

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 105 No. 5

Friday, January 10, 2014

50¢ Plus tax



New year brings festival season
... INSIDE

Three facing pill charges
... Page 5

Lake Levels

14.00 feet
Last Year: 15.01 feet

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Special to the Okeechobee News/BLM

Adopt a mustang or burro

The Bureau of Land Management will hold a Wild Horse and Burro Adoption event at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center on Friday, Jan. 10, and Saturday, Jan. 11. The two-day event will feature approximately 70 adult and yearling horses and burros that once roamed free on public lands in the West. The adoption will start at 8 a.m. on Friday and run until 7 p.m. Gates open again Saturday morning at 8 a.m. and the adoption will continue through 7 p.m. This adoption will be first-come, first-served for the entire event. For best selection, come early. Applications can be completed at the adoption, and approval is done on the spot. Adoption fees are \$125 for each animal. For more photos online, go to Florida.newszip.com.

Trio found with explosives face more charges

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

The charges and bonds have changed for three people who were arrested earlier this week for allegedly having 17 explosive devices in their possession.

Emette Howard Miles, Michael Ronald Holmes and Faith Marie Kahn were arrested Jan. 6 on several felony drug and weapons charges.

Then on Wednesday, Jan. 8, they were each charged with 17 felony counts of possession of an explosive device which also changed their total bond amounts. The changes came about because Miles, Howard and Kahn all had to go back for a first-appearance hearing on the explosives charges.

Miles, 29, Indian Mound Road, Moore Haven, is now being held on a total bond of \$207,000; Holmes, 22, S.W. Fourth St.,

See EXPLOSIVES — Page 14

County approves drainage work

By Katrina Elsken
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County Commissioners Thursday awarded the bid for Northeast 80th Avenue culvert replacement to the lowest bidder, Douglas N. Higgins Inc., for \$317,423.60.

The drainage in that area has been a problem for some time, said Jim Threewits, deputy county administrator. He said the bids came in about 5 percent over the engineer's original estimate.

The project is expected to take 60 to 90 days.

In other business, the commissioners decided the county will not enter an agreement with the City of Okeechobee for landscaping on U.S. 441 S.

The city can go ahead with the portion in the city limits, and has been awarded an FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation)

See COUNTY — Page 14

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Local organization promotes water quality

By Audra Corson
Conservation Technician
Special to the Okeechobee News

Did you know you live in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed?

You may be asking yourself, what is a watershed? A watershed is an area of land where all of its water drains off into the same water body. Okeechobee County has maintained an organization called the Okeechobee Soil & Water Conservation District to address local soil and water quality concerns in the Lake Okeechobee watershed since 1951. Conservation districts were founded by President Franklin Roosevelt's signing of the Soil Conservation Act of 1935, during the Dust Bowl era in the 1930s, as an effort to teach farmers new production practices to increase soil quality in the Midwest. Since the 1930s the need to educate farmers and the public on resource conservation has increased, and the importance of the local conservation districts remains significant.

The Okeechobee Soil & Water Conservation District is composed of five board members. Board members are uncompensated elected public officials. OSWCD employs two, full-time employees through grant money from the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (FDACS), United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource and Conservation Service Agency (USDA-NRCS), and Okeechobee County.

Their priority is to improve soil and water conservation within the Lake Okeechobee watershed.

OSWCD acts as a liaison between local agriculture producers and the state and federal governments. By having local "boots on the ground," program directors and lawmakers have contacts in areas all over the state that know the independent needs of producers and watersheds in their community. Through their partnership with NRCS and FDACS, OSWCD is able to bring awareness, incentive, and aid to our local producers. This past year, OSWCD administered over \$2.3 million in state and federal programs. This is achieved by implementing agriculture practices that create a viable and sustainable ecosystem that maintains or improves water quality. Through this unique partnership, agricultural producers are given an individualized conservation plan that addresses any water and soil quality concerns specific to their operation and region. The producers are educated on how their production practices impact water quality and quantity, soil and air in the community, and how they can put practices in place to operate in a more sustainable manner. There are over seventy-seven open conservation plans taking place this year in Okeechobee County alone. That's not counting the conservation plans that have fulfilled their requested projects and are now operating in compliance with their contract from previous years.

The OSWCD also implements several other programs that benefit the county outside of the agriculture community. They currently participate in the Monofilament Recovery & Recycling Program. This program uses specialized bins set up near popular fishing locations for fisherman to dispose of used fishing line safely that are monitored by OSWCD employees and Earth Team volunteers. OSWCD also encourages soil testing by providing shipping costs to the University of Florida Soil Testing Laboratory, so the producer will know if they need to add soil amendments or not.

Probably the most important role that OSWCD plays in protecting our local waters is public education. OSWCD participates in the local AgVenture that educates local fourth graders on the importance of agriculture. OSWCD also organizes a speech contest annually for middle and high school student with topics such as "Where does your water shed?" Another middle and high school student focused event organized by



Special to the Okeechobee News
Pictured left to right are: Glynn Rutledge, Nicki Smith, Audra Corson, Audrey Kuipers, Dr. Jim Harvey and Nano Corona. Board member Doug Burnham is not pictured.

OSWCD is the District Land Judging Contest. This contest is open to FFA and 4-H clubs across south Florida to participate in. The top competitors in the District Land Judging Contest go on to participate in the state level contest. Every year OSWCD awards scholarships to Okeechobee High School graduating seniors. This year over \$4000 was given away in scholarship monies.

All in all, the Okeechobee Soil & Water Conservation District is a little known local government board that has a big impact on the Okeechobee Community. For more information, or to contact OSWCD about outreach opportunities, please visit their website at okeechobeeswcd.com.

USDA extends conservation stewardship application deadline

GAINESVILLE — The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has extended the deadline for new enrollments in the Conservation

Stewardship Program (CSP) to Feb. 7 for fiscal year 2014.

Through this program, NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air and related natural resources on their land. Producers earn higher payments for higher performance. CSP is available on Tribal and private agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land.

Some popular enhancements include:

- Using new nozzles that reduce the drift of pesticides, lowering input costs and making sure pesticides are used where they are most needed;
- Modifying water facilities to prevent bats and bird species from being trapped;
- Burning patches of land, mimicking

prairie fires to enhance wildlife habitat; and,

- Rotating feeding areas and monitoring key grazing areas to improve grazing management.

A CSP self-screening checklist highlights eligibility requirements, stewardship threshold requirements and payment types.

While local NRCS offices accept CSP applications year round, NRCS evaluates applications during announced ranking periods. To be eligible for this year's enrollment, producers must have their applications submitted to NRCS by the closing date.

Learn more about CSP by visiting the NRCS website or the Okeechobee USDA Service Center at 863-763-3619 ext 204, 452 U.S. Highway 98 N., Okeechobee, FL 34972.

Okeechobee Forecast



Today: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 79. Light and variable wind becoming southeast 5 to 8 mph in the morning.

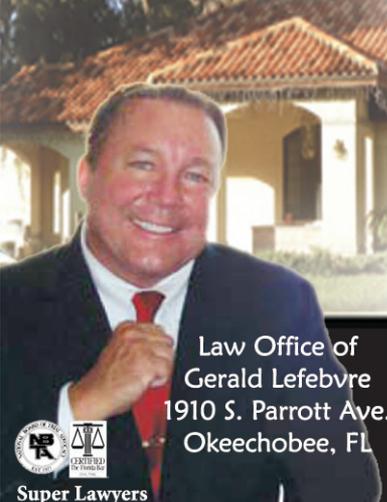
Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers before 1am. Patchy fog after 1am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 65. Southeast wind 3 to 6 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: A slight chance of showers, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 81. Southeast wind 5 to 15 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Saturday Night: A slight chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. West wind 3 to 8 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 79. North-east wind 3 to 7 mph.



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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!

Winter homes

- The story about the break-ins at homes belonging to winter residents shows the importance of having an alarm system if your home is going to be unoccupied. They caught the bad guy because he broke into a home that had an alarm system. Even if you have someone checking on your home, they are only there for a short time and that leaves the home unguarded most of the time. The best they can do is report a break-in; they can't prevent one.

Wild horses

- I have three mustangs that I adopted and they are members of my family. I hate the fact that mine were taken from their homes and herds; that was wrong. But I adopted them to give them a new home and they are loved totally and unconditionally.

Teachers contract

- The school district was advertising a position for an IT secretary at a salary of \$40,000 a year. We keep hearing from the administration that they are concerned about money. This is just one reason that the moral of teachers is falling in our schools. This position will make more money than some teachers (teachers who work late every night and on the weekends for their students.) The school board just rubber stamps whatever the superintendent wants. Some of the school board members do not even talk to teachers to make themselves available to them. There are a lot of problems in the schools that need to be looked at. Some classes do not even have the proper materials to teach with.

- While I do sympathize with the teachers who want more money, they need to understand that many of the taxpayers are making less money than we were five years ago. The economy has not improved much in Okeechobee. We are living on less while our expenses keep going up. Yet we have to

pay the taxes that fund the school system. If taxes go up, that makes it even harder on families who are already struggling to get by.

- Not only should there be a pay incentive for the most effective teachers to teach the kids who need the most help, perhaps those teachers should be exempt, at least in some fashion, from mandated evaluations that do not accommodate such challenges. Board and administration: Think outside the box. Get creative, efficient, and solve the problem for the students' benefit, and from the viewpoint of reasonable incentive for the teachers who undertake the challenge.

- The education system nationally operated very well after the Second World War. The dropout rate had dropped dramatically, and a high school education was good preparation for life. In the late 80s "A Nation at Risk" was published, and gave momentum to the privatization movement that had floundered in the 70s. The education "reformers" have been in charge ever since, in spite of the fact that most of the assertions made in "A Nation at Risk" have been debunked.

- The fact that so many teachers don't follow negotiations doesn't indicate a lack of initiative to me. I see their initiative when they spend 10 or 11 hours a day at school, only to go home and grade papers or research lesson plans. These teachers sacrifice a great deal of their personal lives for their love of children. You won't find many child development experts who will tell you that high stakes testing or any other part of the assembly line education we've had to force down their throats is good for them. When teachers fight back, it's against the corporate CEOs and the politicians they've paid for, who believe in treating children like mini-adults. We fight against assembly line, fill in the bubble education.

- For those that think the raise should be paid as a bonus, the DOE has been very clear. All of the technical papers put out by the DOE have specifically stated that the money is to be used for salary increases, and are not to be used as a one-time bonus.

- If the extra money in the state funding is specifically to be used for school staff raises, what happens next year or the year after that if the state doesn't fork over that extra money? A bonus is one time. But once you give a raise, you can't take it back. No wonder the school administration is worried about what happens in the future.

Letters to the editor

Toy drive a success

This year's annual Angel Drive for Christmas showed even more generosity, if that's possible, with the already "huge hearts" this community shows all year! Special thanks go to the BHR Women of the Moose, the staff of the Clerk of the Circuit Court along with all staff of the Okeechobee Tax Collector.

Special thanks also to Gretchen Robertson and her staff of State Farm Insurance. The added surprise of their gifts helped to guarantee no child would miss the joys of a traditional Christmas.

Thanks to the local businesses, the Alarm

Company and D4 Powersports which were designated drop off places for the annual Angel Drive sponsored through the Guardian ad Litem volunteers.

Last but certainly not least, Okeechobee Scout Pack 964. We love and appreciate each and every one.

It also once again, emphasizes the "Hearts of Gold" throughout our Okeechobee County and BHR communities. God bless you all.

Judi W Tremain

Guardian ad Litem

Okeechobee County

Blood supply impacted by recent winter blast

On Jan. 8 the harsh winter weather is making blood collection difficult in parts of the country and OneBlood, the local blood center, has been called in to help out.

OneBlood has already shipped blood products to various parts of the country impacted by the arctic blast and continues to be called upon to send additional shipments. Local donors are urged to please donate as soon as possible to help ensure our local supply remains strong so the blood center can continue to send blood for patients in areas impacted by the relentless winter storms.

While all blood types are needed, people with Rh negative type blood are in the highest demand. In addition, platelet and plasma donors are also greatly needed.

January is National Blood Donor Month and the perfect time to thank blood donors for saving lives, to encourage others to follow in their footsteps and to shine the spotlight on how blood donors can target the power of their blood type to save more lives.

There are eight different blood types and each one holds a unique power to save lives. OneBlood's Target Your Type program gives donors the ability to learn the power of their blood type and how to donate the specific components of their blood that are most needed by area hospitals.

Every two seconds someone needs blood. Blood that is donated today will likely be transfused within two to three days. The turn-around is that fast, the need is constant.

Generally healthy people age 16 or older who weigh at least 110 pounds can donate blood. To learn more about the importance of blood donation and how donors can target the power of their blood type visit www.oneblood.org.

Blood drives will be held in Okeechobee in January at the following locations:

- Saturday, Jan. 11 — Publix, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.;
- Sunday, Jan. 12 — Market Place Flea Market, noon to 5 p.m.;
- Saturday, Jan. 18 — Seminole Cove (public welcome), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.;
- Sunday, Jan. 19 — Golden Corral, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.;
- Monday, Jan. 20 — Ancient Oaks, time TBA;
- Thursday, Jan. 23 — Okeechobee High School, 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.;
- Saturday, Jan. 25 — Buckhead Ridge Catfish Festival, Hwy 78, 10 a.m.;
- Saturday, Jan. 25 — Okeechobee Health Expo, Ag Center, 10 a.m.; and,
- Friday, Jan. 31 — Big O Campground, Hwy 78, time TBA.

KEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

Address: 107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D

Okeechobee, FL 34974

Website: www.newszap.com

To Submit News

The Okeechobee News welcomes submissions from its readers. Opinions, calendar items, stories ideas and photographs are welcome. Call (863) 763-3134 to reach our newsroom. Items may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed.

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The Okeechobee News is available three times a week via home delivery and is on sale at rack and store locations throughout Okeechobee County. Call the office to find out if your home is within our present home-distribution boundaries.

Call 800-282-8586 to report a missed newspaper or poor delivery.

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

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Our Purpose...

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

We Pledge...

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

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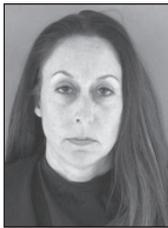
Task Force nabs three for selling pills

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Three people have been arrested on felony drug charges by Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force detectives for allegedly selling prescription medications during a local undercover drug operation.

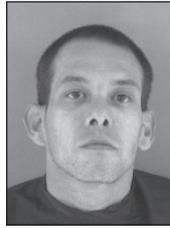
Arrested Jan. 7 were Deidra Felice Arrants, Brian Anton Senna and Debra Morris Young.

Arrants, 36, S.E. 30th Parkway, Okeechobee, was charged with two counts of sale of a controlled substance (oxycodone) and two counts of possession of a controlled sub-



Deidra Arrants

stance (oxycodone) with intent to sell. Her bond was set at \$120,000.



Brian Senna

Senna, 29, N.W. 20th St., Okeechobee, was charged with the sale of a controlled substance (hydromorphone), sale of a controlled substance (oxycodone), possession of a controlled substance (hydromorphone) with intent to sell and possession of a controlled substance (oxycodone) with intent to sell. His bond was set at \$120,000.

Young, 45, N.W. 270th St., Okeechobee, was charged with the sale of a controlled substance (oxycodone) and possession of

a controlled substance (oxycodone) with intent to sell. Her bond was set at \$60,000.



Debra Young

All three are being held on bond in the Okeechobee County Jail.

According to arrest reports Arrants, Senna and Young each sold prescription pills to a confidential source during the local drug sting. In the cases involving Arrants and Senna, the confidential source made two buys from each of them, added the reports.

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).

- Jacob Carter Super, 25, Wood Point Way, Sarasota, was arrested Jan. 5 by Deputy Brian Cross on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance (suboxone) without a prescription, and misdemeanor charges of possession of marijuana under 20 grams and possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$3,500.

- Timothy O'Brien Crews, 39, S.E. 26th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 5 by Officer Michael Jordan on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance (dilauidid) and a misdemeanor charge of petit theft. His bond was set at \$25,500.

- Anniece Racquell Brown, 22, S.E. 42nd St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 6 by Deputy Nathaniel Mitchell on a DOC warrant charging her with the felony of violation of probation - grand theft. She is being held without bond.

- William Jeffrey Bennett, 30, S.E. 35th Terrace, was arrested Jan. 6 by Deputy Nathaniel Mitchell on a DOC warrant charging him with the felony of violation of probation - burglary of a dwelling. He is being held without bond.

- Daniel Valladares, 45, S. Parrott Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 6 by Deputy Megan Holroyd on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felony of giving false information to a secondhand dealer. His bond was set at \$2,500.

- Daniel Kent Harmon, 51, S.E. 38th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 7 by Deputy Timothy Porter on felony charges of driving under the influence and driving on a permanently revoked driver's license. His bond was set at \$30,000.

- Justin Blake Chavers, 24, S.R. 70 W., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 7 by Deputy Timothy Porter on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felonies of burglary of a dwelling and burglary of a structure, and misdemeanor charges of petit theft and criminal mischief. His bond was set at \$67,000.

- Noah Devon Stirn, 19, Cypress St., Naples, was arrested Jan. 7 by Deputy Leland Schoonmaker on a Collier County warrant charging him with the felony of tampering with a witness and the misdemeanor of criminal conspiracy. He is being held without bond.

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

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Eagles North will host dinner

On Friday, **Jan. 10**, the Eagles Auxiliary, at 9985 U.S. 441 N., is joining in with the Aerie 4137 to have a dinner from 5 until 9 p.m. Music by Steven will be played for your listening and dancing pleasure. Each Tuesday, bingo starts at 1 p.m., and will be followed by the Queen of Hearts drawing at 7 p.m. Wednesday bingo starts at 5:30 p.m. On Saturdays, five-card bingo starts at 5:30 p.m. The public is welcome. All proceedings go toward charities supported by the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

Eagles serving steak dinner

The Cypress Hut Eagles 4509 will serve a choice ribeye steak, shrimp or fish dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, **Jan. 10**, with entertainment by Wes and Deb. On Saturday, Jan. 11, dinner is shrimp baskets with entertainment by Jay. On Sunday, Jan. 12, the Eagles are serving southern fried chicken by Ed and Noni. Tuesday, Jan. 14 is the weekly dart tournament with hamburgers being served. The public is welcome. All proceeds go to community and national charity funds. For information, call the Cypress Hut Eagles at 863-467-1154.

Eastern Star offering dinner

The Okeechobee Chapter No. 128, Order of the Eastern Star, invites you to enjoy a home-cooked spaghetti dinner with us on Friday, **Jan. 10**. Serving will be from 4 until 7 p.m. at the Okeechobee Masonic Lodge, 107 N.W. Fifth Ave. Enjoy great food and fellowship while you relax and let us cater to you. The menu includes salad, bread, beverage and dessert for \$8. Tickets are available by contacting: Mary Ann Holt at 863-763-5210; Kip Gardner 863-357-0427; or, any member of the Eastern Star. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Single seniors host dance

A new single senior club will host a dance Saturday, **Jan. 11**, at Cowboys, 202 N.E. Seventh Ave. Doors open at 5 p.m. The dance will start at 7 p.m. For information, call Marie at 863-357-0676.

YOUNFIED event planned

The second annual YOUNFIED event will be held Saturday, **Jan. 11**, at 5:30 p.m. at Osceola Middle School. Doors will open at 5 p.m. The event is geared for youth in grades five to 12. The keynote speaker will be Jeffrey Dean. He will address issues on abstinence, peer pressure and an array of other every-day issues that our youth face. Jason Castro from American Idol will be our main musician for the night and he will be opened by local artist D. Kidd. The youth of our today will be the youth of our tomorrow, let's do our part to guide them!

Masons hosting breakfast

The Masonic Lodge, located at 107 N.W. Fifth St., will host a breakfast with all the fixins Sunday, **Jan. 12**, for \$6 per plate. The public is welcome and carry out is available. Breakfast will be served from 8 until 11 a.m. All proceeds go to local Mason giving.

Legion Post offering bingo

American Legion 64 will host Sunday night bingo on **Jan. 12** at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. in the bingo area. The kitchen will offer a limited menu. Payoffs will be determined by player attendance. All proceeds to benefit the American Legion veterans' programs. The event is open to the public. The American Legion now has free WIFI for its lounge and dining room patrons.

Elks celebrate with hoe down

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. For information, call Jim at 863-623-5156.

Retired educators to meet

The Okeechobee Retired Educators will meet Monday, **Jan. 13**, beginning at 11 a.m. in the meeting room of Beef O'Brady's. Any retired educator is welcome.

Science Fair needs 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 or would like more information, call Cindy Letcher at 863-462-5056, ext. 1191.

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

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Yatchette hosts comedy night

The Okeechobee Yatchette Club presents a night of comedy at Good Spirits Lounge on Saturday, **Jan. 18**, at 8 p.m. featuring Tim the Dairy Farmer with guest appearances by B.C. Murphy and Mark Gauthier. Tickets are \$10 each and must be purchased in advance at Good Spirits Lounge; or, by calling Bette Moldenhauer at 863-610-0749 or Ellen Welpey at 863-824-0681. Come and have an evening of fun and entertainment. All proceeds from the show will go to our scholarship fund and our senior fund to purchase food and other necessities for our senior citizens in need of a little help from our community.

Habitat for Humanity to meet

If you are interested in applying for a home the Okeechobee County Habitat for Humanity is inviting you to a two-hour informational meeting Thursday, **Jan. 23**. The meeting will be held in the conference room at the Hampton Inn, 1200 S.R. 70 E., and will start promptly at 6 p.m. This is an adult only meeting. You must bring \$25 for the application fee. Come learn about our program and see if you qualify. For information, call 863-357-1371.

Health Expo set for Jan. 25

The seventh annual Okeechobee Family Health and Safety Expo will be held Saturday, **Jan. 25**, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center, just off S.R. 710 There will be free parking and admission. Take advantage of health screenings and demonstrations. There will also be free entertainment and lunch. Apply for Florida KidCare, Medicaid and Food Stamps at the Expo. Complete the Know Your Numbers report card, which is a record of your free health screenings and an opportunity to win a prize. For information, call 863-462-5000, ext. 257; or, 863-634-6464.

Wild game dinner slated

The Rotary Club of Okeechobee will hold a "Walk on the Wild Side" wild game dinner at Quail Creek Plantation at 5 p.m. on **Jan. 25**. A percentage of the funds raised at this event will go directly to Real Life Children's Ranch and the balance for scholarships for graduating Okeechobee High School students. Tickets are \$40 per person. For information, contact Donna Gaiser at 863-610-9416; or, canvas.shop@yahoo.com.

Beauty pageant is Jan. 30

The annual Miss American Legion Post 64 beauty pageant will be held Thursday, **Jan. 30**, at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall. All contestants must be female, unmarried, no children and in the ninth through the 12th grade at either Okeechobee High School, the Freshman Campus, a private school, home school or College Early Admissions Program.

Obituaries

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

Catherine Ruth Litteral, 76

KEECHOBEE — Catherine Ruth Litteral died January 9, 2014. Mrs. Litteral has been a resident of Okeechobee for 21 years coming from Tipton, Ind.

Catherine worked for general motors over 20 years. She belonged to the UAW, and was a volunteer for 9 years at the Raulerson Hospital. Catherine loved to fish.

She was preceded in death by her husband; Harold (BUD) Litteral in 2004.

Mrs. Litteral is survived by her daughter; Sheree (Roger) Macy of Okeechobee, Fla.; son, Budd (Mary) Litteral of Prospect, Ky. Four Grandchildren, Robert Macy, of Louisville, Ky.; Christopher Macy, of Lexington, S.C., Carson and Carleigh Litteral Of Prospect, Ky.; One Great-Grandchild, Aaron Macy, of Louisville, Ky.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2014 from 6 to 8 p.m.

In Lieu of flowers the family request that donation may be to the Raulerson Hospital Volunteer Scholarship Fund.

Online condolences maybe made at www.buxtonseawinds.com



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OMS suffers 34-23 hoop loss to Gifford

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Ja Juan Cherry had 15 points and eight rebounds as Osceola fell to Gifford, 34-23, in middle school boys basketball action Tuesday in Okeechobee.

Osceola battled Gifford to a near standstill in the first quarter and trailed by only four points at the half.

Evan Neal had four points and four rebounds, and Jermaine Moore added five assists and three steals for the Warriors.

Coach Demario Coleman was pleased that his team didn't show rust from the Christmas break.

"While I was away the team put in some work. They played their heart out and it was the best game I've seen from them all year," he said.

Cherry said the team played great but need to stop arguing amongst themselves. He played a strong game and had a big second quarter with 10 points as he made three jump shots in a row at one point.

Jermaine Moore did a good job running the offense for Osceola. He worked the ball around the exterior of the defense to get good shots for his teammates.

"We played well. We need to come together as a team

and we played our heart out," he said.

Neal had a tough assignment in the post with Vero Beach featuring three or four solid inside players. He said he wants to cut down on the number of mistakes he makes.

"Some of the mistakes shouldn't have been made but we did our best," he added.

Backup center Justin Shephard played significant minutes in the post as well and battled tough on the boards. "It was a good game for us. We just need to come together as a team after the break."

Gifford led 30-23 as the teams entered play in the fourth quarter. Osceola went cold from the field and was unable to score in the final four minutes.

Mason Adams said he felt the team needs to box out more and make fewer mistakes. Calab Throop said he felt the team should focus on rebounding and should be able to score more points if they do. Keith Davis said team should also improve their shooting and passing. Logan Etherton and Mark Youmans said the team played hard but have to fix some mistakes, especially on defense.

The Warriors finish the regular season next Wednesday when they play Yearling at Okeechobee High School.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Jermaine Moore (left) looks for an open teammate in the half-court offense during the Osceola Middle School game with Gifford on Tuesday.

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Special to the Okeechobee News/EES

Everglades Students of the Week

Everglades Elementary students achieving excellence in the classroom for the week of Jan. 10 include: kindergarten students, Jaela Fricks, Yareli Serrano, Dagoberto Perez; first graders, Ramses Esquivel, Drake May, Liliaine Villarreal, Thomas Byars, Devin Callahan; second grade students, Emily Cooper, Lisette Saucedo-Estrada, Alicia Johnson, Brianna Yarbrough, Ra'Shawn Collins, Carlos Flores; third graders, Jasmin Mora, Nick Blevins, Christian Wheatley, Alicia Edenfield, Taylor Elgin, Clayton Cannon; fourth grade students, Thalia SanMartin, Michelle Urbina, David McFarling, Tiadora Sontai-Perez, fifth grade students, Kasey Maguire and Jacquelyn Adcock. Congratulations to the many outstanding students.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Senior Center donates clothing

Taking advantage of January being National Organization Month, seniors from the Senior Center seized the opportunity to organize their closets and give back to their community! This picture represents just a few of the people and clothing that was donated to My Aunt's House, The Closet. From left to right Jane Kilm, Teresa Langley, Lynda Sweat, Lamar Kresley, Dollie Kresley, Lucy Johnson and Mattie Taylor.

Buckhead Ridge Catfish Festival planned for Jan. 25

The Buckhead Ridge Volunteer Fire Department will hold the 20th annual Buckhead Ridge Catfish Festival on Saturday, **Jan. 25**, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Festival organizers are taking booth reservations now. For information, call: 863-447-6585; 863-467-8220; or, e-mail bhrvfd@yahoo.com.

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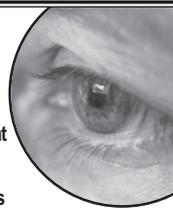
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Hot second half lifts Gifford past OMS ladies

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Gifford shook off a poor first half as they outscored Osceola 18-3 in the second half and defeated the Lady Warriors 24-13 in middle school girls basketball action Tuesday in Okeechobee.

Alexandria Ducott led Osceola with eight points. She added two rebounds and three steals. Bri Baker was saddled with foul trouble and fouled out with five minutes left in the game. She finished with two points, seven rebounds and three steals.

Osceola said good bye to five eighth graders who played their final home game of their careers on Tuesday.

Coach Li Ann Whipple said she was glad that her team hustled and played hard after the Christmas break.

"I think they played really hard and we played man to man defense for the entire game," she said. "They definitely turned it up on the court after not practicing for two weeks."

Gifford came out strong in the third quarter as they went on a 10-0 run to start the half to erase a 10-6 halftime deficit. Osceola, behind Ducott's seven points, have hung tough in the first half and led 4-1 after the first quarter.

"They had one player that really turned it up in the second half. She didn't score in the first half and that was the difference in the

points in this game," Whipple added.

Whipple said she has worked hard to improve the girls confidence over the past several weeks. She said each of the girls have learned a lot about basketball and have all improved. She said she looks forward to working with them next season.

"I constantly tell them they're doing well and encouraging them and they have all improved so much. They have learned a lot in the last three months," she added.

Kara Adams had nine rebounds and three steals in her first action for Osceola this season.

Osceola finishes the season next Wednesday when they play arch rival Yearling at Okeechobee High School at 4:30 p.m.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Audrey Fink (left) awaits a rebound opportunity for Osceola during their battle with Gifford on Tuesday.

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Lady Falcons soar past Lady Brahmans, 52-33

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Kasey Cox scored 28 points and led a big second half run as Jensen Beach defeated upset-minded Okeechobee, 52-33, in girls high school basketball action Wednesday night in Okeechobee.

Cox hit some key jump shots, and made her team's half-court offense execute in the second half as the Lady Falcons went on a 28-9 run to finish the game after Okeechobee had tied the score at 24 all.

Cheyenne Nunez led Okeechobee with 13 points in the game.

Lady Brahman coach Morgan Ungerott said her team showed improvement from the first game these two teams played in December.

"We showed improvement. We had an opportunity to win and there were some positives in the first half," she said. "I try to stress to the girls their improvement and I hope they see that progress they've made."

Okeechobee got off to an excellent start in this contest as they scored 16 points in the first quarter. They went cold in the second quarter and were held to only four points.

Ungerott said it is hard to figure out why the disparities in scoring for her team.

"It was a tale of two halves. We came out strong in the first quarter. Again, I'm not really sure if the girls know how to win," said the OHS coach.

Jensen Beach came out aggressive in the third quarter and drove to the basket with abandon. They also ran their half court screens and plays to perfection and got a lot of easy baskets. Ungerott explained her team did a good job on defense in the first half but when fatigue started to creep in, her team couldn't keep up the intensity.

"In the first half we didn't have to sub, we were fresh and communicating on the court. In the second half we didn't stop Cox on screens and her teammates hit the boards



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Taylor Trent (in white) drives toward the baseline during Wednesday's game at OHS.

hard. She is a great player and she definitely led her team well," she added.

Cox said she thought it was a very competitive game and that both backcourts really matched up well and had a good battle.

"They have grown as a team and their guards have really improved and made us come out and guard them. I thought our post stepped up and helped us with rebounds and we pushed through in the second half and got the victory," she added.

Cox did a good job leading her team. She said she tries to get a feel for what is happening in the game with her teammates and distribute the ball accordingly.

Cox said in the end, it was effort on defense and rebounding that got Jensen Beach a key district win.

"Our post players really stepped up and helped us with rebounds," she said. "We did what we know how to do and ended up winning."



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Cheyenne Nunez (in white) passes the ball inside to a teammate during Wednesday's game. Nunez led OHS with 13 points.

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EXPLOSIVES

Continued From Page 1

Okeechobee, is being held on a total bond of \$206,000; and Kahn, 19, S.E. Fifth St., Okeechobee, has seen her bond increase to a total of \$83,000.

Besides the new charges Holmes and Miles are charged with possession of a short-barreled gun, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of an electronic weapon by a convicted felon, possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Holmes is also charged with trespass, which explains why his bond is \$1,000 more than Miles'.

Kahn is charged with possession of methamphetamine, three counts of possession of drug paraphernalia and the explosives charges.

All three remain in the Okeechobee County Jail on bond.

The three were arrested by Officer Jeremy Larue after the 2006 Chevrolet pickup truck they were driving was stopped for a malfunctioning headlight. In his report, the officer stated that when he stopped the truck the headlights were set on high beam and the passenger-side light was not working.

However, when the lights were put on low beam both headlights worked, added Officer Larue.

During a subsequent search of the truck, the officer found: a face mask; two syringes; a hand-held stun gun; a 12-gauge shotgun; a sawed-off 12-gauge shotgun with a 17-inch barrel; a Kevlar bulletproof vest with groin and neck armor; shotgun shells; and, the 17 explosive devices.

According to Detective James Pickering, of the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), 14 of those devices were handmade M-80 style contraptions; two were handmade tube-type devices; and, once of the devices was a CO2 canister with a green fuse.

The detective explained that sometimes people will fill a CO2 canister with gunpowder and then attach a fuse. These devices are known as "stingers," he added.

Officer Larue's report stated that once the devices were found in a tool box in the bed of the truck, the search stopped and the bomb squad from the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office was called. That squad safely removed, and kept, those devices.

One of the syringes found in the truck contained a clear liquid that, when field tested, indicated a positive result for the

presence of methamphetamine, stated the officer's report.

In a phone interview Thursday, Detective Pickering said he still doesn't know what the trio planned to do with the explosives. It's also still up in the air if the case will remain his, because there's a possibility it will be turned over to the federal government.

"If they take the case, I'll turn everything over to them. If I take the case, they'll help me with whatever I need," he said.

Along with trying to ascertain what Holmes, Miles and Kahn were going to do with the explosives Detective Pickering is also tasked with determining who owns the pickup being driven by Kahn.

"The supposed owner, he's yet to prove he has the title to the truck," the detective said.

He said Chad Edward O'Connor, 39, S.W. 13th St., Okeechobee, claims to be the owner of the truck. But, no paperwork can be found to prove his claim.

"His story is: He bought a fishing company and the vehicle came with it. Prior to the transfer of the paperwork he went to jail on a driving charge and spent 20-some days in jail. Before he got out, the man (who owned the company and truck) died," explained the detective. "He's trying to get it straightened out, but I won't release the truck."

Detective Pickering was quick to point out that while there is still some doubt as to who owns the truck, there is no doubt at this point that O'Connor knew nothing about the explosives or the guns.

"Mr. O'Connor said he had two bags of clothes in the back seat. He doesn't know where the other stuff came from," offered Detective Pickering.

Apparently, said the detective, he loaned the truck to Kahn to get some cigarettes but she didn't make it back.

Jail records show that O'Connor has been arrested a number of times — primarily for failure to appear for court following arrests on traffic charges. Those records show he was arrested on failure to appear charges in December, March and April of 2010 and on April 8, 2011. He was also arrested in December of 2010 on a Seminole County warrant charging him with failure to appear.

O'Connor also had failure to appear arrests in 2005 and 2006, but those were later dismissed.

He was also arrested June 8, 2013, on a felony charge of driving while license suspended - habitual offender. He was eventually released from the county jail after posting a \$2,500 bond.

ter, but considering what happened in the past, I think the gain would not be enough to warrant the cost." Commissioner Hoover said some of the more detailed landscaping in the city limits is planned for areas where they have irrigation. There is no irrigation in the area of the county's medians, he said.

"The thing that concerns me is if they aren't going to irrigate it, when it is first planted you end up with water trucks driving up and down in the fast lane," said Commissioner Bryant Culpepper.

Commissioner Hoover said they could consider using a program where different groups, businesses or individuals take care of the medians.

"I encourage the city to go ahead with their medians, but it's a different situation for ours," said Commissioner Hoover.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE AMENDING THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, FL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

NOTICE: The City Council of the City of Okeechobee will conduct a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 21, 2014, at 6 PM or as soon thereafter as possible, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, FL, to consider and receive input concerning proposed Ordinance No. 1107, which amends the Comprehensive Plan as follows:

- Provide a definition for Limited Agriculture.
- Amend Future Land Use Element Policy 2.1, by listing the allowable uses and appropriate zoning districts for each land use category: Single-Family Residential, Multi-Family Residential, Mixed Use Residential, Commercial, Industrial, and Public Facility, relating to using property for livestock, animals, grazing, gardens, hay, and similar type uses.

The proposed amendments will be forwarded in transmittal form to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

The Public and all interested parties, calling **SPECIAL ATTENTION TO** any 4-H or **FUTURE FARMER OF AMERICA MEMBERS** who raise **LIVESTOCK** and/or **FOWL** for Exhibits, **LIVESTOCK SHOWS**, and/or **COUNTY FAIRS**; or any **PERSONS** with **LIVESTOCK** or **FOWL** on property within the City Limits are encouraged to attend the meeting and be heard.

Comments may be submitted orally or in writing before or at the hearing.

The proposed amendments may be viewed on the City website or at the Office of the City Clerk, during normal business hours, at the address above.

ANY PERSON DECIDING TO APPEAL any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceeding is made and the record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal will be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), any person with a disability as defined by the ADA, that needs special accommodation to participate in this proceeding, contact the City Clerk's Office no later than two business days prior to proceeding, 863-763-3372.

BE ADVISED that should you intend to show any document, picture, video or items to the Council in support or opposition to any item on the agenda; a copy of the document, picture, video, or item **MUST** be provided to the City Clerk for the City's records.

Published BY: Lane Gamiotea, CMC, City Clerk

COUNTY

Continued From Page 1

tion) landscaping grant.

At the Thursday meeting, commissioners expressed concern about the maintenance issues for any landscaping done in the medians.

"When we had plants in the medians in the past and they weren't maintained, plants got too high," said Commissioner Ray Domer.

He added that the medians outside the city limits are narrow and there would only be space for one row of plants.

"I applaud the city and Main Street," said Commissioner Domer. "I think we should do everything we can to make it look bet-

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

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

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Apartments

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

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Houses - Rent

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

OAK LAKE VILLA - 2/2, with appliances. Pets considered. \$800 mo., 1st, last & security. Call (561) 743-0192.

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

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! \$1000 mo. Call 386-214-4333. **OPEN HOUSE Saturday & Sunday, January 11th & 12th 10am - 6pm 18088 NW 256 St.**

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OKEE- 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.

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Houses - Rent

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

Real Estate

Houses - Sale

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Public Notices

Public Notice

LEGAL NOTICE A public auction will be held at B.M.J. Towing, Inc. Lot at 414 South Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34974 on FRIDAY THE 24th day of JANUARY 2014 from 10:00-11:00 A.M. Pursuant to Florida statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage. Year, Make, Model & Vin's as follows:

2001 MERC GRAND MARQUIS

Terms of sale are cash, and no checks will be accepted. The seller reserves the right of final bid. All sales are final. No refunds will be made. Said automobiles will be sold in "AS IS" with no guarantees. 459819 ON 1/10/2014

NOTICE OF SECOND/FINAL CERTIFICATION OF TAX ROLLS

Pursuant to Section 193.122(2), Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given to all taxpayers and owners of both real and personal property that the 2013 Tax Rolls for Okeechobee County have been Recertified and Extended to the Tax Collector on the 8th day of January 2014, for the collection of Taxes. 459902 ON 1/10/2014

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2013TD290 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that FL DUNDEE LIEN INVESTMENTS LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 3459 Year of Issuance: June-01-2011

Description of Property: A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN THE NORTH 1/2 OF SECTION 17 TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH RANGE 36 EAST OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 17 THENCE NORTH 00 DEG 41 MIN 06 SEC EAST ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 17 A DISTANCE OF 3433.40 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE LANDS DESCRIBED IN ORB 347 PAGE 635 PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA THENCE NORTH 89 DEG 18 MIN 54 SEC WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LANDS A DISTANCE OF 495.00 FEET THENCE SOUTH 00 DEG 41 MIN 06 SEC WEST ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID LANDS A DISTANCE OF 1.23 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE LANDS DESCRIBED IN ORB 285 PAGE 631 PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA THENCE NORTH 89 DEG 18 MIN 54 SEC WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LANDS A DISTANCE OF 495.00 FEET TO THE EAST LINE OF THE LANDS DESCRIBED IN ORB 323 PAGE 1145 PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA THENCE NORTH 00 DEG 41 MIN 06 SEC EAST ALONG SAID EAST LINE A DISTANCE OF 181.16 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LANDS DESCRIBED IN ORB 323 PAGE 1145 THENCE NORTH 88 DEG 24 MIN 13 SEC WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LANDS A DISTANCE OF 1412.00 FEET TO THE NW CORNER OF SAID LANDS AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING THENCE SOUTH 00 DEG 41 MIN 06 SEC WEST ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID LANDS A DISTANCE OF 535.25 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE NORTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SAID NE 9TH STREET THENCE NORTH 88 DEG 22 MIN 20 SEC WEST ALONG SAID NORTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 330.57 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 3 OF SAID FOUR SEASONS ESTATES THENCE NORTH 01 DEG 04 MIN 20 SEC EAST ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID LOT 3 A DISTANCE OF 660.00 FEET TO THE SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF NE 11TH STREET THENCE SOUTH 88 DEG 24 MIN 13 SEC EAST ALONG SAID SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE AND THE EASTERLY EXTENSION THEREOF A DISTANCE OF 330.72 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE NORTHERLY EXTENSION OF SAID WEST LINE OF THE LAND DESCRIBED IN ORB 323 PAGE 1145 THENCE SOUTH 00 DEG 41 MIN 06 SEC WEST ALONG SAID NORTHERLY EXTENSION A DISTANCE OF 124.93 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING 5.00 ACRES

1-17-37-36-0A00-00014-A000 Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed: N & A CONSTRUCTION INC NASER ABUEQAB

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 10:00 A.M., on the 20th day of February, 2014. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Lynn Shain Deputy Clerk

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2014TD051

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that TOM FELDT the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 79 Year of Issuance: June-01-2010

Description of Property: LOTS I AND J OF TRACT 14 E1/2 OF E1/2 OF N1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 14 AND W1/2 OF E1/2 OF N1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 14 09 345 33E

1-09-34-33-0A00-00014-1000 Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed: FAUSTINA DILIDDO SABINO DILIDDO

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 10:00 A.M., on the 6th day of February, 2014. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Robin R. Parrish Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 459614 ON 12/27/2013 1/3,10,17/2014

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

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Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2014TD050 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that TOM FELDT the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 96 Year of Issuance: June-01-2009

Description of Property: LOT D OF TRACT 14 W1/2 OF W1/2 OF N1/2 OF N1/2 OF TRACT 14 09 345 33E

1-09-34-33-0A00-00014-D000 Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed: LUCITO FABIAN

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 10:00 A.M., on the 6th day of February, 2014. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Robin R. Parrish Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 456916 ON 12/27/2013 1/3,10,17/2014

CITY CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Okeechobee Code Enforcement Board will be meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter, City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida. Please contact Sue Christy at 863-763-4423, or website www.cityofokeechobee.com, to obtain a copy of the agenda. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

ANY PERSON DECIDING TO APPEAL any decision made by the Code Enforcement Board with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceeding is made and the record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal will be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), any person with a disability as defined by the ADA, that needs special accommodation to participate in this proceeding, contact the Fire Department no later than two business days prior to proceeding, 863-763-4423.

BE ADVISED that should you intend to show any document, picture, video or item to the Board in support or opposition to any item on the agenda; a copy of the document, picture, video, or item must be provided to the Board Secretary for the City's records. by: Jamie Gamiolea, Code Board Chairperson 459851 ON 1/10/2014

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2013TD298

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that FL DUNDEE LIEN INVESTMENTS LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 3834 Year of Issuance: June-01-2011

Description of Property: 1ST ADDITION TO CITY OF OKEECHOBEE LOTS 1 TO 4 INC E 1/2 OF LOT 5 LOTS 10 11 12 BLOCK 240

3-21-37-35-0020-02400-0010 Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed: N & A CONSTRUCTION INC NASER ABUEQAB

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 10:00 A.M., on the 20th day of February, 2014. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Robin R. Parrish Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 457557 ON 1/10,17,24,31/2014

Table with 10 rows and 10 columns of numbers. Row 1: 3, 9, 4, 7, 8, 1, 2, 5, 6, 9. Row 2: 7, 5, 1, 4, 2, 6, 8, 9, 3, 8. Row 3: 6, 8, 2, 9, 5, 3, 7, 4, 1, 4. Row 4: 4, 5, 1, 6, 2, 7, 3, 9, 6, 8. Row 5: 8, 4, 9, 3, 4, 6, 9, 5, 7, 2. Row 6: 2, 3, 7, 8, 6, 9, 5, 6, 4, 1. Row 7: 1, 2, 3, 9, 7, 8, 4, 3, 6, 9. Row 8: 4, 6, 9, 3, 5, 6, 2, 1, 8, 7. Row 9: 4, 9, 3, 1, 8, 7, 6, 5, 2, 9. Row 10: 6, 9, 2, 5, 8, 3, 4, 9, 2, 5.

ANSWER:

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2013TD291 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that FL DUNDEE LIEN INVESTMENTS LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 3463 Year of Issuance: June-01-2011

Description of Property: A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN THE NORTH 1/2 OF SECTION 17 TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH RANGE 36 EAST OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 17 THENCE NORTH 00 DEG 41 MIN 06 SEC EAST ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 17 A DISTANCE OF 3433.40 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE LANDS DESCRIBED IN OR BOOK 347 PAGE 635 PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA THENCE NORTH 89 DEG 18 MIN 54 SEC WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LANDS A DISTANCE OF 495.00 FEET THENCE SOUTH 00 DEG 41 MIN 06 SEC WEST ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID LANDS A DISTANCE OF 1.23 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE LANDS DESCRIBED IN OR BOOK 285 PAGE 631 PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA THENCE NORTH 89 DEG 18 MIN 54 SEC WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LANDS A DISTANCE OF 495.00 FEET TO THE EAST LINE OF THE LANDS DESCRIBED IN OR BOOK 323 PAGE 1145 PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA THENCE NORTH 00 DEG 41 MIN 06 SEC EAST ALONG SAID EAST LINE A DISTANCE OF 181.16 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LANDS DESCRIBED IN OR BOOK 323 PAGE 1145 THENCE NORTH 88 DEG 24 MIN 13 SEC WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LANDS A DISTANCE OF 1185.13 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING THENCE SOUTH 01 DEG 04 MIN 26 SEC WEST ALONG A LINE PARALLEL WITH THE WEST LINE OF SAID LANDS DESCRIBED IN OR BOOK 323 PAGE 1145 A DISTANCE OF 935.28 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE NORTH LINE OF LOT 20A OF THE UNRECORDED SUBDIVISION OF FOUR SEASONS ESTATES THENCE NORTH 88 DEG 23 MIN 51 SEC WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT 20 AND THE NORTH LINE OF 21A OF SAID FOUR SEASONS ESTATES A DISTANCE OF 226.57 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE EAST LINE OF LOT 9Y OF SAID FOUR SEASONS ESTATES THENCE NORTH 00 DEG 59 MIN 43 SEC EAST ALONG SAID EAST LINE OF SAID LOT 9Y A DISTANCE OF 220.01 FEET TO THE SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF NE 9TH STREET THENCE NORTH 01 DEG 04 MIN 26 SEC EAST A DISTANCE OF 740.18 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE EASTERLY EXTENSION OF THE SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF NE 11TH STREET THENCE SOUTH 88 DEG 24 MIN 13 SEC EAST ALONG SAID EASTERLY EXTENSION A DISTANCE OF 226.87 FEET THENCE SOUTH 01 DEG 04 MIN 26 SEC WEST A DISTANCE OF 124.93 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING

1-17-37-36-0A00-00020-A000 Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed: N & A CONSTRUCTION INC NASER ABUEQAB

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 10:00 A.M., on the 20th day of February, 2014. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

1-17-37-36-0A00-00020-A000 Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed: N & A CONSTRUCTION INC NASER ABUEQAB

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 10:00 A.M., on the 20th day of February, 2014. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Lynn Shain Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 457556 ON 1/10,17,24,31/2014

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE WILL HOLD A REGULAR BOARD MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2014 AT 3:30 P.M. IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE BEN L. BRYAN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ON THE MAIN CAMPUS OF INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE AT 3209 VIRGINIA AVENUE, FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA 34981-5596. NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT AT 9:00 A.M., TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2014, AN AGENDA MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE BEN L. BRYAN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ON THE MAIN CAMPUS, 3209 VIRGINIA AVENUE, FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA 34981-5596. ANY PERSONS WISHING TO PLACE BEFORE THAT BOARD FOR CONSIDERATION ARGUMENTS CONCERNING ISSUES OF LAW OR POLICY OR PRESENT EVIDENCE OF ANY PERTINENT FACT THAT MAY BE IN DISPUTE MUST NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE AT LEAST SEVEN DAYS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. ANY PERSONS WISHING TO APPEAL THE DECISIONS OF THIS BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND FOR SUCH PURPOSES MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE. 458349 ON 1/10/2014

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations for Okeechobee County, Florida and Incorporated Areas

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued a preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report, reflecting proposed flood hazard determinations within Okeechobee County, Florida and Incorporated Areas. These flood hazard determinations may include the addition or modification of Base Flood Elevations (BFEs), base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries or zone designations, or the regulatory floodway. Technical information or comments are solicited on the proposed flood hazard determinations shown on the preliminary FIS report and/or FIRM for Okeechobee County, Florida and Incorporated Areas. These flood hazard determinations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community is required to either adopt or show evidence of being already in effect in order to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. However, before these determinations are effective for floodplain management purposes, you will be provided an opportunity to appeal the proposed information. For information on the statutory 90 day period provided for appeals, as well as a complete listing of the communities affected and the locations where copies of the FIRM are available for review, please visit FEMA's website at http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/bfe, or call the FEMA Map Information Exchange (FMIX) toll free at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627). 459474 ON 1/3,10/2014

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY Contact a member of our Sales Team, for an opportunity to place your ad in the best business directory in town email:okeeadsales@newszap.com or call 863-763-3134

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Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

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S
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Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

DOWN

- 1 Out of the office
- 6 NRA part
- 11 La-la lead-in
- 14 Madison Square Garden, e.g.
- 15 How some losses are shown
- 16 French water
- 17 Big corporations, lawsuit-wise
- 19 Sprint alternative
- 20 Alan of "M*A*S*H"
- 21 Retriever restraint
- 22 Folk music's Kingston ___
- 23 Divining implement
- 25 Native blanket makers
- 27 Godiva choice
- 32 Sch. in the smallest state
- 33 Bull: Pref.
- 34 Petite pastries
- 37 Money maker
- 39 More factual
- 42 Hop, ___ and jump
- 43 Lox holder
- 45 Hollywood Walk of Fame feature
- 47 Campus URL ender
- 48 Anonymous fan
- 52 Shapewear fabric
- 54 Quaint stopover
- 55 Sir ___ Belch of "Twelfth Night"
- 56 Lavish celebrations
- 59 Bangkok tongue
- 63 Play for a sap
- 64 "For your ears only" ... and a hint to first words of 17-, 27- and 48-Across
- 66 V.P. Biden's state
- 67 March march VIP
- 68 U or I, e.g.
- 69 Armani competitor, initially
- 70 Flashy tank fish
- 71 Part of a college application

- 1 Nothin'
- 2 Baseball's Hershiser
- 3 Ready for kickoff
- 4 Out of gear, as a car
- 5 Hammock snooze
- 6 Paddy product
- 7 Durante song title word
- 8 City ESE of San Francisco
- 9 Murderous
- 10 Newspaper VIPs
- 11 Two-hanky film
- 12 Betting odds, e.g.
- 13 Traffic jam components
- 18 Passé
- 22 Breezy bye-byes
- 24 Leaf-peeping mo.
- 26 Winery container
- 27 Idiomatic
- 28 "La Traviata" number
- 29 Sounds familiar
- 30 Pronoun for you and me
- 31 Sicilian pizza has a thick one
- 35 Ocean phenomenon

- 36 Cowpoke's prod
- 38 ltsy-bitsy
- 40 Exposed coming-in hr.
- 41 Red root veggie
- 44 HDTV feature, often
- 46 LBJ follower
- 49 Prove wrong
- 50 Not subject to taxes
- 51 Paired up
- 52 Hit the books
- 53 Prepares to be photographed
- 57 Old Russian despot
- 58 Bluesy James
- 60 "___ it going?"
- 61 Word with dining or picnic
- 62 Lazy way to sit by
- 64 Hrs. in Phoenix, Arizona
- 65 Eden's second resident

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

F	A	T	S	D	O	M	I	N	O		C	A	L	M
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xwordeditor@aol.com

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By Betty Keller
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FWC: 2013 saw fewer Florida panther deaths

In the world of the endangered Florida panther, 2013 brought less mortality, a female panther successfully released back into the wild, and significant public participation in reporting panther sightings.

Twenty panther deaths were documented by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) in the past year, compared with the 27 panthers that died in 2012. Vehicle strikes continue to be the primary cause of mortality, with 15 panthers dying last year because they were hit while crossing highways compared with 18 in 2012. The birth of 21 panther kittens also was documented in 2013.

A brother-and-sister pair of panthers, rescued as kittens in 2011 and raised at the White Oak Conservation Center in Yulee, was returned to the wild in 2013. The female, released in January in Picayune Strand State Forest in Collier County, was documented last June to have given birth to a kitten. However the male, released last April in the Rotenberger Wildlife Management Area in Palm Beach County, died Jan. 4 due to unknown causes after being located a day earlier in a very lethargic state and then taken to a veterinary clinic. That was the second panther death recorded in 2014, after another panther was killed Jan. 2 due to a vehicle collision.

Meanwhile, a 9-month-old female panther kitten, found in Collier County last May with a fractured rear right leg probably caused by a vehicle collision, is recovering at White Oak and scheduled for release later this year.

Additionally, more than 1,100 panther sightings have been reported statewide since the FWC launched an online site in August 2012 enabling the public to report when and where they have seen a Florida panther or its tracks and upload photos: MyFWC.com/PantherSightings. Though only 5 percent of the sightings as of last August were verified

as panthers, the FWC's panther team considers public reports of panther sightings vital to the management of this species brought back from the brink of extinction.

"Forty years ago when the Endangered Species Act was passed, some people wondered if any panthers remained in Florida," said Carol Knox, head of the FWC's Imperiled Species Management Section. "Where once a sighting of a panther was almost unheard of, today, more and more Floridians and visitors are having the thrill of seeing and even photographing this elusive cat in the wild. This demonstrates the great progress Florida has made in conserving its panthers and the effectiveness of our partners, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and others that work with the FWC on these efforts."

"Despite the mortalities in 2013, the FWC is confident the Florida panther population continues to expand," Knox said.

As for vehicle-caused panther fatalities, "People who slow down and drive carefully in rural areas, especially where panther crossings and speed zones are identified, can make a difference," Knox added. "It is especially important to slow down and keep a careful lookout at dawn or dusk, when panthers are most likely to be on the move."

In 2013, three panther deaths also were attributed to territorial aggression among panthers. Another panther's cause of death was undetermined, and one died of an apparent gunshot wound.

Floridians can help conserve panthers by purchasing the Protect the Panther license tag at BuyAPlate.com. Proceeds from the license plate support the FWC's panther research and management efforts.

More about Florida panthers is available at FloridaPantherNet.org, including a guide to living with Florida panthers and the E-Z guide to identify panther tracks.



Special to the Okeechobee News/FWC
Floridians can help conserve panthers by purchasing the Protect the Panther license tag at BuyAPlate.com.

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 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	 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
 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	 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
 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	 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

• 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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\$12,995

STK#RK20905

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STK#RK20885A

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\$19,988

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Going Out: A Guide to Area Entertainment & Attractions



New year brings festival season

Viva Florida 500 photo display in Okeechobee

Comedy show at Seminole Casino Brighton

Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center presents 'Godspell'



Florida festivals celebrate culture and history

Are you ready for the 2014 festival season in Florida? The new year brings the annual events that celebrate Florida's unique history and culture.

These time-honored traditions are part of the state's heritage, and give newcomers a chance to learn a little about the Sunshine State.

Many festivals honor or feature a local food. LaBelle's Swamp Cabbage Festival reminds visitors that the early pioneers learned to live off the land, cooking the heart of the Cabbage Palm (or Sabal Palm) tree like cabbage.

Okeechobee's Speckled Perch Festival promotes Okeechobee's self-proclaimed status as "Speckled Perch Capital of the World." But don't expect to find Speckled Perch on the menu at the fish fry in Flagler Park. Since Speckled Perch is not commercially harvested, it is illegal to serve it at public events.

Festivals such as the Black Gold Jubilee and the Plant City Strawberry Festival are harvest festivals. While fall is harvest season up north, Spring is the time for the Florida harvest.

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

JANUARY

The **40th Annual Stuart Boat Show** is set for Jan. 10-12 at three marinas off Dixie Highway in Stuart, north of the Roosevelt Bridge. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Hundreds of different boat brands and models will be represented at the show, including the latest models of motor yachts, cruisers, trawlers, skiffs, speedboats, sport fishing boats, and pontoons. Boats range from 12 feet to over 100 feet in length and are priced from thousands of dollars to millions. Where else can you kick off your shoes and step aboard the luxury million dollar yachts? Visitors also will see the latest in personal watercraft, marine electronics, outboard and inline engines, boating equipment and accessories, boat lifts, fishing gear, nautical clothing and jewelry, as well as financing and insurance companies. The Fisherman's Village, an area devoted exclusively to fishing makes its return this year. Complete with fishing seminar clinics for the kids with rod and reel and give-a-ways for the children who participate. General admission is only \$10 for adults and children under 10 years old are free. Parking with water taxi and shuttle service is available. For more information on the show, please call 954-522-5288.

The **South Florida Fair** will be held Jan. 17 - Feb. 2 in West Palm Beach. The fair includes the traditional livestock exhibits, carnival midway, concerts and special attractions. Gates open at noon. For more information, call 561-793-0333 or go online to www.southfloridafair.com.

The **10th annual U.S. Sport Aviation Expo** will be Jan. 16-19. at the Sebring Regional Airport. Gates open at 8 a.m. Exhibits open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (3 p.m. on Sunday). The Expo is the place to see, try, buy and sell Light Sport Aircraft. This event brings prospective business clients from all over the world. Open to the public, it provides a variety of activities for the entire family, including educational exhibits, booths, Flight of Fantasy tethered balloon rides, AVBIDS auction, prizes and daily forums that showcase aviation professionals and speakers. To learn more about the U.S. Sport Aviation Expo, visit www.sport-aviation-expo.com or call 863-655-6444.

The **58th Annual Okeechobee American Legion Free Fair**, will be held Friday, Jan. 23- Feb. 1 at the American Legion Hall grounds off State Road 70 East in downtown Okeechobee. J & J Amusements will provide the carnival rides. The midway will open at 5 p.m. weekdays. On Saturdays the midway will open at noon and Sundays it will open at 1 p.m.

The Riverdale Kiwanis **Medieval Faire** will be held at Lakes Regional Park in Fort Myers, Jan. 11, 12, 18 and 19. For more information, go to www.medieval-faire.com.

The 20th Annual **Yee Haw Junction Bluegrass Festival** will be held Jan. 23-25. This is a unique bluegrass festival in the middle of Yee Haw Junction (at the intersection of U.S. 441 and State Road 60). Bluegrass music is held under the big top tent and will go on rain or shine.

Skydive Air Adventures will host the annual skydive festival commonly referred to in the sport as a the **"Everglades Boogie"** from Friday, Jan. 24, to Sunday, Jan. 26, at the Airglades Airport in Clewiston. Skydivers will have the opportunity to jump out of all kinds of aircraft like a De Havilland Otter, a Sky Van, a King Air, and a helicopter. In addition to jumping out of different types of aircraft, skydivers will have a unique opportunity to do high-altitude jumps from 22,000 ft. on Saturday and Sunday. There will be nightly entertainment with live bands and DJs, bon fires, raffles, vendors, food, and even a bounce house for the kids. For details on fees or other information, call 800-533-6151 or 863-983-6151 or go online to skydivefl.com.

The 20th annual **Buckhead Ridge Catfish Festival** will be held Jan. 25, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Buckhead Ridge Volunteer Fire Department on State Road 78. The festival features fried catfish dinners, using Fire Chief John Wilkinson's own recipe. The VFD Ladies Auxiliary will also sell hot dogs and other treats. Visitors will be entertained by local bands. Arts and crafts will be for sale at the vendor booths. The annual event raises money for equipment and training for the BHR Volunteer Fire Department. For information on reserving a booth space, or for more information on the festival, call 863-467-8220.



The Glades County Public Library and its Advisory Board invite area artists and craftsmen to exhibit and sell their work at the ninth annual **Art in the Park** event in Moore Haven, Saturday, Jan. 25, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This popular free event, centered in and around the library, brings artists and the public together in a wonderful setting by the Caloosahatchee River. Painters, sculptors, photographers, and handcrafters are encouraged to contact the library now and reserve their place. Exhibiting and parking are free. Exhibitors are responsible for their own setups. The Glades County Public Library is located in the city park across the street from the river in Moore Haven's Historic District. The address is 201 Riverside Drive. For more information or to reserve a place, contact Mary Booher, Director of Libraries at 863-946-0744 or mbooher@myhlc.org.

The FTI **Winter Equestrian Festival** runs Jan. 8-March 30, every Saturday night, at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center in Wellington. Be awed and amazed at the magical partnership of horse and rider in the thrills of jumping, the grace of show hunters, the elegance of dressage. Savor the horse sport spectacle while basking in South Florida sunshine or enjoying the glamor under lights this winter and spring. For more information online, go to <http://equestriansport.com>.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida will present a re-enactment of the Second Seminole War at the **Big Cypress Shootout** at Billie Swamp Safari located between Fort Lauderdale and Naples, on the Big Cypress Reservation just north of I-75 (Alligator Alley) Exit 49. The event is planned for Friday, Jan. 31, through Sunday, Feb. 2. The battle reenactments will take place at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. Friday is an educational day (no reenactments). The battle reenactments honor the Seminole's struggle and sacrifice to remain in their homeland and will feature authentic weapons, soldier and warrior attire and tactics typical of the Second Seminole War. In the 1800s, a total of three wars were fought by the U.S. military against the Seminoles. These campaigns were the longest, costliest, and bloodiest of all the Indian wars. Although many Seminoles were killed or removed to present-day Oklahoma, they were never defeated, and to this day, more than 3,000 Seminoles are known as "The Unconquered" Seminole Tribe of Florida. The three-day event will also include music, Seminole food, Seminole and pioneer artisans, tomahawk throws, primitive archery competition, authentic Seminole and soldier camps, venomous snake shows and alligator wrestling. "Period settlers" from around the country will hew wood, iron and silver crafts and depict trading techniques from the Seminole War era. For more information, go to bcshoot.com or call 800-949-6101 ext. 12125.

FEBRUARY

The **Ortona Cane Grinding Festival** will be held Feb. 1 in the Ortona Indian Mound Park, off State Road 78 in Glades County. The festival celebrates the part that sugar cane played in the lives of the early settlers and includes a demonstration of grinding cane with a millstone. Visitors can purchase sugar cane syrup and enjoy barbecue dinners. Entertainment will include the Telegraph Band and Country Rhythm Cloggers. There will also be a variety of arts and crafts booths. Entry is \$9 at the gate for adults, \$4 for children. Advance tickets are available in the county managers office at the Glades County Courthouse, Whisper Creek RV Park from the Ortona Volunteer Firefighters. For booth information, call Teresa Summeralls at 863-675-4001 or 863-673-0530.

Arts of the Inland is pleased to present our third **Annual Inland Arts Festival** at Barron Park in LaBelle on Feb. 1, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Barron Park is located along the Caloosahatchee River on the east side of SR29 at Fort Thompson Road in historic LaBelle. Visual artists, literary artists, and craftsmen will be showcasing their work

Frank Caliendo comedy show at Brighton

BRIGHTON, Fla. — A comedy show featuring high-energy impressionist and impersonator Frank Caliendo will take center stage at Seminole Casino Brighton (SCB) during a hectic month of January.

Caliendo, who has appeared on a number of late night shows as well as ESPN's Sunday NFL Countdown, will visit SCB on Friday, Jan. 17, at 7 p.m. along with fellow comedian George Kanter. Tickets are currently on sale in the casino's Cash Cage for \$35 per person or two tickets for \$50.

Prior to the Caliendo show, SCB will have its "Weekend of 50 Winners" on Jan. 11 (10 a.m. to noon) and Jan. 12 (5 to 7 p.m.). With just one swipe of your Seminole Player's Club Card on either day, you could be one of 25 Seminole Player's Club members to walk off with \$100 cash.

The casino will also heat up on Jan. 16 and Jan. 26 with Hot Seat Drawings. Find the hot slot and play from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for your chance to be randomly selected to win free play. Five thousand

dollars (\$5,000) in sizzling free play will be up for grabs each day.

SCB will host a special Bingo Session on Saturday, Jan. 18 at 6:45 p.m. There is a \$70 buy in (\$75 with computer).

Regular games pay \$750, plus \$13,000 will be available in jackpot games.

"Party Bingo" will once again hit SCB on Monday, Jan. 20, at 7 p.m. Participants can enjoy dancing (with Frank Caliendo (pictured above) and George Kanter (inset) will appear at SBC on Jan. 17. glow products, games and giveaways. There will be a \$10 door pack and up to \$1,500 in cash prizes available. One must be 18 to party and 21 or older to drink.

Customers will have the opportunity to "Pick the GM's Wallet" on Friday, Jan. 24. Lucky Seminole Player's Club members will win "wallets" of up to \$1,500 in cash or free play. Play with your card properly inserted and you just might swipe the General Manager's wallet between 5 and 8 p.m.

On Saturday, Jan. 25, at 10 p.m., one lucky player will drive away in a new Audi A4. Play your favorite slots all month long and you can earn entries into the grand prize drawing for the car.

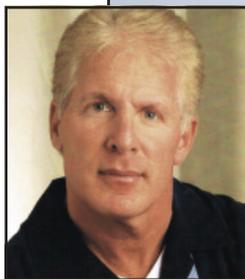
And, lest anyone think you will go hungry at SCB. Come try the best BBQ on the lake at Josiah's. The restaurant's new BBQ menu includes pulled pork and chicken sliders, St. Louis-style ribs, Texas-style BBQ beef brisket and slow-roasted BBQ chicken. All items are hand-rubbed and slow-roasted daily, sliced, pulled and tossed in a sweet and savory BBQ sauce. All items are served with homemade coleslaw and BBQ baked beans.

Please contact the casino or visit www.seminolebrightoncasino.com for information on bus transportation and group packages.

See the Player's Club for promotion details. One must be at least 21-years-old and a Seminole Player's Club member to participate. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, please call 1.888.ADMIT.IT.

About Seminole Casino Brighton

Seminole Casino Brighton is a 27,000-square-foot casino with 419 slot and gaming machines, live action blackjack e-tables, a six-table poker room, and high-stakes bingo action, and Josiah, a full service restaurant and lounge. Its warm and friendly staff, ultra-modern air-conditioning system, clean atmosphere, and rewarding casino promotions are a welcome alternative to big city gaming. The casino also recently opened a new area with 30 slots for those who prefer to play slot machines in a smoke-free environment. The Seminole Casino Brighton is located on the Brighton Indian Reservation, 17735 Reservation Road, in Glades County, FL 34974. For more information, call toll-free 800-360-9875 or 863-467-9998.



courtesy photos/Seminole Brighton Casino
participants can enjoy dancing (with **Frank Caliendo** (pictured above) and **George Kanter** (inset) will appear at SBC on Jan. 17.

FRANK CALIENDO

COMEDIAN • IMPERSONATOR • IMPRESSIONIST

LIVE

WITH SPECIAL GUEST
GEORGE KANTER



FRIDAY, JANUARY 17TH, 2014

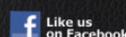
DOORS - 6PM / SHOW - 7PM \$35 PER PERSON / 2 FOR \$50

Tickets are on sale now in the Cash Cage



17735 Reservation Road Okeechobee, FL 34974
1.800.360.9875 seminolebrightoncasino.com

721 west of Lake Okeechobee on the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation



BRIGHTON

A Real Good, Feel Good Place

See Seminole Player's Club for complete details. Must be at least 18 years old and a Seminole Player's Club member to participate. Camera and recording devices are prohibited. Talent, time and date subject to change. Seminole Casino Brighton employees are not eligible. Management reserves the right to change or cancel this promotion at any time based on operational and/or business concern. Persons who have been trespassed or banned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida or those who have opted into the self-exclusion program are not eligible. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem please call 1-888-ADMIT-IT.

Continued From Page 2

for sale. All work must be an original creation, giclee or print of the artist. Food vendors will be on-site and performing artists will entertain in the gazebo throughout the day. For more information go to www.artsoftheinland.com.



The **Battle of Okeechobee Re-Enactment and Festival**, set for Feb. 21, 22 and 23, commemorates the largest and fiercest battle of the Second Seminole War. The original battle was fought Christmas Day, 1837. Part of the original battleground has been preserved as a state park on 3500 S.E. 38th Ave. (off U.S. Highway 441 S.E.) in Okeechobee. Gates open at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. Re-enactments are at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. In addition to re-enactments of the battle, the two-day festival will include alligator wrestling, a living history camp, artisans, Seminole arts, horse rides for the kids and folk music. Entry is \$10 per car. For more information online, visit OkeechobeeBattlefield.com, or call 863-763-2121.

The 13th Annual **Hobe Sound Festival of the Arts** will be held Feb. 1 and 2 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 11954 S.E. Dixie Highway, in Hobe Sound. The festival starts at Bridge Road and alternate A1A, continuing south on A1A. Admission and parking are free. The festival will include a juried outdoor art showcase featuring 150 artists from 30 different states. Artists are selected to participate in the festival by an independent panel of expert judges. Artistic media include paintings, sculpture, photography, ceramics, glass, wood, handmade jewelry, collage and mixed media. For more information online, go to www.artfestival.com.

The third **Annual Seminole Wind Bluegrass Festival**, presented by KD Bass productions, is planned for the Fred Smith Arena at Brighton Seminole Reservation, off State Road 721 in Glades County, Jan. 31 - Feb. 1. For information, call 863-467-6039.

The **Florida State Fair** will be held Feb. 6-17 at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa. The fair features a carnival midway, business and agriculture exhibitions, livestock shows, equestrian events, competitions for food, art, photography, sewing, woodcarving and horticulture. For more information, call 800-345-3247 or go online to www.floridastatefair.com.

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

The 2014 **Top of the Lake Art Festival** is scheduled for Feb. 8 and 9 in the Flagler Park in downtown Okeechobee. The main event will be a juried fine art show with a competition for student artists. Artists from throughout the state are welcome to participate. Anyone interested in participating should contact the Okeechobee Main Street office at 863-357-6246 for an application. This year will again feature the "Chalk Walk" which will include street painters using a chalk medium. Chalk artists interested in participating should also contact the number above. For the second year, the festival will include a "Puppy Pageant" For additional information and applications, go online to www.mainstreetokeechobee.com.

The **Hendry County Fair** and Livestock Show celebrates local agriculture. The event features a parade, livestock show and midway entertainment. The activities also include a beauty pageant and exhibits. The fair will be held this year from Feb. 14-22 in Clewiston. For more information, please call 863-983-9282 or go online to www.hendrycountyfair.com.

The 76th **Brighton Seminole Field Day & Rodeo**, set for Feb. 13-16, 2014, originated in 1938 as a day of sporting events and arts and crafts competitions for members of the Seminole Tribe. William P. Boehmer and his wife Edith—teachers at the original Brighton Day School—originated the festival as a way to bring Seminoles from other reservations together for some friendly competition. Over the years, the event evolved into a festival that is open to the public and showcases Seminole and other Native American arts, crafts, dances and traditions. On Friday, the festival

hosts "Kids Day" which is open to area school children. School buses from all over South Florida transport elementary school children to Brighton Reservation, where they learn how Seminoles once lived in chickees, cooked food over open fires, made their own canoes and weapons and made crafts such as sweetgrass baskets and clothing made from tiny pieces of cloth sewn into intricate patterns. The festival also includes wild animal exhibitions, alligator wrestling and native dances. In more recent years, the event expanded to invite Native Americans from all over the country to participate.

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

The 2014 **Swamp Cabbage Festival** is set for Feb. 21-23. The festival is LaBelle's home in LaBelle. The town goes a little wild with a huge parade beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, followed by two days of great entertainment, booths of unique items for sale and, of course, great food. Look for the boiled swamp cabbage, raw swamp cabbage salad and swamp cabbage fritters. If you have an adventurous palate, you can also find gator meat and other special treats. Saturday begins with a 5K Swamp Stomp run along a lovely route with glimpses of the Caloosahatchee River. The Swamp Cabbage Festival has something for everyone including a bike show, car show, and kiddie rides. On Sunday morning you can take part in nondenominational worship at Barron Park, with entertainment and festivities picking back up again after noon. There is also a fishing tournament and a rodeo.

Check out more information at swampcabbagefestival.org.

MARCH

2014 marks the 66th annual Moore Haven **Chalo Nitka Festival**. Chalo Nitka is one of the state's oldest continuing festivals. The festival grounds are located in Chalo Nitka Park (across from the Glades County School Board Office). The festival includes midway games, rides, and vendor booths selling food, crafts and jewelry. Events also include a rodeo and the Glades County livestock show. This year the festival is planned for Feb. 28 and March 1. The Chalo Nitka parade will be Saturday morning, March 1. For more information online go to www.chalonitka.com.



The **Florida Strawberry Festival** is set for Feb. 28 - March 9 in Plant City from 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Guests come from near and far to enjoy exhibits of agriculture, commerce, industry, livestock, fine arts, horticulture and crafts. The fabric of American life is woven into the festival through social events, contests, youth developmental programs, top-name entertainment, and parades with glorious floats and high-stepping marching bands. For more information online, go to www.flstrawberryfestival.com.

The **Okeechobee County Fair** will be held March 11-16, at the Agri-Civic Center Fairgrounds, with entrance off State Road 710. The fair includes a carnival midway, livestock shows, cooking competitions, fruit and vegetable competitions, sewing and arts and crafts competitions. There is even a Lego building competition. The Okeechobee 4-H and FFA Livestock Show will be the week of March 7-15, with the livestock sale on Saturday, March 15. Fairgrounds opens at 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, and at noon on Saturday and Sunday. Entertainment will include a petting zoo featuring exotic animals, the Magic of Lance Giffords, the Disc-Connected K9 Show and the Banana Derby.

The **Okeechobee Cattlemen's Spring Rodeo** will be held March 8 and 9 at 2 p.m. each day at Okeechobee Cattlemen's Arena on U.S. 441 N., in Okeechobee.

The **Speckled Perch Festival**, sponsored by Okeechobee Main Street, will be held in Flagler Park in downtown Okeechobee on the weekend of March 15 and 16. The festival starts around 9 a.m. The Speckled Perch Festival Parade will be on Saturday at 10 a.m. The festival began as a fish fry fundraiser for the Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce. When the original chamber folded, Okeechobee Main Street took over the traditional event. Over the years, the festival has grown and changed, adding arts and crafts vendors, games for children and entertainment. Due to state health laws, speckled perch—which is a game fish and not commercially harvested—cannot be served at public events. So the fish dinner served at the Speckle Perch Festival is catfish.

The **Big O Birding Festival**, the largest bird-themed event in South Central Florida will be held March 9-13. The four-day event will have a registration "roost" at the Port LaBelle Inn off State Road 80 in LaBelle. From there, visitors will explore Hendry and Glades Counties, which are home to more than 400 species of birds,

See FLORIDA FESTIVALS — Page 6

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FLORIDA FESTIVALS

Continued From Page 4

including Wood Storks, Everglades Snail Kites, Limpkins, Painted Buntings, and others which are resident in the area from October through April as well as species that live in Florida year round. Visitors can choose a single bird tour or opt for all-inclusive, four-day passes. The festival offers exclusive bird tours led by prestigious experts, workshops with a prestigious bird photographer, birding activities, meals and transportation to and from birding sites. For more information online go to www.BigOBirdingFestival.com or call 863-675-0125.



MegaCon, the largest comic book, anime, science fiction, fantasy, gaming and multimedia event in the southeastern United States, will take place March 21-23, at the Orange County Convention Center, 9800 International Drive in Orlando. The annual event attracts 50,000 visitors or more—many of them come dressed as a favorite character from a comic book, movie or video game. The convention includes panel discussions and seminars, dance parties, costume contests and more. Visitors can visit Artists Alley to watch comic book artists at work. They can meet stars from

movies and television, writers and artists.

A guest of honor at Megacon this year will be Stan Lee, known to millions as the man whose super heroes propelled Marvel to its preeminent position in the comic book industry. Stan's co-creations include Spiderman, The Incredible Hulk, X-Men, The Fantastic Four, Iron Man and many more.

Event tickets are available on the MegaCon website now. For more information, go to megaconvention.com.



The **Immokalee Harvest Festival** will be March 28 and 29 in downtown Immokalee, starting at noon each day. For more information, go to www.immokaleechamber.com.

APRIL



The **36th Annual Black Gold Jubilee Festival** is scheduled for Saturday, April 5, at the Torry Island Recreation Center in Belle Glade. The event kicks off with a 5K Walk/Run at 7:30 a.m., to be followed by all-day free children's activities, rides, games, and a dunk tank. For the adults, food booths and arts and craft features the best in local cuisine and art. Rounding out the activities are photography displays, a car show, a volleyball tournament and a corn-eating contest. A fireworks show at dusk caps off the festival. For more information, find the Black Gold Jubilee on Facebook, or contact the Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce at 561-996-2745.

The **Clewiston Sugar Festival**, will be held April 10-13 in the heart of the city across from the Clewiston Inn and the U.S. Sugar campus. Festival events will include: arts and crafts, food booths, a 5K run/walk, a kids fun park area, Big Lake Cruisers Classic Car Show, the Sweet Taste of Sugar recipe contest, the Raisin' Cane Rodeo and live entertainment. The main festival events will be on Saturday, April 12. For more information online, go to www.clewistonsugarfestival.com.

The fourth annual **Avon Park Bluegrass Blueberry Festival**, sponsored by Avon Park Rotary Club, will be held April 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Rotary Building, 20 S. Verona Ave. in Avon Park. For information, see the web site at www.aprotaryblueberryfestival.com.

MAY

Sunfest, a celebration of music on the waterfront, will be held April 30 through May 4 in downtown West Palm Beach. For more information, go to sunfest.com.

The **Brown Sugar Festival** is set for May 3 in Clewiston. The traditional event began with the organization of the Harlem Academy Alumni Association in Clewiston in 1976. The festival and pageant also serve as fundraisers for scholarships to send Clewiston's Harlem community children to college. Over the years the festival has grown to include a gospel program, a talent show, a cruise trip, a dance, a parade, a basketball tournament, fashion show, a golden age banquet and all-day festivities. For more information online, go to <http://brownsugarfestival.info/>.

The **Watermelon Festival**, an Arcadia Main Street event, will be held May 17 in Historic Downtown Arcadia. Festival organizers plan to showcase traditional events such as the wacky river race, bed race, seed spitting contest, and the watermelon pageant. For more information, go to www.arcadiamainstreet.com.

JULY

The **Caladium Festival** and Car Show will be held July 25-27, at Stuart park in Lake Placid. The festival offers bus rides to the caladium fields and displays in nearby subdivisions. For more information online, go to visitlakeplacidflorida.com.

SEPTEMBER

Labor Day Weekend brings Okeechobee's Annual **Labor Day Festival**, with an arts and crafts festival in downtown Okeechobee, games for the whole family, a parade on Saturday morning. For more information on the parade and festival, go to www.mainstreetokeechobee.com.

The Okeechobee **Cattlemen's Labor Day Rodeo** rounds out the weekend's events. Last year the rodeo returned to the Okeechobee Cattlemen's Rodeo Arena on U.S. Highway 441 N. in Okeechobee.

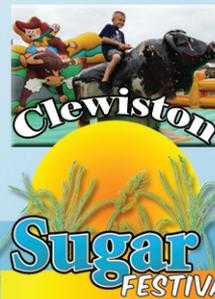
OCTOBER

The fourth annual **Adam Bryant Memorial Minimal Regatta and Festival** is on Saturday, Oct. 4, at the C. Scott Driver boat ramp. The race contestants make their own boats from one sheet of plywood, a pound of screws, 24 feet of 2" by 4"s and a roll of duct tape. For more information, go to www.minimalregatta.com.



For updated information on area festivals and special events, see future editions of G.O.: Going Out—A Guide to Area Entertainment and Attractions, available online at florida.newszap.com.

Join us for the 28th Annual Clewiston Sugar Festival April 11-13, 2014

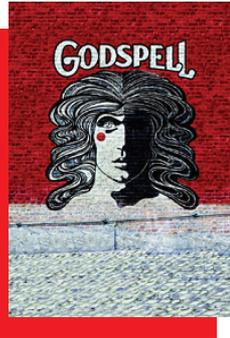


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Musicals, comedies ... and chocolate

Godspell

BELLE GLADE — Prepare ye for Godspell, the beloved musical from Stephen Schwartz, the Grammy® and Academy Award®-winning composer of Wicked. Enjoy all the good gifts of one of the most enduring shows of all time in a brand new intimate, one-of-a-kind production. Raise your spirit with the Tony®-nominated score filled with the popular hits “Day By Day,” “Light of the World,” and “Turn Back, O Man.” This timeless tale of friendship, loyalty, and love has touched the hearts of countless theatergoers all over the world — and now you can join in the celebration as a spectacular ensemble of bright young stars stirs your soul, raises your spirit and lifts you right out of your seat. Godspell will be performed at the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center, 1977 S.W. College Drive, on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 7:30 p.m. For ticket information, call the box office at 561-993-1160 or go online to <http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/theatre/dollyhand/>.



Real Women have curves

LABELLE—The Firehouse Community Theatre will present “Real Women Have Curves” on Jan. 10, 11, 17 and 18 at 7 p.m. and Jan. 12 & 19 at 2 p.m. Set in a tiny sewing factory in East L.A., this story is the outrageously funny story of five full-figured Mexican-American women who are racing to meet nearly impossible production deadlines in order to keep their tiny factory from going under. This play, a microcosm of the Latina immigrant experience, celebrates real women’s bodies, the power of women, and the incredible bond that happens when women work together.

For tickets go to www.firehousecommunitytheatre.com or call 863-675-3066.

Putnam County Spelling Bee

FORT PIERCE—Indian River State College’s McAlphin State will present “Putnam County Spelling Bee” Jan. 16, 17, 18 at 7 p.m. and Jan. 18, 19 at 2 p.m. A hilarious tale of overachievers’ angst chronicling the experience of six adolescent “outsiders” vying for the spelling championship of a lifetime. The show’s Tony Award winning creative team has created the unlikeliest of hit musicals about the unlikeliest of heroes: a quirky yet charming cast of outsiders for whom a spelling bee is the one place where they can stand out and fit in at the same time. Adult content. Not suitable for children. Tickets are \$15 or \$10 for subscription holders. For tickets or information, call the IRSC Box Office at 772-462-4750 or 1-800-220-9915

Mandate for Murder: Death by Chocolate

OKEECHOBEE—Politics can be murder! It’s election night and all the friends and supporters of mayoral candidate Matthew Kensington are throwing him a surprise birthday/campaign party. But there’s one surprise no one suspects. Clues and suspects abound in this frenetic political satire that leaves the audience wondering just who they can trust. Great fun for all, with campaigners canvassing the audience as to who they’ll vote for. Not only can the audience question the suspects, but they even get to vote for the candidate of their choice and change the ending of each performance. Okeechobee High School Drama Troupe will perform Mandate for Murder on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2014, 7 to 9 p.m. at the Freshman Campus Auditorium. The annual theatre fundraiser for the Okeechobee Educational Foundation costs only \$20 per person and includes the “Death by Chocolate” dessert intermission sponsored by Waste Management.

Area special events...

Viva Florida 500 photography display

OKEECHOBEE — The lobby and breezeway of the Okeechobee County Courthouse will be used as an art gallery through Feb. 14, as part of the Viva Florida 500 project. Viva Florida 500 is a statewide initiative led by the Florida Department of State, to highlight the 500 years of historic people, places and events in present-day Florida since the arrival of Juan Ponce de León to the land he named La Florida in 1513. Part of this project is a travelling exhibit which includes 15 large-format photos of wildflowers by John Moran. This exhibit commemorates the natural history of Florida, which roughly translates to “land of flowers.” The exhibit is sponsored by the Florida Wildlife Foundation through the Florida State Wildflower License Plate Fund.

‘Walk on the Wild Side’ wild game dinner

OKEECHOBEE — Come join the Rotary Club of Okeechobee as it teams up with Real Life Children’s Ranch to hold an exciting new fundraising event “Walk on the Wild Side” wild game dinner at Quail Creek Plantation at 5 p.m. on Jan. 25, 2014. For more information on sponsorship packages, tickets or auction donations contact Donna Gaiser @ 863-610-9416 or canvas.shop@yahoo.com.

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ROTARY CLUB OF OKEECHOBEE

WALK ON THE WILD SIDE DINNER



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QUAIL CREEK PLANTATION
5PM TO 9PM**

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TICKETS \$40 EACH

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Venison
Swamp Cabbage

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Quail
Turkey

Pheasant
Axis Deer
Frogs Legs
Venison Kabobs
Pulled Pork

Baked Beans
Corn on the Cob
Au Gratin Potatos

Alligator Cup Cakes

**FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT DONNA
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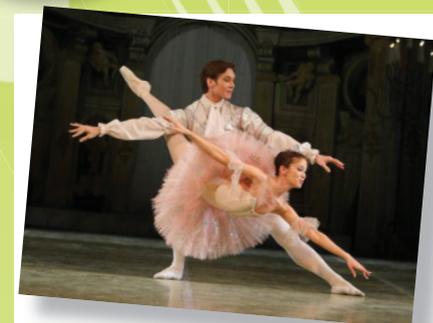


2013-2014

SEASON

Sleeping Beauty

Tuesday, January 7, 2014



Godspell

Thursday, January 16, 2014



Flipside: The Patti Page Story

Tuesday, January 21, 2014



Todd Oliver & Friends

Saturday, February 1, 2014

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