Jan. 6, 2014 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

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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YOUNIFIED plans second teen event

Jan. 11, 2014 is the date for the second annual YOUNIFIED teen event at Osceola Middle School. Last year there were over 520 young people in the building enjoying the music, speakers and the free prizes that were given away.

This year will be no different! Jason Castro, who has three singles playing on the radio, will be the musical special guest and Jeffrey Dean will be the speaker. Mr. Dean travels all over the United States speaking at schools, rally's and many youth events ev-

erywhere. The students will enjoy both and there will be free prizes given away!

Prizes including i-Pads and 32-inch televisions have already been purchased and are ready to go home with lucky students. The only thing you have to do to win is be there to get an admission bracelet and stay till the end to pick up and take your prize home.

Every student who brings a canned good to share with the needy will be given one extra ticket towards the possibility of winning one of the prizes.

Parents are welcome to come to the event even though only students 6th-12th grades are able to win the prizes. Students that leave early will also forfeit their opportunity to win.

Ruthie J from Reach FM 90.5 will be one of the Masters of Ceremonies for the evening and DJ Kidd, a local rapper, will also be there to sing and enjoy the night.

The event will start at 5:30 p.m. and end around 9 p.m. For more information or questions, please call Bobby at 863-634-6523.

GAL volunteer recruitment event planned

Special to the Okeechobee News

The Guardian ad Litem program in Okeechobee County is inviting interested community members to attend "Be the Voice of a Child" – a volunteer recruitment event being held on Friday, Jan. 24 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Lodge at the Lake Restaurant, 1111 S. Parrot Ave., Okeechobee.

Co-sponsored by the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) program of the 19th Judicial Circuit of Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast, the nonprofit supporting the GAL program.

The Jan. 24 meeting is part of the annual commemoration of the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This year's national

MLK Day of Service on Jan. 20 kicks off a week-long series of events all over the country recognizing a call to service that asks Americans from all walks of life to work together in response to our most pressing national problems.

Participants at this Okeechobee gathering will have the opportunity to learn more about the GAL program, whose volunteers serve as the voices of our community's children in court through cases involving neglect, abuse, and abandonment. Local GAL volunteers will answer questions and share stories about their involvement and the training and support they receive through the program.

Dr. King once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'" Each year, Americans across the country answer that question by coming together to serve their neighbors and communities. In Okeechobee, the Guardian ad Litem program offers one such opportunity — to make a difference in the life of a child in need.

For more information, contact Gail Griffith, Volunteer Recruiter, 772-871-7225 or Gail.Griffith@gal.fl.gov; or, Bette Hughes, Guardian ad Litem volunteer, Okeechobee 863-532-9446 or BLHughes519@hotmail.com.

U.S. Sport Aviation Expo kicks off Jan. 16

SEBRING — In less than two weeks, attendees will have the opportunity to bask in the Florida sunshine and see first-hand more than 160 aviation exhibitors displaying everything from home built and light sport aircraft to Gyrocopters and flying cars to aviation accessories — basically everything for the sport aviation enthusiast.

The 10th annual U.S. Sport Aviation Expo, set for Jan. 16-19 at the Sebring Airport, will also feature a number of aviation forums, to learn more about Rotax and other aviation engines, avionics, and more. Workshops and seminars will be offered by Stewart Aircraft Covering Systems, Barry Hull, retired U.S. Navy Commander and F/A-18 Hornet Fighter Pilot, and many more.

On-site food vendors will make it easy to "make a day of it" ... or a long weekend enjoying their aviation passion. The Flying Musicians Association will be back this year to entertain all with daily performances.

Daily manufacturer showcases will allow visitors to see a variety of homebuilt and light sport aircraft in flight and on the ground. Demonstration flights will be available to those wishing for a more personal experience.

Expo organizers are extending a special invitation to owners of amateur-built aircraft or kit planes to fly their aircraft to Sebring during the four-day event. Those interested in displaying their aircraft are invited to call 863-655-6455 to reserve a parking space as well as under-the-wing camping, if desired.

Daily speakers will offer visitors the opportunity to learn more about aviation past

and present at 1:30 p.m. each day in the Show Center Tent. On Thursday, Jan. 16, EAA Homebuilding Community Manager Charlie Becker will discuss how homebuilding saved general aviation. Friday, Craig Fuller, chairman of the board for Redbird Flight Simulations and former president of the Aircraft Owner's and Pilot's Association, will discuss the future of light sport aircraft. Saturday, Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. (retired) Leo Gray will share stories of his experiences before, during, and after World War II. Gray flew 15 combat missions during World War II flying a P-51 with the famed Red Tail Squadron of the 332nd Fighter Group.

Tampa General Hospital will exhibit, for the first time at Expo, their brand new Bell 407GX Air Vac Helicopter on display. Hospi-

tal staff will be available to answer questions and show off the aircraft.

Rapid Systems is providing a true broadband experience this year with the installation of the latest generation equipment and technology available in wireless networking to help support this event for both exhibitors and attendees.

"More than 16,000 visitors enjoyed the 2013 Expo and, we're excited to open the Expo to homebuilt aircraft and welcome even more visitors to our event this year. We're hoping for great weather and a wonderful time for people to share their love of aviation," said Jana Filip, Expo Director.

To see more details about the schedule, exhibitors, speakers, and forums, visit www.sport-aviation-expo.com.

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III: "ANCHORMAN 2"
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Dry season under way, but water supply sufficient

WEST PALM BEACH — Nearly a month's worth of rain fell during three days in some areas of Miami while much of Central and South Florida experienced below-average precipitation in December, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) meteorologists reported Jan. 2. "When it comes to the regional water supply, we are still being sustained by accumulated above-average,

wet-season rainfall and a few recent rainfall events," said Susan Sylvester, Chief of the Water Control Operations Bureau. "It is too early to predict how rainfall in the remainder of the dry season will impact the system."

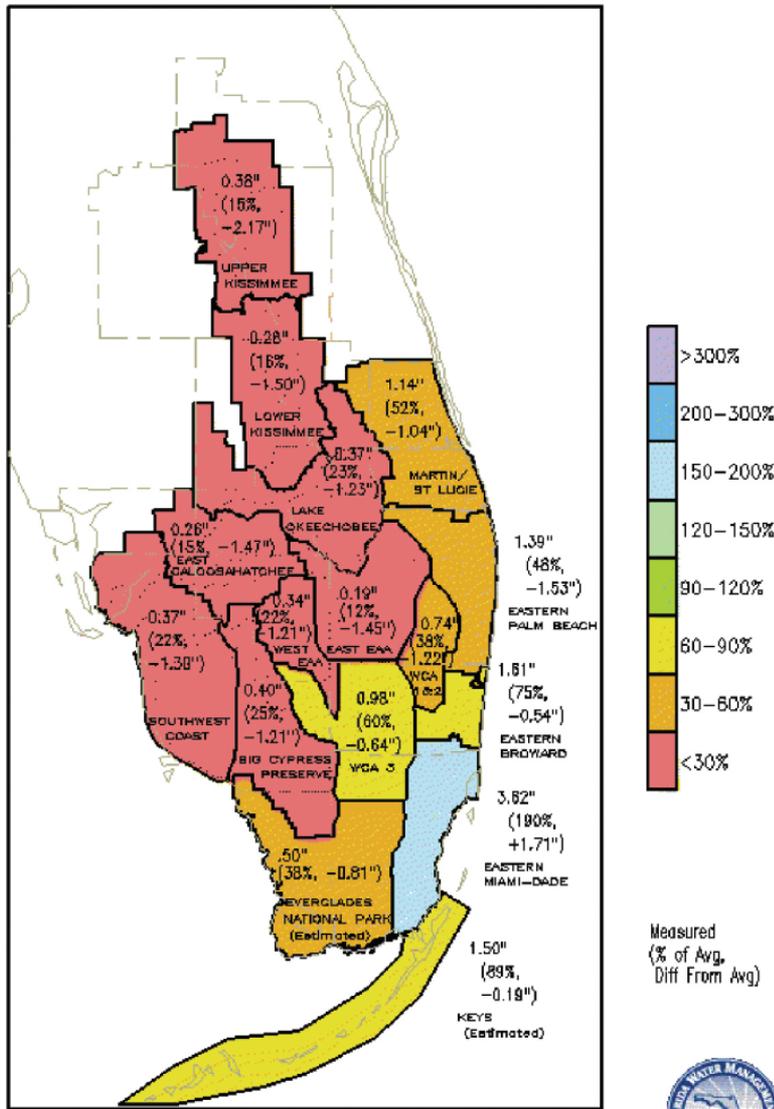
District-wide, only 0.74 inches of rain fell in November, representing 39 percent of average, or 1.15 inches below average for the month. Miami-Dade County received 3.62

inches of rain, representing 190 percent of average, or 1.71 inches above average.

Warm temperatures, close proximity to the Gulf Stream and stalled fronts combined to cause above-average rainfall in portions of Miami both in November and December.

The Kissimmee region, the East Caloosahatchee and the Southwest Coast represented the driest portions of the 16-county district, with all areas from Orlando to Naples recording more than 1.21 inches or more below-average rainfall.

SFWMD Rainfall
02-dec-2013 to 01-jan-2014



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Measured (% of Avg. Diff From Avg.)



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Stuart Boat Show to feature hundreds of boats

Get off your dock and join the fun at Florida's first boat show of the year. The 40th Annual Stuart Boat Show is back and better than ever featuring hundreds of exhibitors and boats in-water and on land.

Stuart Boat Show

Facts and Numbers

- Location: In-water at Apex Marine, HMY's Waterway Marina and Stuart Harbor and on-land from 56 to 260 North Dixie

Hwy., Stuart on the northwest side of the Old Roosevelt Bridge

- Dates and times: Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, children under 10 will be admitted free.

- Transportation and parking: Free bus shuttles from the five dedicated parking lots throughout downtown Stuart.

- Boats: Something for everyone from the smallest and lightest kayaks to a 77' Lazzara. Luxury yachts upwards to four million

dollars! Cruisers, trawlers, skiffs, speedboats, sport fishing boats, pontoons and more. Over 170 exhibitors in-water and on land.

- Register to win: New this year, many different give-a-ways and raffles will be offered at the show, including but limited to a Carey Chen painting and Bahama Resort Weekend Getaways from Schooner's Bay

Resort, Green Turtle Sea Bluff, Abaco Beach Resort and Bimini Sands Resort.

The Marine Industry Association of the Treasure Coast, owners of the boat show, together with show producers AllSports Productions are committed to keeping recreational boating a family tradition.

Okeechobee Community Choir presented Christmas cantata

Special to the Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee Community Choir, under the direction of Sandy Perry, presented its 15th annual Christmas program consisting of seasonal favorites and the cantata, Sing With the Angels, at the First United Methodist Church in December.

The choir, comprised of 55 singers representing 17 area churches, has presented a Christmas and Easter cantata annually since December of 1999. Local residents and northern visitors who read music a little and can match pitch are encouraged to join.

Weekly rehearsals will begin soon for the Easter cantata to be presented the weekend before Easter, April 11-13. Churches represented were: Buckhead Ridge Christian, Church in the Woods, Church of Our Saviour, Faith Tabernacle, First Baptist, First Baptist of Lake Josephine, First United Methodist, Good Shepherd United Methodist of West Palm Beach, KOA Community, Nazarene, Northside Baptist, Okeechobee Presbyterian, Peace Lutheran, Sacred Heart Catholic, The Gathering, Victory Baptist and Westside Christian.

OCRA needs sponsors for baseball and softball teams

OCRA is currently looking for sponsors for its 2014 baseball/softball season. If you have a business and would like to sponsor a team, call 863-634-0515 so they can send you a form. They are also taking coaching applications. If you would like to coach this season, call to get signed up. Player sign ups will be held the first three Saturdays in February, until Feb. 15. Games will begin in March.

Tax assistance program seeks volunteers

The United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee seeks volunteers to help lower- to middle-income taxpayers to file their federal income taxes through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). For information, call United Way at 239-433-2000; or, visit www.unitedwaylee.org.

Agri-Civic Center open to public for exercising

Unless an event is taking place, the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center grounds are open to area residents for exercise activities such as walking, running and bike riding on a daily basis. The gate on State Road 70 is open from 7 a.m. until dusk for residents to access the roads and parking lots within the facility. While the county encourages area residents to take advantage of the opportunity to use the facility grounds for exercise, the staff asked everyone to help keep the facility clean by not littering.

CHAVERS

Continued From Page 1

Detective Van Deman said Chavers was targeting homes in the Treasure Island Subdivision that were owned by winter visitors to the area. The burglaries were committed from April through November of 2013.

The OCSO detective said Chavers would watch homes in the subdivision to determine what places were unoccupied in the summer. He would then enter the home and take what he wanted, then "... dispose of it any way he could," added the detective.

Chavers allegedly pawned items and sometimes sold the stolen goods on the street. He would allegedly take electronics, tools, televisions, guns, jewelry and knives. On at least one occasion, said the detective, Chavers reportedly took an aluminum boat.

"He would take anything he could turn a buck for," added Detective Van Deman.

Detective Van Deman went on to explain when he and other detectives searched the home where Chavers was staying they not only found a large number of items taken in reported burglaries, but also a number of items that were apparently stolen in home break-ins that had not yet been reported.

"And that's part of the problem — a lot of people haven't come down here yet. We're still waiting on some people to call us," Detective Van Deman said.

Some of the victims have been contacted and told about their homes being burglarized, he continued. So he and Detective Pickering are waiting for those victims to re-

turn to ascertain what was taken from their homes.

Detective Van Deman explained that investigators began noticing an uptick in burglaries in September in an area of the subdivision he referred to as the old Bird Section.

The big break in the case came on the night before Halloween when an alarm went off in a home on S.E. 19th Court. OCSO road patrol deputies responded quickly and began combing the area. The deputies then stopped Chavers, who was riding a bicycle in the area.

Chavers was arrested Nov. 4 on a Port St. Lucie warrant charging him with dealing in stolen property and giving false information to a pawnbroker. With Chavers now in jail, the two OCSO detectives had time to search his home and put their cases together and apply for their warrants.

Detective Van Deman said if it hadn't been for the quick response of the road patrol, Chavers might not be behind bars.

"What he (Chavers) didn't count on was the road patrol doing such a good job saturating the area that night," he pointed out.

Both OCSO detectives will now try to contact more victims and connect Chavers with the pending burglaries which could total as many as 25, Detective Van Deman said.

"But, since we arrested him, the home burglaries in that neck of the woods have gone down significantly," he added.

The detective also said Chavers has a previous criminal history, which includes a felony conviction for introduction of contraband into a county detention facility.

According to arrest affidavits, Chavers will appear in circuit court Wednesday, Jan. 29, at 9 a.m. in regard to his Jan. 2 arrest.



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Special to the Okeechobee News

Blood Roundup competition winner

Gilbert Chevrolet's office manager, Becky Racine, accepted the trophy won during the Okeechobee 600 Blood Roundup three-way competition to see which auto dealership could bring out the most blood donors. The competition was part of the eighth annual Blood Roundup held each November. Those donating in the dealership competition were entered in a drawing for tickets to the NASCAR race in Homestead, Fla.

Vaccine helps prevent cervical cancer

January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. Make sure you're aware of all of the ways you can prevent cervical cancer and understand what the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine and regular Pap testing can do for you.

What causes cervical cancer?

HPV is a sexually transmitted virus that rarely causes infection. It often produces no symptoms, but when HPV does lead to an infection, gynecological cancers can form. These can develop up to 15 years after the virus was contracted. According to the Centers for Disease Control, as many as 12,000 women develop cervical cancer and 4,000 die from it in the U.S. every year.

Preventing cervical cancer

Cervical cancer can be reduced or prevented when you:

- get the HPV vaccine;
- practice abstinence;
- have as few sexual partners as possible;
- use a condom;
- quit smoking;
- get your annual Pap test every year, starting at the age of 21. This valuable tool detects abnormalities on the cervix.

How does the vaccine work?

The HPV vaccination is the most powerful preventative measure available today. It is recommended for all girls 11 to 12 years old, before they have become sexually ac-

tive. However, it can be administered to sexually active women up to 26 years of age. There are two types of vaccines, commonly known as Cervarix and Gardasil. With either vaccine, the patient receives three doses via shot over a six-month period. Young men can also benefit from the vaccine, which can protect them from certain cancers and other conditions.

Screening for cervical cancers

The Pap Test (Pap smear) is one of the most reliable and effective cancer screening tests available (it only screens for cervical cancer). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Pap smear is recommended for all women. When cervical cancer is found early, it is highly treatable and associated with long survival and good quality of life. Early on cervical cancer may not cause any signs or symptoms, so see your doctor annually for a Pap smear and follow up on any results that are not normal.

Gynecological procedures, including minimally invasive procedures, are performed at Raulerson Hospital by the Surgical Services team. For more information about Raulerson Hospital, call them at 863-763-2151 or visit their website: RaulersonHospital.com. To schedule an appointment or ask a health question, call Raulerson Hospital's free, 24-hour Consult-A-Nurse service at 863-763-9228.

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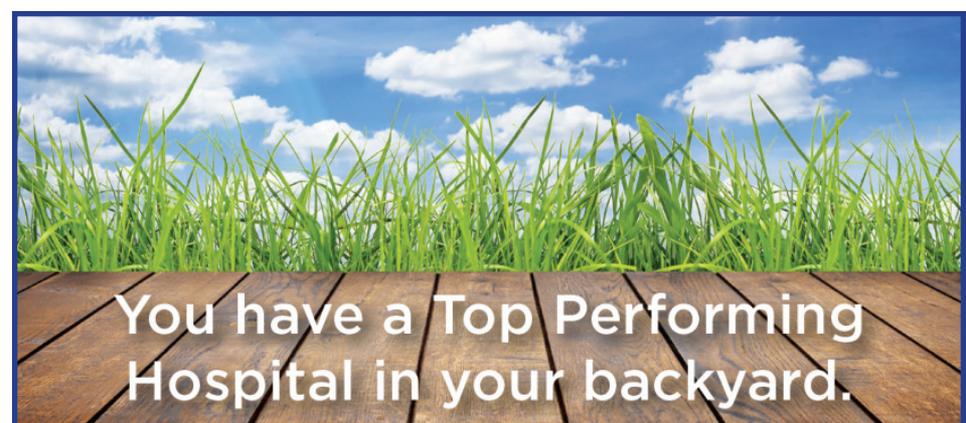


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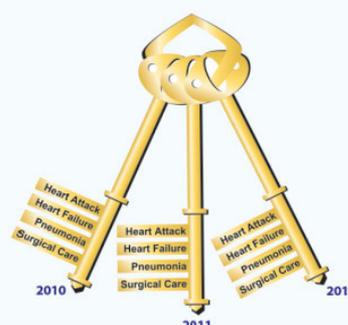


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Find hunting success on small-acreage leases

Outta The Woods

By **Tony Young**
FWC

Many people think you need a large tract of land for hunting to harvest a mature buck. But for a lot of us, leasing a large chunk of property is just not financially feasible. So I'm here to tell you that you don't need a large tract of land if your small hunting lease is in the right spot and you manage your herd correctly and let the young bucks walk.

My wife and I lease a little patch of woods less than 30 minutes from where we live and work. It's barely 20 acres but has provided us some nice hunting over the past couple seasons.

So we've made our little lease as good as we can make it. We've got corn and soybean feeders and mineral rocks out. We hire a good friend to bring over his tractor, and we plant cool-weather and warm-weather food plots twice a year.

There's a flock of turkeys on the property and a small deer herd. We're familiar with the deer that use the property because of the game cameras we have out and from what we see with our own eyes.

This season, we decided not to shoot any does during the archery and antlerless deer seasons because we want to increase our herd. There are a few young bucks, in-

cluding a 6-pointer, which we've seen and passed on because we want to give them the chance to grow another year or two, giving us something nice to go after in the future. But there were two nice, mature 8-points that we have seen on camera for the past two years, and those were the only two deer that we were going to target this season, unless some other mature bucks showed up.

The dominant buck in the herd, however, was a 4.5-year-old 8 point with a heavy and very symmetrical rack and a white patch of hair between his shoulders. That's the deer I set my sights on. We named him "Blaze" — a fine Florida buck.

During one short, afternoon sit, there was a steady, northeast wind, perfect for our favorite tree stand. I had only about 45 minutes to hunt before dark. Soon as I settled in, two does stepped out of the woods and into the food plot followed, by a spike. It was the pre-rut period, and we were seeing more deer activity, especially bucks, during daylight hours. Things looked promising.

I enjoyed watching the three deer graze on oats, wheat and rye, and I heard the turkeys fly up to roost at sunset. The does were still upwind but started acting strange, and one of them put its tail up and started blowing. They all ended up running off.

I decided to give it a last-ditch effort by doing a multiple-note "tending" grunt call. There were about five minutes left of legal

shooting hours, and I started gathering my things together when the flash of my old-school game camera went off.

Something had just walked in front of the camera: a deer, and a pretty good-sized one at that.

I slowly picked up my rifle and looked through the scope. It was a racked buck, but it was hard to tell if it was one of the younger bucks that we didn't want to shoot. The buck was looking right at me, and I knew I didn't have much time to make a decision. That's when he bent down to feed and I saw the white patch on his back! That's when I knew it was Blaze!

"Buck fever" immediately set in; my heart just went to poundin' and my hands a-shakin'. This was the deer I'd been hunting for two seasons. This was the dominant buck of our little patch of woods, and I needed to pull myself together and make a good shot.

Time was running out, my hands and breathing were all over the place, and Blaze was facing me, not presenting me with the shot I wanted. All of a sudden he turned to his left and gave me his right shoulder. I managed to calm down and steadied the crosshairs on his right shoulder. I slowly squeezed the trigger.

After the recoil, I could see the buck's white belly, laying on the ground right where he had stood. I immediately climbed down and walked over to my trophy buck. His

172-pound body and perfect rack were just as grand as they looked on all the game cam pictures.

And the shot placement was right on the money and humane. My .270-caliber bullet found its mark, killing the deer instantly.

So, it just goes to show you that you don't need a large piece of land to find hunting success. All you have to do is put in a little time providing year-round, quality food sources, and if you want the chance to shoot a mature buck year after year, let the young bucks walk, and manage your deer according to the herd size.

And another thing — some hunters say they don't like the game cams that use flash photography because that scares off big bucks. Well, not only did my old-school cam not scare away Blaze, but if it hadn't flashed, I may not have known he was even there.

I hope you enjoyed a great Christmas holiday, and I wish you a very happy new year. Remember, you can get big things from small packages, and deer season is not over yet in central and north Florida. And I still have that other big 8-point deer running around somewhere on our little piece of hunting paradise too.

Tony Young is the media relations coordinator for the FWC's Division of Hunting and Game Management. You can reach him with questions about hunting at Tony.Young@MyFWC.com.

IRS offers videos to help taxpayers with returns

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service is offering taxpayers a number of instructional YouTube videos to help prepare their taxes for the upcoming filing season, which begins on Jan. 31.

Several options are available to help taxpayers prepare for the 2014 tax season and get their refunds as easily as possible. Many software companies are expected to begin accepting tax returns in January and hold those returns until the IRS systems open on Jan. 31. This includes the Free File partners that offer access to their software for free at irs.gov/FreeFile. The IRS will not process any tax returns before Jan. 31, so there is no advantage to filing on paper before the opening date. Taxpayers will receive their tax refunds much faster by using e-file or Free File with the direct deposit option.

In addition, the IRS has short and informative YouTube videos on a number of tax-related topics in English, Spanish and American Sign Language (ASL). The channels have received nearly 6.5 million views:

- IRS Videos — <http://www.youtube.com/irsvideos>;
- ASL Videos — <http://www.youtube.com/IRSvideosASL>;
- Multilingual Videos — <http://www.youtube.com/IRSvideosMultilingua>.

Specific videos that taxpayers may view to help them get ready over the coming weeks include:

- Do-It-Yourself Free Tax Preparation — Helps taxpayers find free help from certified volunteers to electronically file tax returns. Taxpayers interested in helping their own communities can also watch a video to learn

about becoming involved in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance or Tax Counseling for the Elderly programs.

- "Do I Have to File a Tax Return?" — Learn about the requirements for filing a tax return, including income limits and age, and why taxpayers may want to file even if they don't have to.
- How to Get 1040 Forms — Provides tips on the quickest way to get the various 1040 forms on irs.gov.
- Tax Scams — Offers some tips on how to protect personal information and avoid becoming a tax scam victim.
- Record-keeping — Learn which financial and tax files to keep and how long to keep them.
- Changed Your Name After Marriage or Divorce? — Find out what you need to do if

you have changed your name before you file your tax return.

- Choosing a Tax Preparer — Hear some useful tips for choosing a reputable tax preparer.

The IRS uses social media tools and platforms to share the latest information on tax changes, initiatives, products and services. These social media platforms include the IRS2Go phone application, YouTube, Tumblr, Twitter and Facebook. To protect taxpayer privacy, the IRS only uses social media tools to share public information, not to answer personal tax or account questions. It advises taxpayers to never post confidential information, like a Social Security number, on social media sites. A listing is available on irs.gov.

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Study shows damaged coral reefs can recover

By Brad Buck/UF

GAINESVILLE — Although some scientists suggest that coral reefs are headed for certain doom, a new study by University of Florida and Caribbean researchers indicates even damaged reefs can recover.

In a 13-year study in the Cayman Islands, warm ocean temperatures led to bleaching and infectious disease that reduced live coral cover by more than 40 percent between 1999 and 2004. But seven years later, the amount of live coral on the reefs, the density of young colonies critical to the reefs' future health, and the overall size of corals all had returned to the 1999 state, the study showed.

Much of the reef surrounding Little Cayman Island is protected, so damage from fishing, anchoring and some other human activities is minimized, said UF researcher Chuck Jacoby, who helped with the study.

"Nevertheless, all coral reefs, even those that are well-protected, suffer damage," Mr. Jacoby said. "Little Cayman is an example of what can happen, because it is essentially free from local stresses due to its isolation, small human population and generally healthy ecology."

Tom Frazer, a professor of aquatic ecology, and Jacoby, a courtesy faculty member in UF's Soil and Water Science Department, said the study shows reasons to protect coral reefs, even though some scientists believe there's little point in putting more resources into reef management.

"There's a debate over how resilient coral reefs are," said Mr. Frazer, director of UF's School of Natural Resources and Environment, part of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. "Some say it's a lost cause. We believe there's value in making sure coral reefs don't die."

Despite occupying less than 0.01 percent of the marine environment, coral reefs harbor up to 25 percent of the different species of marine organisms, yield about 25 percent of the fish caught in developing nations and generate up to 30 percent of the export earnings in countries that promote reef-related tourism, the study said.

Overfishing, runoff containing sediments and nutrients, coral mining, tourism and coastal development have long threatened coral reefs. Now, scientists say, global warming is accelerating the destruction.

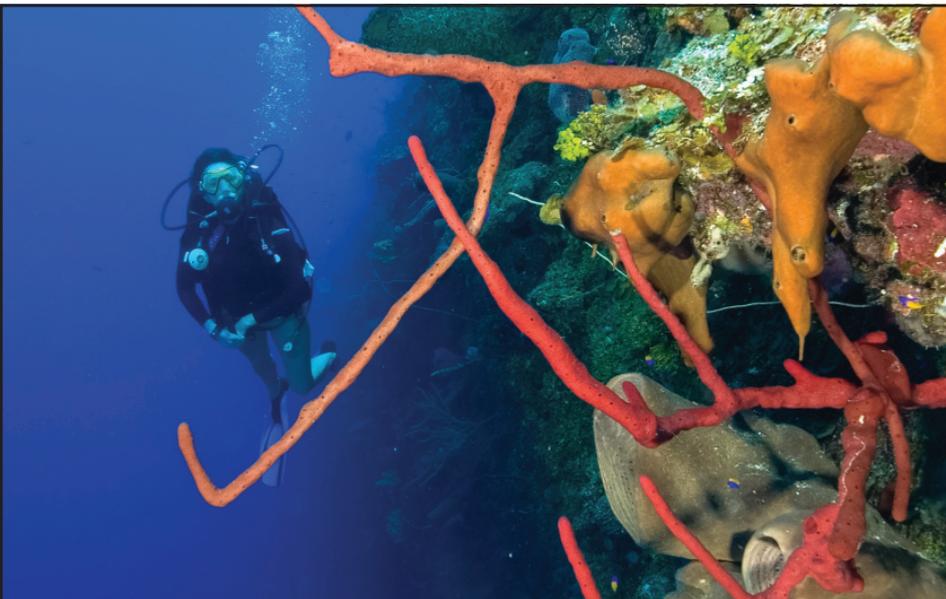
Despite these travails, the new UF study offers hope for coral reefs — if humans pay more attention to protecting them.

"In addition to saving the living organisms that make coral reefs their homes, safeguarding the habitats could ensure millions of dollars for the fishing and tourism industries, not to mention maintaining barriers that protect coastal areas and their human inhabitants from tropical storms," Frazer said.

The study, published in the November online publication Public Library of Science, was later highlighted in the "Editor's Choice" section of last month's issue of the journal *Science*.

From 1999-2012, scientists, including Mr. Frazer and Mr. Jacoby, studied reefs around Little Cayman Island, an area known for its healthy reefs. Researchers wanted to see how well the reefs stood up over time under a variety of stresses that included, for example, increased sea surface temperatures.

Researchers attributed the reef's ability to recover to its relative isolation, limited human disturbance and relatively healthy fish populations, including young herbivorous fish that help keep competing seaweed at bay. Other co-authors included Carrie Manfrino and Emma Camp, scientists at the Central Caribbean Marine Institute.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Neil van Niekerk
Kathleen McConnell dives at the Great Wall West in Bloody Bay Marine Park, off little Cayman Island. University of Florida researchers conducted a 14-year study of a reef off Little Cayman Island and found even damaged reefs can recover.

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2bd/1ba Fully Furnished utilities included, w/d pool, tennis court, club house privileges. Linens, dishes. In Kings Bay long/short term lease. 863-634-8331

On Rim Canal - Furnished 1 br./Living rm., Separate Kitchen & Dining rm., Screen porch. Includes Util's. \$125 wk. Call 772-359-1640.

Condos/Townhouses Rent

TAYLOR CREEK CONDO Ground floor, 1/1 fully furnished with utilities. Seasonal & long term rates. 863-634-0663.

Houses - Rent

2BEDROOM/2BATH M.H. IN TOWN, FURNISHED, \$650/MONTHLY, \$1,000 SEASONAL, FIRST & SECURITY 863-763-7712

Dixie Ranch Acres area. 2 br. Duplex @ 10005 NW 64th Ave. Clean, quiet. Pets allowed upon approval. \$550 month. Water & lawn maintenance included. \$400 Sec. 863-610-0001

FOR RENT WITH OPTION TO BUY.

RANCH - Oak Hammock, 7 1/2 ac., fenced with 2 pastures, 3BR, 3BA, 2000 sq. ft. with porches, 48x24 2 story barn, with tack rm & chicken coop, 30'x30' carport. Available now! Must see! Call 386-214-4333.

KINGS BAY, CBS HOME 2/2/1 \$850.00 MO. CALL 863-801-9163

Newly remodeled & painted 3bdm/1b. house in Dixie Ranch Estates on a large lot. First, Last & Security No Pets. \$800.00 a month 863-634-2820

KEE- 2/1 - \$498.00 and 3/2 - \$ 600.00 - 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.

SPACIOUS: 3BR/2BA in Kings Bay. Includes lawn service, pool and all appliances. \$900 month plus sec. dep. Call 863-634-0663.

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



Real Estate

Houses - Sale

Water Front Treasure Island By Owner 23'x50' Modular Home, 3BR/1.5BA w/fire place, enclosed back porch, fenced yard, carport & shed. On deep canal 15 minutes to locks. Complete Walk Out. Reduced to \$58,500.00 By Appt. Only 502-649-9637

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

Lots - Sale

OAKS OF BLUE HERON BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME. PRICED TO SELL BY OWNER. RESIDENTIAL LOT ADJOINING THE GOLF COURSE. \$22,500.00 CALL 863-634-2820

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

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

Open House

OPEN HOUSE Saturday & Sunday, January 4th & 5th 18088 NW 256 St. RANCH - Oak Hammock, 7 1/2 ac., fenced with 2 pastures, 3BR, 3BA, 2000 sq. ft. with porches, 48x24 2 story barn, with tack rm & chicken coop, 30'x30' carport. Available now! Must see! Call 386-214-4333.

Mobile Homes

Mobile Home Rent

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

2BR, 1.5BA, BHR, Quiet on lake access canal. Fenced yard. W/D. Large screen porch. 10x10 shed. \$750 mo. Available Jan 15th, 2014 Call(863)357-3830

CABINS & MOBILE HOME FOR RENT WITH COVERED BOAT STORAGE. YEARLY OR MONTHLY, IN OKEECHOBEE AND LAKEPORT CALL FOR INFORMATION 502-803-1876 OR 502-682-2403

TREASURE ISLAND: 2 BR, 2 BA, Non smoking env. No pets. \$800 mo. 1st, last & \$500 sec. dep. Call (863)634-6114

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

Mobile Home Sale

2bd/2ba, 10's of thousands of tile and marble upgrades including 66ft of screened porches, attached carport, detached garage, located by boat ramp to lake O. \$15,000 425-327-0204

35' TRAILER w/2 TIP OUTS, FL. ROOM, FULLY FURNISHED, READY TO MOVE IN! WHAT A BUY AT \$5,500, VANTAGE OAKS PARK 50+ CALL 1-812-508-5005 SEASON RENT PAID.

MH- ON CANAL, 2BD/2BA, 2 CAR-CARPORT, FRONT PORCH, FL ROOM, ALSO CLOSED BACK PORCH, BOAT RAMP & DOCK \$65,000 CALL 863-763-8614

Palm Harbor Homes 4/2 Fleetwood 2,200 sq ft \$12K OFF! Starting at \$499/month John Lyons 800-622-2832 ext 210 for details.

PARK MODEL, 2 BEDROOM IN BEAUTIFUL ANCIENT OAKS 55+ RESORT \$35,000 COULD FINANCE. CALL 954-214-6903 FITZSIMONS REALTY

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Recreation

Campers/RVs

GULF STREAM 31 ULTRA SUPREME 2001, 5,000 MILES FORD V10 ONE SLIDE ASKING \$18,000. O.B.O. 954-214-6903

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

Automotive

Automobiles

2004 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS GS V8 305 - LOW MILES - 1 OWNER - WELL MAINTAINED - COLD A/C - LEATHER - FULLY LOADED - RUNS GREAT - ASKING \$5,890 O.B.O. - CALL (863) 447-0742.

2007 FORD FOCUS SE 4DR. Auto., p/w, p/l, cold a/c & only 72K miles! Was \$8,795, YEAR-END SALE PRICE just \$7,995 Call Rick @ Alan Jay Chrysler (863) 983-4600

2013 CHEVROLET IMPALA LT Loaded -- Black w/ tinted glass, priced to sell! SAVE THOUSANDS VS. NEW - ONLY \$15,995 Call Rick @ Alan Jay Chrysler (863) 983-4600

2013 DODGE AVENGER SE 4DR. Bright white w/ auto., 4 cyl., alloys & more! Was \$14,995, YEAR-END SALE PRICE just \$13,895 Call Rick @ Alan Jay Chrysler (863) 983-4600

Autos Wanted

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

Sport Utility

2008 FORD EXPEDITION LIMITED Exc. Condition -- Leather, DVD, alloys & more! Was \$18,975, MANAGER'S SPECIAL \$16,995 Call Rick @ Alan Jay Chrysler(863) 983-4600

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

Sport Utility

2011 DODGE DURANGO CREW V6 w/ 3rd row seating, touch screen & more! Was \$26,995, won't last long at just \$23,995 Call Rick @ Alan Jay Chrysler (863) 983-4600

2013 DODGE JOURNEY SXT Only 17k miles! 3.6L V6, 3rd row, rear A/C & more! Was \$24,550, sale-priced at only \$19,995 Call Rick @ Alan Jay Chrysler (863) 983-4600

Public Notices

School Board Meeting January 21, 2014

The School Board of Okeechobee County will conduct its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2014. The meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. in Room 303, School Board Administrative Office, 700 SW 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, and is open to the public. There will be no meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2014, as previously scheduled.

Ken Kenworthy Superintendent of Schools 458409 ON 1/5,12/2014

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Public Notice

Contract Negotiations January 13, 2014

The Okeechobee County School Board and the Okeechobee County Education Association #1604 will continue negotiations for the 2013-14 Personnel Contracts at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, January 13, 2014 in Room 303 of the School Board Administration Building at 700 SW 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee. Collective bargaining sessions are open to the public.

Ken Kenworthy Superintendent of Schools 458973 ON 1/5/2014

Notice of Meeting Okeechobee County Construction Industry Licensing Board

The Okeechobee County Construction Industry Licensing Board will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at 3:30 P.M. The public meeting will be held at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, located at the 1728 N.W. 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida. For more information, contact the Planning and Development Department, 1700 N.W. 9th Ave., Suite A, Okeechobee, Florida 34972; (863) 763-5548.

All interested parties shall have the opportunity to be heard at this public meeting. Any person deciding to appeal any decision by the Licensing Board with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made and that the record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal will be based. Planning and Development tapes are for the sole purpose of backup for official record of the Department.

Faye Huffman, Secretary to Construction Industry Licensing Board Okeechobee County Independent Inspections, Ltd. 459511 ON 1/5/2014

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6	9	7	5	1	8	9	3	4

ANSWER:

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

- REO part
- 7-Down portrayer on "Frasier"
- Medicine cabinet item
- First-century Roman leader
- Cross
- Lickety-split
- Jack Benny's 39?
- Was about to blow up
- Mizrahi of "The Fashion Show"
- Insurance co. employee
- relief
- Mix-up among the peas?
- Top-shelf
- Charlotte-to-Raleigh dir.
- Texas NLER
- Aslan's land
- "It ___ Nice": '60s protest song
- Doubter
- Julian Assange's controversial website, and a hint to what's missing from this puzzle's four longest answers
- Federal statute trumps it
- New England law school
- Mercury, e.g.
- Old school addition?
- Rolls around the house
- Hierarchy level
- Amorous ship leader?
- Bug
- Third deg.?
- Like some tragedies
- Club relative
- Bird with a droll wit?
- Earn
- Tulip chair designer Saarinen
- Chianti, for one
- Swamp plant
- Speak like Don Corleone
- Ticker tapes, briefly?

DOWN

- ___ mission
- Thongs
- Saxony's capital
- Beds, at times
- Like some quilt kits
- Want ad letters
- See 5-Across
- Pipe dream, say
- Castaway's creation
- "The Simpsons" character with an 18-letter last name
- Big name on the ice
- Vast
- Site of a legendary parting
- Fan support
- Ligurian seaport
- 24 Shar-___
- Weak
- Aid on a misty night
- Pretentious
- "Don't ___!"
- Country music sound
- Just starting
- Suffix with vulcan
- Craft with a mizzen

39 7-Eleven beverage

40 Vessel with a hinged cover

42 Rigorously abstinent

43 Exploring

44 Shogun stronghold

45 Binocular features

47 1950 #1 Ames Brothers hit

48 She played Romy in "Romy and Michele's High School Reunion"

52 Scary snake

53 Fortitude

55 Tennis great Sampras

58 Shovel

60 Mens ___: criminal intent

61 Sch. levels

62 Signs of resistance

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

B	O	L	A		B	Y	S	E	A		L	A	R	K
E	D	E	N		R	A	T	E	D		E	T	U	I
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					S	A	M	O	A	N		R	B	I
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									K	I	R	I		
									S	E	A	T		

xwordeditor@aol.com

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By Don Gagliardo and C.C. Burnikel
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Betty Hazellief, 863-610-0144
Sharon Prevatt, 863-634-7069
Dee Reeder, 863-610-2485

 <p>1018-H: 2 story w/ open concept and screened porch off the kitchen living rm area. 3 br, 2 1/2 ba (2 br, 1 1/2 ba downstairs). Balcony off the upstairs master bdrm and much more. \$250,000 MLS #207272</p>	 <p>2004-C: Taylor Creek Lake Okeechobee Access 2 Story 2br/1ba Condominium. Furnished, screened porch, furnished and in move in condition. Great place to stay with a pool boat dock. \$65,000 MLS #207430</p>
 <p>5045-H: J&S Lake Access 3 bd, 2 ba with 1,932 sq ft. metal roof with a porch in the back and fenced back yard. 3 sheds, circular driveway all on 3 lots. Call today for a showing! \$129,000 MLS #207459</p>	 <p>3000-M: Treasure Island Lake Access 2 br, 2 ba SW w/large addition. 1162 Total Sq Ft/1134 under air. Two sheds, boat-house, dock seawall, pontoon boat and more! \$55,000 MLS #207230</p>
 <p>3003-M: Ancient Oaks. Neat 1BR/1BA RV. Shed with washer and dryer back porch. All the appliances are in the RV. \$29,000 Owner financing available. MLS #206858</p>	 <p>3009-M: Treasure Island Lake Access 3 br, 2 ba on lg fenced lot, seawall, boat slip. Great winter/summer retreat! (Extra fenced in lot next door available; both for \$49,000) \$38,900 MLS #207431</p>

• Pine Ridge lot \$7,500 MLS #207132 • Potter Rd (NW 30th Ter) 5+/- acres **\$38,000** • 319+/- acres on Hwy 441 N **\$4,000,000** • 55+/- acres on SR 710 **\$330,000**. Make Offer! • Lake Access 2 acres **Conners Hwy/Rim Canal \$27,500** • Taylor Creek Isles Lot on captive lake with utilities. **\$6,900** • Okeechobee Pk (NW 4th St) Residential Lot **\$6,000** • In town lot (SW 5th St) **\$3,900** MLS #206637 • Fenced 57.80+/- acres on a paved road, used to graze large animals. ~~\$750,000~~ NOW **\$460,000** • 5+/- acres on NW 30th St. Fenced for large animals. **\$24,900**

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Tammi's "TOP" of the Lake

The Best of Lake Okeechobee



By Tammi Kelly
Okeechobee News

• **The Bad Apple Salon**, 310 S.W. Second St., is a Paul Mitchell focus salon. They specialize in color and cuts. They have been open since 2010 with three lovely stylists to help with all your needs. Bad Apple is a very modern salon, open Tuesday - Saturday, and it is best to make an appointment. Inside the salon is 7th Heaven Massages and Body Work. For information, like them on Facebook or give them a call at 863-467-0197.

• **7th Heaven Massages & Body Work**, at 310 S.W. Second St., is where you will meet Julia, who has been a massage therapist for 16 years. Her massages incorporate the traditional massages with myofascial release, which is more than just helping you relax; it is to help you heal. Julia is very connected to her clients and is able to feel where you need help the most. 7th Heaven is a place of wellness where a massage is more like a treatment. Massages can range anywhere from 30-40 minutes to 75 minutes. Gift certificates are always available, so stop in and see her. Don't forget to tell her Tammi sent you! Julia can be reached at 863-634-6482.

• **Bella Rose**, 311 N.E. Second St., is a full-service, Christian-based spa and salon. They do everything from manicures to Swedish massages. They also have a full line of organic hair products. Bella Rose has many last-minute gift items for anyone to pick up for any occasion, such as jewelry, hats or a flat iron with an oil infuser — they are great by the way. And for those who are just unsure what to get someone, pick up a gift certificate for any one of their wonder-

ful services. Don't forget to tell them Tammi sent you! Also like them on Facebook or visit their website at www.mysalononline.com/bellarose. They can be reached at 863-357-3333.

• Did you know the Okeechobee News has one of the strongest business Facebook audiences in the area? These days, the paper is so much more than the trusty print edition. Our community website is florida.newszap.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 new year is here and everyone is talking about the resolutions. Now, some of us keep ours, while others will fall off the new year's wagon pretty quickly. Here are the top 10 New Year's Resolutions from around the United States per an online study.

Top 10 New Year Resolutions:

1. Spend more time with family and friends;
2. Fit in fitness;
3. Tame the bulge, to lose weight;
4. Quit smoking;
5. Enjoy life more or live in the moment;
6. Quit drinking;
7. Get out of debt;
8. Learn something new;
9. Help others;
10. Get organized.

You can always find more at my blog at <http://florida.newszap.com/topofthelake/>.



Special to the Okeechobee News

College anglers take on the Big O

Collegiate anglers were in Okeechobee this weekend for the Carhartt College Series Southern Regional on Lake Okeechobee. The tournament was fished out of the Scott Driver Marina.



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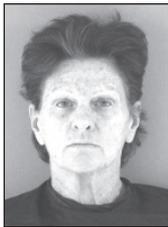
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Woman accused of selling drugs

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News



**Sherry
Harvey**

A local woman is being held in the Okeechobee County Jail on \$60,000 bond following her arrest during an undercover drug operation.

Sherry Lightsey Harvey, 57, N.W. 27th Ave., was arrested Thursday, Jan. 2, on felony charges of sale of a controlled substance (oxycodone) and possession of

a controlled substance (oxycodone) with intent to sell.

Harvey was arrested by detectives with the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force after she allegedly sold an unspecified number of the painkillers to a confidential source.

An arrest report stated the source met with Harvey and gave her an agreed-upon amount of cash for the pills.

The pills were later identified by the Poison Control Hotline as 30mg oxycodone tablets.

Burned body found in Glades County

From Detective Sgt. Don Salo
Glades County Sheriff's Office

On New Year's Day, Glades County Sheriff's Office responded to the north of Scott Driver Park, across the Kissimmee River Bridge, in reference to a body found that had been burned.

Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue initially responded to reports of a small fire in that area. Upon their arrival they noticed a fire in a thick patch of brush which was extinguished. They contacted Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office immediately upon the discovery. During their investigation, it was determined that the incident location was inside the Glades County line.

Both Glades and Okeechobee County

Sheriff's Investigators determined that the body was that of a male subject who was later found to have been suffering from psychological issues according to a family member. The death is believed to be a result of an apparent suicide, however, the exact cause will be determined by the Medical Examiner.

The name of subject is being withheld pending positive identification from the Medical Examiner's Office. A timeline of witness accounts and some personal documents found on and off the scene did provide information regarding who the person was but due to the condition of the body, medical records will have to be used to confirm.

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).

• Mark Earnest Dickinson, 23, S.E. 29th Court, Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 30, 2013, by Deputy Jose Garduno on a DOC warrant charging him with the felonies of violation of probation - grand theft and violation of probation - giving false information to a pawnbroker. He is being held without bond.

• Rodrigo Eriza-Gonzalez, 47, N.E. 11th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 31 by Deputy Matt Hurst on felony charges of grand theft and giving false information to a pawnbroker. His bond was set at \$10,000.

• Erica J. Sorrell, 23, Old Dock Road, Orlando, was arrested Jan. 2 by Deputy Megan Holroyd on a DOC warrant charging her

with violation of probation - grand theft. She is being held without bond.

• Winston Clyde Collins, 61, N.W. 11th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 2 by Deputy Elbert Kline on a Polk County warrant charging him with grand theft-motor vehicle. His bond was set at \$1,000.

• Ricky Raven Hight, 33, N.W. 15th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 2 by Officer Belen Reyna on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felony of fleeing and eluding a law enforcement officer and the misdemeanor of driving while license suspended. His bond was set at \$7,500.

• Patricia Gail Patton, 33, N.W. Sixth St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 2 by Deputy Megan Holroyd on a DOC warrant charging her with the felony of violation of probation-child neglect. She is being held without bond.

This column lists arrests and not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Anyone listed here who is later found innocent or has had the charges against them dropped is welcome to inform this newspaper. The information will be confirmed and printed.

OCSO Investigations

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office investigated reports of the following crimes:

ASSAULT

- 15000 block of N.W. 300th St.
- 2400 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
- 2700 block of N.W. Second St.
- 1700 block of U.S. 441 N.

BURGLARY

- 2200 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
- 300 block of S.E. 14th Ave.

- 2100 block of S.W. Eighth St.
- 600 block of N.E. 14th Ave.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

- 600 block of N.E. 14th Ave.
- 4400 block of U.S. 441 S.

THEFT

- 3900 block of S.R. 710
- 3100 block of U.S. 441 S.
- 2700 block of N.W. Second St.
- 2200 block of S.E. 34th Lane

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

State Road 70 Design from NE 34th Avenue to NE 128th Avenue (Berman Road)
Okeechobee County, Florida

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District One, is holding a public information meeting regarding the expansion of SR 70 from two lanes to four lanes from NE 34th Avenue to NE 128th Avenue (Berman Road). The meeting will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2014 at the South Florida Water Management District Field Station, 1000 NE 40th Avenue in Okeechobee. The meeting is an open house with no formal presentation. FDOT staff will display plans and answer questions about the SR 70 project.

The project will expand SR 70 to four lanes from NE 34th Avenue to NE 128th Avenue (Berman Road). The project will also add medians and bike lanes through the corridor and new sidewalks from NE 34th Avenue to NE 80th Avenue. The existing bridge over the canal east of NE 34th Avenue and the existing bridge over Mosquito Creek will be widened to accommodate the new lanes.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the American with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Ray Porter, Florida Department of Transportation, (863) 519-2484, email: jray.porter@dot.state.fl.us at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact us using the Florida Relay Service, (800) 955-8771 (TDD) or (800) 955-8770 (Voice).

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Ray Porter, Florida Department of Transportation, (863) 519-2484, email: jray.porter@dot.state.fl.us or by writing the Florida Department of Transportation, 801 North Broadway Avenue, MS 1-29 Bartow, FL 33830.

For additional information, please see the project website at <http://www.sr70.info>.



El Departamento de Transporte de la Florida (FDOT), Distrito Uno, va a sostener una reunión de información pública con respecto a la expansión de SR 70, de dos carriles a cuatro carriles, desde Avenida NE 34 hasta Avenida NE 128 (carretera Berman). La reunión ocurrirá el día Jueves, 16 de Enero del 2014, de 5:30 p.m. a 7 p.m., en el South Florida Water Management District Field Station, 1000 Avenida 40 Noreste en Okeechobee. La reunión será una casa abierta, sin ninguna presentación formal. Empleados de FDOT mostrarán planes y contestaran preguntas acerca del proyecto de SR 70.

El proyecto ampliará SR 70 a cuatro carriles desde Avenida NE 34 hasta Avenida NE 128 (carretera Berman). El proyecto también agregará medianas y carriles para bicicletas sobre los mismos límites, y banquetas desde Avenida NE 34 hasta Avenida NE 80. El puente existente sobre el canal que queda al este de la Avenida NE 34 y el Puente existente sobre Mosquito Creek serán ampliados para dar cabida a los nuevos carriles.

La participación del público se solicita, sin distinción de raza, color, origen nacional, edad, sexo, religión, discapacidad o estado familiar. Las personas que requieran acomodaciones especiales bajo la ley para Americanos con Impedimentos, o personas que requieran servicios de traducción (gratuito), deberán comunicarse con Ray Porter al menos siete (7) días antes de la reunión, llamando al (863) 519-2484 o enviando un correo electrónico a: jray.porter@dot.state.fl.us.

Las personas con impedimentos auditivos o dificultades en el habla pueden comunicarse a través de Florida Relay (Servicio de Retransmisión), llamando al (800) 955-8771 (TDD) o (800) 955-8770 (Voz).

Para obtener más información acerca de los proyectos, por favor contacte el gerente del proyecto, Ray Porter, por teléfono a 863-519-2484 o por e-mail a jray.porter@dot.state.fl.us.

Para más información, por favor visite el siguiente sitio: <http://www.sr70.info>.



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