

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 105 No. 14

Friday, January 31, 2014

50¢ Plus tax

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offers Tai Chi
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Lake Levels

13.76 feet

Last Year: 14.68 feet



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



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Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Okeechobee High School weightlifters (left to right) Jessica Mond, Tamea Allen and Julia Weldon are headed to the state competition. At right is coach Tyrone Smith.

Three OHS lady lifters qualify for state finals

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School girls weight lifting team reached new territory this year when they had three girls qualify for the state finals, the most in school history.

Previously the squad had only one lifter qualify for state each year.

Coach Tyrone Smith admits he's well pleased that Tamea Allen, Jessica Mond and Julia Weldon who have all qualified to compete in the state final on Saturday, Feb. 8, at Kissimmee-Osceola High School.

"I'm excited about it. It will be nice to travel with more than one girl. I'm actually looking forward to next year and possibly having even more

state qualifiers," he said.

Smith is no stranger to the weight room having been a college football player and football coach. He knows the benefits a weight room has to an athlete and has recruited a lot of girls to give it a try. The girls admit the added muscle helps them in their other athletic activities.

It also isn't just a hobby for many of the girls. They come in during the summer and lift weights with football players and keep busy working out throughout the school year.

"We worked out fairly hard in preseason and off season workouts," Smith noted, "We took some days off during season because you have meets, but we worked hard this year."

See **LIFTERS**— Page 5

Teacher accused of being drunk at school

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A seventh grade teacher at Yearling Middle School has been removed from her classroom amid allegations she was intoxicated in front of her students.

A report by School Resource Deputy Joseph Hall, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), indicated he and YMS principal Andy Brewer stood in the open doorway of the classroom and watched the teacher, Catherine Ann Jones.



Catherine Jones

Deputy Hall stated she was "... stumbling around the class, had slurred speech and could barely stay awake." At one point, continued the report, she tried to take a drink from a cup "... but had a difficult time doing so."

This is not the first time Jones has been removed from the classroom.

OCSO records indicate she was arrested Feb. 5, 2010, by a detective with the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on seven felony counts of doctor shopping.

The detective also stated that in February of 2009 she received 40 hydrocodone tablets from a local doctor.

See **TEACHER** — Page 5

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Therapy & mental health programs highlighted at CCC meeting

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Rebecca Barnes, an Okeechobee native and graduate of the 2007 OHS graduating class, spoke about the Action Home Care of Jupiter at the monthly meeting of the Okeechobee Community Collaborative Council.

Ms. Barnes studied at the University of Florida and earned a degree in the medical field. She explained Action Home Care is a locally owned and operated program. They provide in home therapy and nursing care for homebound patients. Their goal is to help patients meet their potential and help them lead healthier, happier and more independent lives. Services include skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, medical social services, home health aide and other programs.

They have therapists located all over the Treasure Coast region.

"It is a nice pool of health care professionals to choose from and it is very convenient," she said.

Ms. Barnes said this keeps the program involved in the Okeechobee community and keeps things personal.

"It keeps everyone in touch and makes it more personal and shows we are heavily rooted in Okeechobee," she said.

They also serve rural outlying communities like Port Mayaca, Basinger and Fort Drum.

She emphasized the business is owned by medical professionals. The owners also carry a local case load and are in touch with their patients.

"Our goal is to get you back to what you were doing in your life and we tailor a plan that suits your needs," she added.

More information on the program can be obtained online at www.actionhomecarefl.com.

Ms. Barnes said they also will have job opportunities for various medical-related positions here in Okeechobee. Positions available will be posted online.

Rossana Gonzalez of New Horizons of the Treasure Coast said they are a \$24 million per year organization with 360 employees. Fifty percent of the budget must be raised by the organization.

Ms. Gonzalez said the program is very necessary.

"I have a passion for making things and wanting things to be better," she said. "When you work in child welfare you see families rav-

aged by drug abuse, alcohol abuse and mental illness."

Ms. Gonzales said there is a stigma about mental illness. She said it is an illness that affects your brain and is just as important as any other physical ailment. Seventy-four percent of residents who go to a doctor have an issue related to mental health like anxiety, panic attacks and other items.

"The words we have in society to describe mental illness are either negative or make people nervous," she added.

Mental illness is more common than cancer and heart disease and is the leading cause of disability in the world. She said mental illness would be looked at in a much different way if people were more comfortable discussing it.

Letting people know they are safe, they aren't being ignored and there is help for them, can really help calm volatile situations, she explained.

Nearly 20-percent of Americans suffer some kind of mental problem each year.

The facility is located at 1600 S.W. Second Ave. in Okeechobee. They have outpatient services for adults and children. The 88-bed campus is located on Midway Road near White City.

Ms. Gonzales said under the right medications and therapy and circumstances, people with mental illness can live and thrive in the community.

The children's center in Ft. Pierce accepts kids from age 5-17. Children with behavioral problems receive help, evaluation and are diagnosed. She noted early treatment of these diseases and ailments can only help the long-term prognosis.

More information about their many programs can be found at www.nhtcinc.org.

Sharon Vinson of the Shared Services Network said the Health and Safety Expo hosted over 2,200 people Saturday. Vendors participating in the event numbered 130.

Ms. Vinson said there is a perception in the community that Okeechobee lacks services. She said the expo is a great way to promote some of the programs that are available. The eighth annual event is scheduled for Jan. 31, 2015.

Healthy Start joined with the Treasure Coast Food Bank to promote their program. Fifty-two kids are currently served by Communities in Schools. They will have a yard sale on Saturday, Feb. 8. Call 462-5125, extension 128, for information. It will be at the Brahman Theatre parking lot.

Okeechobee Senior Services has a num-



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Rebecca Barnes spoke at Tuesday's meeting of the Okeechobee Community Collaborative Council.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Rossana Gonzales of New Horizons of the Treasure Coast gave a presentation on the services they provide to Okeechobee.

ber of daily events at their location on Northwest Ninth Avenue. More can be learned at the Okeechobee County website or by calling 863-462-5181.

Martha's House had been at or near capacity in their shelter with 24 beds. He said the need for the program appears to be getting worse. Nearly 500 residents came forward looking for services last year.

Executive Director Jonathan Bean said the shelter will host a fundraiser dinner and comedy show on Feb. 8 at the KOA. The theme will be Caribbean this year. Tickets are \$50 for a couple. The main corporate sponsor is CenterState Bank.

February is Teen Date Violence Awareness Month. The Chobee Steelers will collect blue jeans for homeless teens. They hope to raise enough funds to donate \$10,000 to the OHS Athletic Program.

They will also hold a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Okeechobee Civic Center to raise funds for their scholarship program.

The Sacred Heart Catholic Church will host a free concert Thursday, Feb. 6, with Santos, a member of the Charley Daniels Band at 7 p.m.

The Okeechobee Children Services Council will accept requests for grants for summer programs by Feb. 10. On Feb. 27 at 4 p.m., a mandatory meeting will be held for agencies seeking council funds, at the Okeechobee School Board meeting room.

All of the money collected goes to benefit Okeechobee children.

YMCA Okeechobee will have a schools

out day on Monday, Feb. 3 at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church with fees as low as \$12 per child. East Coast Migrant Head Start, a fully funded federal program, continues to enroll migrant children in Okeechobee.

Okeechobee Forecast

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Today: Showers in the morning with isolated thunderstorms arriving in the afternoon. High 76F. Winds NNE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 40%.

Tonight: Partly cloudy skies early will give way to considerable cloudiness and fog after midnight. Low 64F. Winds light and variable.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Some clouds in the morning will give way to mainly sunny skies for the afternoon. High 84F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday Night: Clear skies early will give way to low clouds and fog after midnight. Low 66F. Winds light and variable.

Sunday: Mostly sunny skies. High 84F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy skies during the evening. Fog developing overnight. Low 63F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 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!

Convicted murderer's appeal

- Why should he get an appeal? Ms. Bobbi doesn't get any appeals. She was sentenced to death when he killed her. I hope the courts show no mercy for him! Praying for Eric and the rest of her family that shouldn't have to relive this nightmare again.

- The sad part is we have hundreds of inmates just in Florida on death row where life is good for them. Three hot meals, TV, cot, shower, their own room and they stay there for years and years. They want to build more and more prisons, well how about the governor grow a spine and start lining the death row inmates up and start pushing the syringe.

- All these crooked attorneys will have to stand before God one day and be judged.

Up in the sky

- There was something very strange in the sky over Lakeport Wednesday night around 11 p.m. There was a huge white triangle in the sky. It was very defined but didn't look solid. Please let me know if you saw it too. And no, I'm not drunk. I thought maybe it was some kind of nighttime rainbow or something, but it was a perfect triangle.

Donations

- These fund-raising organizations are big businesses. Spend a little time online and look up the salaries paid to the CEOs before you make a donation. Americans are generous. We want to help. And some of these organizations take advantage of that.

- Personally, I have no problem with donations going for cancer research as long as they tell me that is why they are raising money. Research is important. It helps find cures and treatments. Research saves lives and the government does not provide enough research funding so they have to seek private sources.

- Where do your donations go? According to Wikipedia, the American Cancer Soci-

ety's allocation of funds for 2010, lists: Patient support 28 percent; research, 16 percent; prevention, 16 percent; detection and treatment, 12 percent; fundraising, 21 percent; and, general administration, 7 percent. The CEO of the organization makes more than \$2 million a year. The Komen Foundation reported 20.9 percent went to research; 39.1 percent went to public health education; 13 percent went to health screening services; 5.6 percent went to treatment services; 10 percent went to fundraising; and, 11.3 percent went to administrative costs. The CEO was paid \$684,000 a year.

- I think that we should look into all the foundations that we give to and see if they are helping people in our county and a list should be posted. They do that to people in service professions; it should be done to the service organizations. Then if you still wish to donate to them so be it, as least it will be a well-informed decision.

- I know the article about Mrs. Wallace's concerns that local cancer victims cannot find financial help has a lot of people talking in Okeechobee. I want to challenge those who have been helped by Komen or ACS or another organization to write letters to the newspaper and give their stories. I also want to challenge those who sought help but were turned down to tell their stories. The question for the newspaper is, would you print this information? *Editor's note: We welcome letters to the editor on any topic of local interest, so yes, we would print them. E-mail your letters to okeenews@newszap.com or mail them to Okeechobee News, 107 S.W. 17th St., Suite D., Okeechobee, FL 34974 or drop letters off to the newspaper office in the Fountain Square Plaza (next door to Brahmam Movie Theater.) Please keep letters to 350 words or less.*

- It's your money and no one can tell you who to donate it to. You can donate or not donate to any organization you want. But if you want to help those in your community, I think the best way is to donate directly to the people who need help, like we did with the little boy who needed brain surgery.

- Komen should not be collecting donations in Okeechobee County if they don't provide any services to women here. Taking money from this little county and using it to help people in other, more affluent counties just should not happen.

Letters to the editor

Relay for Life

Enthusiasm score is 110 percent for the group laboring with love to generate interest in the next "Relay for Life," to be held, April 25-26, in the Agri-Civic Center on State Road 70 East from 6 p.m. until 6 a.m. You may ask, "What is a Relay for Life, I've heard of it, but, what is it?"

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life unites people in communities across the globe to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones, and fight back the disease.

Each year more than 4 million people in 5,200 communities in the United States, along with additional communities in 19 other countries, gather to take part in this global phenomenon.

Survivors are guests of honor at Relay events, a place where many find support, hope, and emotional healing. If you are a survivor, please contact one of our "Heroes for Hope" to give you any assistance you may need, to invite you to our Relay. For more information on how to participate in this year's Survivors Lap or other activities please visit Relayforlife.org.

YES! You would like to participate??

To learn more about forming a team??

Learn more about becoming a sponsor??

Volunteer to help with the event??

Learn more about survivor activities.

Possibly make a donation??

In the course of the Relay for Life activities, a Luminaria ceremony is going on. You may ask?? What is a luminaria?

It is a luminated bag each bearing the name of someone who has battled cancer.

Some celebrate cancer survivors, while others help us to honor and remember those gone too soon. Each represents someone profoundly affected by the disease and their family and friends who continue to fight back.

Donations may be made to add a luminaria candle for April 25, 8:30-9 p.m.

Donations may be made to: American Cancer Society, 865 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart, FL 34996.

For more information, go to <http://www.relayforlife.org/okeechobee>.

Bobbi Poole



Olivia Hartwell is helping to coordinate local teams.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Grand Oaks

Country Kitchen at Grand Oaks

Lora Hornick and Norma Krutz work hard in the Country Kitchen to make homemade banana muffins at Grand Oaks Assisted Living Facility.

Widow and Widowers Support Group to meet

The Widow and Widowers Support group meets every Tuesday morning at 7:30 a.m. at the Lodge at the Lake. For information, call Darlene at 863-467-5351.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

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

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

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- 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.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.



Sheriff advises: Have a fun, but safe, Super Bowl Sunday

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Sunday, Feb. 2, is one of the biggest days of the year and football fans everywhere will be stocking up on chips, dips, chicken wings and drinks for Super Bowl XLVIII.

It will be the first-ever cold weather NFL championship contest and will pit the Seattle Seahawks against the Denver Broncos in MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. It's also a time when pigskin revelers gather in front of their televisions with family and friends to cheer on their favorite team.

Because of that, the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office is offering these safety tips:

- Designate your sober driver before the party begins.
- Take a cab.

- If you're hosting a party, serve plenty of food and non-alcoholic beverages at the party.

- If you haven't been drinking, offer to take friends home.

- Host your party like they do in NFL stadiums: stop serving alcohol at the end of the third quarter of the game.

- Remember, friends don't let friends drive drunk. Arrange a safe way for them to get home.

- If you're driving, buckle up. It's still your best defense against drunk drivers.

Whether you're hosting a Super Bowl party or watching the big game at a bar or restaurant, law enforcement everywhere wants you to have fun and enjoy yourself. But, more importantly, they want you to be safe.

Single seniors club to host dance on Feb. 1

A new single seniors club will host a Saturday, **Feb. 1**, dance at Cowboys, 202 N.E. Seventh Ave. Doors will open at 5 p.m. The dance will start at 7 p.m. For information, call Marie at 863-357-0676.

SOUPer Bowl Sunday food collection planned

The young people of First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. 21st St., will collect cans of soup, non-perishable items and donations to feed the hungry in Okeechobee on Sunday, **Feb. 2**. This is a national effort that supports local charities on a day when most folks are indulging to excess. The youth report their results online and the national totals are reported along with stories that will warm your heart. Visit SOUPerBowl.org. Kids will be stationed at church entrances at the three worship services: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Donations can also be brought to the church office during office hours all week. For information, call 863-763-4021.

Okeechobee Moose hosts Super Bowl event

The Okeechobee Moose Lodge will host a Super Bowl Sunday celebration Sunday, **Feb. 2**, at 159 N.W. 36th St. Breakfast will be served from 8 until 11 a.m. in the dining room. Social quarters will open at 1 p.m., and free munchies will be available. The kitchen will be open all day. Proceeds will benefit Moose Charities programs.

ConKerr Cancer Sit & sew event is Feb. 4

ConKerr Cancer's next sit & sew will be Tuesday, **Feb. 4**, from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church on Parrott Avenue. Bring your sewing machine and child-friendly fabric and sew with other ladies in our community who want to put a smile on the face of a child stricken with cancer or battling another life-changing illness. This month they will sew pillowcases for Valentine's Day. Pillowcase kits will be available for you to sew at this meeting. Also, please bring in scraps of material which will be given to a local 4-H group so they can make dog beds for the local Humane Society. For information or to donate material, call Joan at 863-467-0290.

Hospice yard sale planned for Feb. 5 and 6

Hospice, at 411 S.E. Fourth St., will host a yard sale on Wednesday, **Feb. 5**, and Thursday, **Feb. 6**, from 8 a.m. until noon. New and used items and donations are accepted.

Healthy Start Coalition board of directors to meet

The Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition board of directors will meet Wednesday, **Feb. 5**, at 11 a.m. at their office located in the White House Plaza, 1132 S. Parrott Ave. The meeting is open to the public. The coalition is part of a statewide network responsible for planning and implementing services for pregnant women and infants. The coalition is made up of citizens interested in promoting healthy families and healthy outcomes for babies in Okeechobee. For information, contact executive director Kay Begin at 863-462-5877.

Library hosts musical theatre presentation

The Okeechobee County Public Library will host a musical theater presentations Saturday, **Feb. 8**, starting at 1 p.m. The event will feature an extract from the "Cabaret-Sinatra Era," which will be followed by "A Tribute to Stephen Sondheim."

TEACHER

Continued From Page 1

Then, on March 6 of that same year, she went to another local doctor and was given a script for an additional 240 hydrocodone tablets, stated the report.

According to the detective's arrest report, Jones went to as many as seven different local doctors and received prescriptions for 540 oxycodone and hydrocodone pain pills from Sept. 7 through Oct. 26, 2009.

The detective went on to state it appeared she was getting the pills for her personal use.

She also used four different, local pharmacies to fill her prescriptions.

Jones then entered the drug court program on April 7, 2010. She successfully graduated from that court on April 7, 2011.

Upon her graduation the seven felony charges filed against her were dismissed.

"Those charges are gone forever," explained Assistant State Attorney Ashley Albright. "They (defendants) are allowed to withdraw their plea and their charges are dismissed."

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Joanie Ard said when Jones successfully completed drug court she was reinstated to her teaching position.

At the time of Jones' arrest she was teaching language arts at Osceola Middle School. Mrs. Ard said Jones has been a teacher in the Okeechobee School District for 14 years.

When Jones was arrested in 2010, continued Mrs. Ard, she was suspended without

pay and a report was sent to the state's Office of Professional Practices. Then, upon her completion of drug court, "... the Educational Practices Commission filed a settlement agreement that did not call for the suspension or revocation of her teaching certificate."

She was then reinstated in May of 2011.

Mrs. Ard went on to say the current incident is under investigation by the school district.

"Once the investigation is complete, decisions will be made regarding appropriate steps to ensure the health, safety and welfare of our students," said Mrs. Ard in a prepared statement. "The teacher involved in the allegation is not in the classroom and all classes are being covered by a substitute teacher.

"The district wants to assure all parents that we are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students," she continued.

The school district did not identify the teacher by name in their prepared statement.

Jones has not been arrested or charged in connection with this alleged incident.

Deputy Hall's report did indicate Jones denied being under the influence of alcohol when asked. He also reportedly asked her if she was sick, taking any medications or if she was a diabetic. She apparently replied she was not sick, was not a diabetic and only takes one pill in the morning.

He also stated that Jones "appeared, and smelled, to be intoxicated."

Mrs. Ard said if parents have any concerns they can call the school district office at 863-462-5000, ext. 261.

LIFTERS

Continued From Page 1

The state finals will have 300 competitors plus coaches and fans and that might be larger crowds than the girls are used to. Smith said the mental part of dealing with the crowds will be something he emphasizes to the girls.

"It's like at the stock market you have to throw your hand up to let them know you are coming up to do your lift. You have to pay attention when it's your turn," Smith explained.

Weldon said she is excited to go to state. She competes in the 110 pound weight division. Her best lifts this year were 100 pounds for the bench press and 105 for clean and jerk. She won the Brahman Award last year. She said she made her goals this year by improving her lifts and dropping a few pounds to get into the 110 pound division.

"I'm a little nervous about state but I'm ready to go and compete and do my best," she added.

Her parents are George and Stephanie Weldon.

Allen, a sophomore, has lifted weights for two years. She also runs track and is a cheerleader. She said weight lifting helps enhance her skills in the other sports, "I feel extremely blessed to be going to state this year. It was something everybody had to work for and it's an honor."

Allen said the sectional meet last week was very competitive and she was disappointed in the way she performed. She

"Coach Smith pushes us a lot and he is definitely the reason I lift what I lift now."

— Tamea Allen

plans to use that as motivation to do better at states.

"Coach Smith pushes us a lot and he is definitely the reason I lift what I lift now. He's the reason I'm so competitive in this sport," she said.

Her parents are Darryl and Michelle Allen.

Mond, a junior, said she decided to try the sport after her uncle, Chaka Smith, started to recruit her friends. She said she has gotten addicted to work outs and lifting weights and really enjoys spending time in the weight room.

"I'm excited and overwhelmed to make it to state. I was proud of myself. The support system I have helped me to get this opportunity," she explained.

Mond increased her top lifts from 120 to 150 on the bench press this year. She admits the clean and jerk is still a work in progress but that she is gaining confidence in that event.

"I have persevered and it was so exciting at sectionals that everyone did great. I'm used to the crowds and I continue to work. I hope to do my best at state," she added.

Mond's parents are Jesse Mond and Tonnyka Starks.

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.

Elwood 'E. Reds' Zulkar, Jr., 85

OKEECHOBEE — Elwood Zulkar, Jr., 85, of Okeechobee died January 26, 2014. He was born January 2, 1929 in Woodbury, New Jersey to Elwood Zulkar, Sr. and Ruth Kramer Zulkar. He was a Jockey for 25 years with the New England Circuit Racetrack. He met his wife of 48 years in the circuit. His first win was in 1947 in Atlantic City. He came to Okeechobee from Marathon over seven years ago. He enjoyed fishing and playing poker and was a member of Friends of Bill W.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara Zulkar.

He is survived by his son, Robert Zulkar (Debbie) of Newark, Delaware; daughter, Elizabeth "Betty" Tielsau of Okeechobee; two grandchildren, Kelly and Marc; and two great grandchildren, Cody and Caitlin; and brother, Stanley Zulkar (Carol) of Alabama.

Services will be held at a later date.

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

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

Edna Loys Hedges Kelley, 69

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Edna Loys Hedges Kelley, 69, Went to heaven on January 16, 2014. She was born March 22, 1944.

She was a devoted Christian and animal lover.

She is survived by her four children, Deano McNeil of Medina, Ohio, LaFonda (Kelley) McConnell of Fletcher Missouri, Regina Kelley of Okeechobee Florida, and Wesley Kelley II of Dittmer Missouri; seven grandchildren, Shanna and Malena

McConnell, Wesley III, and Sierrah Kelley, Dean, and Gabriel McNeil, and Alexis Kelley; and one great-grandchild, Avah Kelley. Also her dog Anna Rose.

She was preceded in death by her parents Leo and Loys Hedges. Also her aunts Delona Reynolds and Cleo Bynum. She will be missed by friends and family.

Graveside services were held at the Shiloh Cemetery, officiated by the Rev. James McConnell. Arrangements were under the direction of Bell Funeral Home. Any donation can be made to ACT Now! Recue / St. Louis Mo.



Beverly Lloyd Wilson

OKEECHOBEE — Beverly Lloyd Wilson of Boca Raton, Fla., died Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2013 at home surrounded by her loving family.

Beverly was born Dec. 13 in Alliance, Ohio to Issac and Freda Lloyd. She moved to South Florida in 1952 with her husband and children and entered into a long career in hospitality and property management. After retiring in 2005, Beverly stayed active, loving to dance and visit with friends and family.

Beverly is survived by her two sons, Billy (Debbie) Wilson and Bruce (Kim) Wilson; two daughters, Becky Wilson and Bonita Wilson Green; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William A. Wilson; and her sisters, Doris Honchell and Marvel Stratman.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2014 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Boca Raton, FL.



Robert Eugene Barrett, 56

OKEECHOBEE — Robert Eugene Barrett formerly of Martin County and recently of Okeechobee died January 28, 2014. He was born August 27, 1957 in Anchorage, Alaska to Harry and Charlotte Barrett. He was a bass guitarist in the BBB Band for over 30 years around the lake. He enjoyed fishing and was a history buff. He worked as a contractor installing mobile homes.

Mr. Barrett is survived by his wife of 33 years, Charlene Barrett of Okeechobee; two sons, Roger Barrett of Palm City and Basil Barrett of Tulsa, Oklahoma; two daughters, Rebecca Floyd of Palm City and Samantha Guerro (Tyrone) of Tulsa, Oklahoma; seven grandchildren; brother, Tony Barrett (Cathy) of Vero Beach; and two sisters, Peggy Barrett and Linda Smith (Gerald) of Stuart.

Memorial services will be held 1 p.m. Saturday, February 1, 2014 at Church of God of Prophecy, 7346 SW 39th ST, Palm City, FL 34990.

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

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



Community Events

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Church hosts potluck dinner

A Christian singles potluck dinner will be held Friday, **Jan. 31**, at 6 p.m. at The Gathering, 1735 S.W. 24th Ave. Please use the south door. For information, call Mollie at 863-763-9626.

VFW announces events

VFW Post 4423 will host karaoke from 7 until 11 p.m. Friday, **Jan. 31**, and Saturday, **Feb. 1**. On Sunday, Feb. 2, a baked ham dinner will be served from 1 until 3 p.m. and a Super Bowl Party will start at 6 p.m. For information, call 863-763-0818.

Eagles hosting dinner

The Cypress Hut Eagles 4509 will serve choice ribeye steak, shrimp or fish dinners starting at 5:30 p.m. Friday, **Jan. 31**. Entertainment will be provided by Hard Country. Saturday, **Feb. 1**, is the monthly birthday bash with catfish baskets by Lorraine and Crew. Entertainment will be Karaoke by Lisa. Sunday, **Feb. 2**, we are serving southern fried chicken. Tuesday, **Feb. 4**, is the weekly dart tournament with hamburgers being served. The public is welcome. Proceeds from Tuesday's event will go to local cystic fibrosis groups, with remaining proceeds going to other local community and national charity funds. For information, call the Cypress Hut Eagles at 863-467-1154.

Johns to speak at DAR

Seminole Historian Willie Johns will be the guest speaker for the program portion of the Saturday, **Feb. 1**, DAR meeting at the Okeechobee County Public Library. Everyone is welcome to attend and learn about the Seminole side of the Christmas Day 1837 Battle of Okeechobee. Mr. Johns is a descendent of Coacoochee, one of the leaders of the Seminoles. The chapter meeting will follow after the program. The library opens at 9:30 a.m., and the meeting starts at 10 a.m.

Church hosting yard sale

A yard sale will be held Saturday, **Feb. 1**, from 8 a.m. - noon at the First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. behind the Bank of America building. The sale will benefit summer camp scholarships. We have furniture, books, DVDs, knick knacks, toys, clothes and more. For information, call Nancy Vaughan at 863-763-4021.

Radio auction is Feb. 1

The Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee annual Radio Auction will be held Saturday, **Feb. 1**, from noon until 3 p.m., live on WOKC at CenterState Bank. The Kiwanis will auction off items donated by area businesses live on 100.9FM/1570AM WOKC with the proceeds benefiting Kiwanis-area scholarships and youth projects. To place a bid, call 863-763-5573. This has been an annual tradition for over 30 years.

Yatchette plans golf tourney

The Okeechobee Yatchette Club will hold their second annual golf tournament at the Blue Heron Gold Club, 1925 S.E. Ninth Ave., on Saturday, **Feb. 1**, to benefit the OHS scholarship fund and the senior citizen's fund. The entry fee is \$40 per golfer and includes lunch and prizes to follow at the Good Spirits Lounge, 245 U.S. 441 S.E. You can sign up at Good Spirits, the Blue Heron Golf Club, or, the Big "O" RV Resort (Lot #86). For information call Garry at 863-532-9033, or Suzzie at 352-209-9582.

OCRA sign-ups slated

OCRA will hold baseball/softball sign-ups Saturday, **Feb. 1**, 8 and 15 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the score tower at the sports complex. Boys ages 4-14 are eligible to sign-up, and girls ages 4-18 are also eligible. Girls softball is adding another league this year due to OCRA hosting the Dixie Girls State Tournament in July. We will offer the Debs division for 16-18 year olds. Coaches are also needed for all leagues. If you are interested, contact Micki at 863-634-0515. If your child is a first-time player, bring a copy of their birth certificate.

OEF presenting mystery

The Okeechobee Educational Foundation will present "Mandate for Murder," featuring the OHS Drama Club in the Freshman Campus Auditorium on Saturday, **Feb. 1**, at 7 p.m. Tickets are available for \$20 and will include a Death by Chocolate intermission courtesy of Waste Management, Inc. 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: An aide is found stabbed in the back with the birthday cake knife! Clues and suspects abound in this frenetic political satire that leaves the audience wondering just who they can trust. For information or to purchase a ticket, call 863-462-5000, ext. 257.

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OHS Lady Brahmans soccer team honored at banquet

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

The Lady Brahman soccer team got together one final time to honor seniors, scholar athletes, and standout players Saturday at an Awards Banquet held at Osceola Middle School.

The team won five games this year and added two ties, the best record in recent memory, and the best under third-year head coach Sonya Smith. The team tied long-time nemesis Jensen Beach during the season and also managed to score a goal against the Lady Falcons for the first time in history during the district tournament.

Smith said the team accomplished remarkable things and played as a team all season long. She said the girls got along well and she was proud to be able to work with some wonderful ladies.

Smith announced she will not return as the soccer coach next year. Her assistant Dawn Fox is also moving, so an entire new coaching staff will have to be recruited for next year.

Smith said her coaching career could not have ended on a better note this season.

"I'm proud of having had the opportunity to coach them. It was very difficult to tell the girls but I plan to earn a Master's Degree in Mathematics and I felt it was a choice I needed to make at this point," she explained.

Smith said she feels the program is in a good position and the next coach should be able to build on this success.

"These girls had a lot of talent and pulled together as a team. I think if the girls con-

tinue to come out and play with this kind of heart that the next coach will do tremendous things as well," she said.

Smith said being the soccer coach helped her to grow as a person and even assisted her as a teacher. She said the team met their potential and that it was sad for her to give up this position.

The Most Valuable Player Award and awards for most goals and assists was given to Rosa Borja. She plans to attend college, continue to play soccer, and study to become a neo natal Nurse.

Borja said she felt other girls deserved the MVP more than she did but that she was really happy she received the award.

"I almost came to tears. I have love for the sport and never get tired playing it. This was the best year I've played soccer," she said. "I will miss all the girls because we became a team and a family."

Emilse Serrano earned the Brahman Award. She is a junior this year and plans to return next year to be a team leader. She expressed surprise that she won the Brahman Award. She said she loved the game and was very dedicated to the sport.

"I always try my best and always worked hard. These girls are amazing. I was just so happy to have been a part of this team," she added.

Serrano thanked her sister, Laura, a

former Brahman player, who supported and encouraged her to play soccer in high school. She predicted the team will be even stronger next year.

Hannah Raulerson took home the Defensive Player of the Year Award. She said the team improved and played better this year. She said she is motivated by her teammates and always wants to win.

"Other teams think Okeechobee is an easy win but I don't want them to think that. I want them to be scared of us the next time we play them," she said.

Raulerson said the defense was strong because the players knew each other and where they would be on the field. She predicted the team will improve despite the loss of some valuable seniors.

Briana Nunez captured the Offensive Player of the Year Award. She plans to attend Tallahassee Community College and would like to continue to play athletics at the club or college level. She also letters in volleyball and softball. Nunez said it really meant a lot to win the Offensive MVP Award.

"I try as hard as I can in every match and always shoot to do my best for me and my team. Knowing that I made a difference to this team really feels good," she noted.

Nunez said the team improved because they clicked on the field and off. She said the girls genuinely liked one another and she plans to continue to be a leader and role model in whatever she does in life. Her career goal is to become a physical therapist or trainer. She also wants to study at Florida State University.

Jessica Burkhalter won the Most Im-

proved Player of the Year Honor. She stated she put in a lot of time and effort to improve this year. This was her first year playing soccer. She demonstrated speed and strength and was an aggressive player for OHS.

"I felt I did pretty well and I look forward to next year and being the best that I can be. I'm confident we'll be really good and we will practice harder because we learned so much this year," she added.

Stormy Stokes won an award for a strong season as the team's goal keeper. She was thrust into the role after an early season injury to the returning starter and played well in net all season. She had well over 200 saves and close to an 80 percent save percentage this year.

Stokes said it was definitely worth it to play soccer this year because the girls made it a lot of fun. She thanked her coaches for doing an outstanding job helping to become a solid goal keeper.

"I was always asking questions and they coached me very well," she added.

Seniors honored this year include Meaghan Bleakley, Rosa Borja, Briana Nunez, Selina Sanchez, Stormy Stokes and Ivette Vega. Nunez and Vega earned four-year letter awards, while Sanchez and Borja won three-year letter awards.

Scholar athletes on the team included Jackie Barrera, Bleakley, Keirstin Bostwick, Nunez, Celia Palacios, Hannah Raulerson, Maria Ruiz, Alicia Santos, Emilse Serrano, Cristina Tinajero, Kimberly Tinajero and Vega.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Hannah Raulerson was named Defensive Player of the Year for the girls soccer team Saturday. Left to right are assistant coach Dawn Fox, Raulerson, and head coach Sonya Smith.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Briana Nunez is flanked by coaches Dawn Fox and Sonya Smith as she takes home the Offensive MVP Award.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Rosa Borja won awards for the most goals and assists and was named the girls soccer team's most valuable player. She received the award from head coach Sonya Smith (right) and assistant coach Dawn Fox (left).



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Stormy Stokes won an award for her excellent play in goal for the girls soccer team. Also in the photo are OHS girls soccer coach Sonya Smith (right) and assistant coach Dawn Fox (left).



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Rosa Borja poses with the award for most assists for the girls soccer team Saturday. Also in the photo are assistant coach Dawn Fox (left) and head soccer coach Sonya Smith (right).



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Rosa Borja took home three awards from Saturday's banquet held at Osceola Middle School. She won the team MVP for her solid play throughout the year. OHS Girls Soccer coach Sonya Smith (right) and assistant coach Dawn Fox (left) congratulated Rosa for her accomplishment.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Emilse Serrano was thrilled to be named the Brahman Award winner for OHS girls soccer this year. She was presented the award by OHS soccer coaches Dawn Fox (left) and Sonya Smith (right).



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Jessica Burkhalter was named Most Improved Player for the girls soccer team. She was presented the award by coaches Dawn Fox (left) and Sonya Smith (right).

Teen facing felony molestation charge

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A local teen was taken to a juvenile detention facility following his felony arrest for sexually molesting a younger victim.

Jesus Ildefonso Alvarado, S.E. 33rd Terrace, was arrested Wednesday, Jan. 29, on one count of lewd and lascivious battery - victim over the age of 12 but under the age of 16.

Alvarado was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail then taken to the St. Lucie



Jesus Alvarado

Regional Detention Center in Fort Pierce. According to Detective Mark Shireman, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), the alleged incident occurred Jan. 21 when Alvarado touched the victim inappropriately.

The detective's report stated the victim tried to fend off Alvarado's advances but the 5-foot-3, 200-pound, teen was too big.

Detective Shireman went on to explain that Alvarado threatened to kill the victim if anything was said about the incident. The victim, continued the detective, feared Alvarado because he is an alleged member of a local street gang.

Deputy: Man kicked nurse in face

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A man has been arrested on a local warrant following an incident last month where he reportedly kicked a hospital nurse in the head.

Arrest reports state prior to the Dec. 15, 2013, hospital incident, Ronald Edward Butler, 55, had called 9-1-1 several times. During those calls he would shout obscenities at the 9-1-1 dispatcher and then hang up.

Sometimes, continued the report, he would tell the dispatcher he was President Barack Obama.

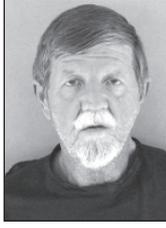
Butler, of a N.W. 74th Terrace address in Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 29 on a felony charge of battery on an emergency care provider and a misdemeanor charge of misuse of a 9-1-1 or E9-1-1 system.

He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail on a bond of \$5,500.

An original arrest report by Deputy William Jolly, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), indicated he and two other deputies were sent to Butler's home around 8:30 p.m. on Dec. 15, 2013.

As Deputy Jolly, Deputy Matt Crawford and Deputy Ben Lisle approached the Northwest 74th Terrace home, Butler came walking out with several items in his hands. One of those items was a sword that had been removed from its sheath, added the report.

He apparently also had a cell phone, a



Ronald Butler

small knife and a bottle in his hands. Deputy Jolly said after Butler dropped the sword he turned and started to walk away from the deputies. They then ordered him to stop walking and to drop everything in his hands, added the deputy.

The 6-foot-8 Butler stopped, raised the bottle, took a drink then dropped it to the ground. He then dropped the other items he was carrying, indicated the report.

As Deputy Jolly was putting handcuffs on the man he noticed a large cut on the inside of Butler's left arm. He was then taken to Raulerson Hospital by ambulance.

While at the local hospital, stated Deputy Jolly, Butler became very loud and began shouting profanities. He was then placed in a room with doors so other patients wouldn't have to hear him, added the deputy.

At some point Deputy Jolly stated he heard someone in the room cry for help. When he ran into the room he saw Butler, lying on his side with his hands still handcuffed behind his back, kicking at the nurse. Butler, stated the deputy, had kicked the nurse in the side of the face at least once.

Butler was later admitted to the hospital.

Deputy Jolly stated in his report he had 9-1-1 dispatch dial the phone number from which the prank calls were received and, when they did, Butler's cell phone rang.

Butler was not arrested at that time due to his condition. Deputy Jolly applied for, and received, an arrest warrant, which is why the man wasn't arrested until Wednesday.

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).

- Trinity Alan Casselton, 24, N.W. 30th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 25 by Deputy Matt Crawford on a Hillsborough County warrant charging him with the felonies of violation of probation - dealing in stolen property (two counts), violation of probation - giving false information to a pawnbroker and violation of probation - giving false information to a secondhand metals recycler. He is being held without bond.

- Maria Maldonado, 23, S.E. Sixth St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 26 by Deputy Steven Pollock on a misdemeanor charge of driving under the influence. She was released on her own recognizance.

- Earl Kenvin Ryan Jr., 24, N.E. 14th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 26 by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on felony charges of sale of a controlled substance (cocaine) and possession of a controlled substance (cocaine) with intent to sell. His bond was set at \$20,000.

- Tyler Lynn Smith, 49, N.W. 164th Court, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 27 by FWC Officer Christopher Douglas on a felony charge of driving under the influence. He was released on his own recognizance.

- Cassandra Dionne Lamb, 30, S.E. Seventh St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 27 by Officer Chad Troutman on a felony charge

of driving while license suspended - habitual offender. Her bond was set at \$2,500.

- Virgil Tyrell Dixon, 29, N.E. Fifth St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 28 by Deputy Jose Garduno on Okeechobee County warrants charging him with the felonies of giving false information to a secondhand dealer and dealing in stolen property. His bond was set at \$ 15,000.

- Cody Abram Lagrange, 25, N.E. 13th Way, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 29 by Deputy Heath Hughes on an amended DOC warrant charging him with the felony of violation of probation - dealing in stolen property. He is being held without bond.

- Nicholas G. Celentano, 29, N. 19th Ave., Hollywood, was arrested Jan. 29 by Deputy Elbert Kline on a DOC warrant charging him with the felonies of violation of probation - possession of a controlled substance (two counts). He is being held without bond.

- Brian Jeremy Robertson, 21, E. Main St., Pahokee, was arrested Jan. 30 by Deputy Elbert Kline on a DOC warrant charging him with the felonies of violation of probation - burglary of a dwelling, violation of probation - grand theft and violation of probation - home invasion robbery. 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.

3-D archery shoot slated

The sixth annual 3-D archery shoot will be held Saturday, Feb. 15, at 4351 U.S. 441 N. All proceeds will be used to support the Young Farmer and Rancher Scholarship Program. The event will start at 8 a.m. with registration. For information, call 863-763-3101.

OCCA plans yard sale

A yard sale will be held Saturday, Feb. 15, at the Holiday Inn Express, 3101 U.S. 441 S., and will be hosted by the Okeechobee County Cattlewomen's Association to help raise money for their scholarship fund. Tables are available for rent for \$10. For information, call Janette at 863-801-4426, or Jackie at 863-634-1980.

Dr. Rajinder Singh

announces the closing of his Dental practice, effective February 28, 2014. For copies of patient records, contact

Dr. Rajinder Singh
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III: "THE HOBBIT"
Fri., Tues. & Thurs. 7:00
Sat., Sun. & Wed. 2:00, 7:00 & Mon 3:00 & 7:00

Health Expo Winners

Epilepsy Foundation's gift basket winner

Alice Warf was the lucky winner of the Epilepsy Foundation's gift basket at the Seventh Annual Health and Safety Expo held on Jan. 25 at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Okeechobee Educational Foundation, Inc. winner

Gloria Key attended the Seventh Annual Okeechobee Family Health and Safety Expo and is the winner of a gift basket donated by the Okeechobee Educational Foundation, Inc.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Hospice booth prize

Janice Daniels was the lucky winner at the Hospice of Okeechobee booth at the Health Expo at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center on Jan. 25. She won a 50-minute massage donated by Bella Rose. Over 200 individuals received free "5-Wishes" booklets and everyone is invited to the free 5-Wishes Workshop on Thursday, Feb. 6, at 2 p.m. at the Okeechobee Library.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Event planned to aid burned teen

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A benefit will be held Feb. 12 to help a local teen who suffered third-degree burns over 85 percent of his body while lighting a camp fire.



Walter Morgan

Walter Morgan, 19, is currently in the intensive care-burn unit at Tampa General Hospital. He is the son of Scott Morgan, a detective with the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD).

Because Walter will have a long recov-

ery, the OCPD and the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) will have a celebrity server night at the Golden Corral Restaurant on Feb. 12 from 5 until 8 p.m.

All proceeds from the event will go to his benefit account that was established to provide financial support for Walter's rising medical expenses.

Tickets for the celebrity server event are \$11 in advance or \$14.50 if purchased at the door, and will cover the price of the dinner and a drink.

For tickets or information, contact: Michele Bell or Connie Curry at the sheriff's office, 863-763-3117; or, Bettye Taylor or Kelley Margerum at the police department, 863-763-5521.

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Stroke, osteoporosis screenings planned

Residents living in and around the Okeechobee community can be screened to reduce their risk of having a stroke or bone fracture.

Okeechobee Christian Church will host Life Line Screening on Monday, Feb. 17, at 3055 S.E. 18th Terrace in Okeechobee.

Mary Lou Alvadi of Niceville attended a Life Line Screening and said, "Thank you, Life Line Screening, for making me aware of a problem I never knew existed."

Four key points every person needs to know:

- Stroke is the third leading cause of death and a leading cause of permanent disability.
- 80 percent of stroke victims had no apparent warning signs prior to their stroke.
- Preventive ultrasound screenings can

help you avoid a stroke.

- Screenings are fast, noninvasive, painless, affordable and convenient.

Screenings identify potential cardiovascular conditions such as blocked arteries and irregular heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysms, and hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease. A bone density screening to assess osteoporosis risk is also offered and is appropriate for both men and women.

Packages start at \$149. All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. For more information regarding the screenings or to schedule an appointment, call 877-237-1287 or visit our website at www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.



Special to the Okeechobee News

WM supports Cattlewomen's Fun Shoot

Waste Management/Okeechobee Landfill team participated in the Florida Cattlewomen's Association fun shoot at Quail Creek Plantation on Jan. 11. Left to right are Sr. District Manager Tony Bishop, Community Relations Teresa Chandler, Operations Manager Jason Johns and Gas Technician James Beville.

Your Medical and Health Care Directory

Common reasons for a hysterectomy

There are many reasons why a woman may have a hysterectomy, a surgical procedure to remove part or all of the uterus. According to Board Certified Gynecologist James Bradfield, the most common are bleeding abnormalities, tumors or enlargements of the uterus, problems with endometriosis, pelvic adhesions and pelvic infections.

Dr. Bradfield performs laparoscopic hysterectomies at Raulerson Hospital. The benefits of performing a hysterectomy using a laparoscope vs. the open abdominal incision include a smaller incision site, less bleeding, and a quicker recovery. In fact most laparoscopic hysterectomies are performed as outpatient procedures, meaning no hospital stay is necessary.

Dr. Bradfield has more than 30 years of experience in his field. He presents his patients with options and treats them in a personal yet professional manner. If you are facing surgery, consider that Raulerson Hospital has been named a Top Performer by The Joint Commission on Key Quality Measures including Surgical Care.

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Look for it inserted into today's



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Seminole Casino Brighton hosts 'Real Big Game, Real Big Party'

Special to the Okeechobee News

Over \$10,000 in cash, free play and prizes will be up for grabs when Seminole Casino Brighton stages its "Real Big Game, Real Big Party" on Sunday, Feb. 2, at 6:30 p.m.

When the Denver Broncos and Seattle Seahawks face off in the Super Bowl to decide the NFL world championship, casino visitors will be able to watch all of the action on a big screen television in a special VIP viewing area or on various televisions on the casino floor.

The VIP viewing area features a 16-foot projection television with various seating options including sofas and chairs, high tops with barstools and bleacher seating.

Doors will open at 5 p.m. and a free "finger food" buffet, along with drink specials and party favors, will be available.

Throughout the game, big plays may mean big payoffs for some lucky guests. Ev-

ery time a big play is made (which includes kickoff returns, touchdowns, field goals, fumbles and interceptions), the casino will draw a winner for up to \$5,000 in cash, free play or prizes.

Additionally, one Lucky Square winner will receive \$250 in free play at the end of each quarter. Lucky Squares is limited to one entry and only available to the first 100 Player's Club members.

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. Seminole Casino Brighton is located in the Brighton Indian Reservation, 17735 Reservation Road, in Glades County. For more information, call toll-free 800-360-9875 or 863-467-9998 or visit www.seminolebrightoncasino.com.

Agri-Civic Center open to public for exercising

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



Special to the Okeechobee News/OMS

OMS Spelling Bee champs

Osceola Middle School held its School Spelling Bee on Tuesday, Jan. 28. Congratulations to these top spellers: Cristian Rios and Badden Boctot and alternate, Kaylan Adams! Cristian and Badden both will represent OMS at the Scripps National Spelling Bee held in South Florida, Feb. 20. Way to Go, Warriors!

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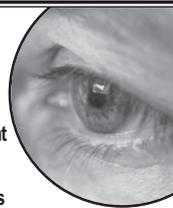
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Tai Chi coming to Okeechobee Senior Center

Special to the Okeechobee News

The beginning of every year brings with it the desire and challenge we each face to become more active, exercise more, and lose weight.

The folks at Okeechobee Senior Center have decided to place those desires into action. Four members, Carol Yates, Linda Ball, Pat Grant, and Fred Klesper have completed the Tai Chi training and received the certification to teach.

Pronounced Tie-Chee, Tai Chi is a gentle form of physical activity ideal for every age even seniors who have uncertain balance and a fear of falling. Originally developed in ancient China for self-defense, tai chi evolved into a graceful form of exercise that is now used for stress reduction and to help with a variety of other health conditions.

This gentle form of physical activity is sometimes described as "meditation in motion" because it promotes serenity through gentle movements, connecting mind and body. The gentleness of the movements

help promote the development of strength and pain from arthritis and other joint or circulatory diseases can be lessened.

Classes will teach 5 Mini Movements and an 8 Form Routine. Movements vary from seated to sit-to-stand, to transitioning movements. The twelve-week course will consist of 30-minute sessions twice a week.

What better way for people of all ages to begin a new year than with a slow paced, fun new way to promote good circulation, balance, muscle control, and stronger bones? Gently push your body toward greater flexibility and yield the results we all dream to have, less stress and better health. Great for everyone in the whole family as everyone works at their own pace and speed. The best news ... It's FREE!

So, stop by Okeechobee Senior Center at 1960 N.W. Ninth Ave., (same building as Health Department) or call 863-462-5181 for information.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Pictured from left to right are Carol Yates, Linda Ball, Master Trainer Dr. Suman Darkhas, Fred Klesper and Pat Grant.

Your Medical and Health Care Directory

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Orthopaedic Specialists at Raulerson is located at 1924 Hwy 441 North, Okeechobee (just north of the Hospital, in the blue-roof building)

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Produce stand operator claims city is unfair

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

At the January meeting of the Okeechobee City Council, Joseph Spells complained that a produce sales business will be allowed at the intersection of Northwest Ninth Avenue and S.R. 70 west and that his attempts for the same kind of business were denied by the city.

"What the issue is here, I guess you know a produce business, the building that he's moving to, I was turned down for a produce stand right there. Now (another party) gets to open it, I want to know why?" Mr. Spells asked.

He said he was denied the possibility of using this location for the same use.

"Discrimination: You don't like me and give me \$100 fines sitting on the side of the road," he said.

City administrator Brian Whitehall admitted he met with Mr. Spells. He said produce stands are prohibited under the code in the city. He said if someone opens up a business, complies with the code and gets a license, they can sell produce and be legitimate.

Mr. Spells said he feels like he gets kicked down to the dirt when he deals with the city.

"It's like it's favoritism in Lake Okeechobee," he said. "If you haven't got \$1 million in the bank account and don't wear a \$1,000 suit you aren't no good. I tried to do everything the right way and you told me no. I don't think it's right I don't care how you look at it. The truth will set me free, sir; I have no reason to lie. Do you think I'd stand up here and make an idiot of myself?"

Mr. Whitehall said Mr. Spells came to him with several suggested sites but couldn't work out the details, like rent, parking requirements, building requirements, rest rooms, handicapped accessibility, etc.

Mr. Spells said the city allowed a produce stand in a parking lot off North Parrott Avenue which was exactly what he wanted to do.

Councilman Devin Maxwell said the city has reviewed these rules and noted there is a difference between a temporary and permanent structure.

"We'll issue permits for a limited time, what is prohibited is we said our rules don't allow a temporary structure as an accessory use to another business," he explained.

Mr. Maxwell said in the Ferrell project he sees some building improvements and if he improves the structure to comply with city code, he can sell produce in there.

"If you had a building like these stores, you can sell produce. I know it's confusing to sell in a store and temporary structure," he added.

Mr. Maxwell said an operation like the Ferrell Produce building on S.R. 78 would be allowed in the city because all the items for sale are kept inside.

Mr. Spells explained he tried to use the site on S.R. 70 and worked out a deal for \$300 rent per month. He said it has been his lifetime goal to open up a produce stand he could operate year 'round.

"It's the only thing I've wanted all my life," he said. "I've lived here all my life. I don't know what I'm doing wrong. I don't know what the deal is. I just will sit back and watch the rich man walk over the poor people, it's the only thing you see here, it's crazy, and I don't think it's right."

Mayor Jim Kirk said if Mr. Spells finds a place for a produce business the city will give him a list of all the requirements and if he meets the code, they will give him a license. He noted a produce stand won't fly.

Mr. Spells said some of the sites he chose didn't have enough parking and that he has gotten frustrated. He said the city just won't let him go into business.

"What is the use? You might as well go home. I can't fight against you all, you all have authority, I don't. I'm just a broke man trying to make an honest living, trying to stay out of jail and prison and do it the right way. Each time I try I get stomped on that carpet over there," he said.

He also worked on a business proposal at 1100 S.R. 70 west. After further discussion it was determined that would be a produce stand next to a laundry mat in a small plaza and not an actual building. The city said the plaza wouldn't have enough parking to accommodate the use.



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Bishop Bennie will be ministering to all starting on Sunday, Feb. 2nd at 10:30am, with a potluck lunch after.

Mon, Feb. 3rd thru Wed. Feb. 5th at 6:30pm

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Garage/Yard Sales

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CLASS A or B CDL DRIVER wanted

for local deliveries. Must know the area, have clean driving record and pass a drug test. Benefits available, apply at: Walpole Feed & Supply Co. 2595 NW 8th St.

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

Employment Full Time

AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE TECH AND INSTALLER NEEDED!

Experience is a MUST! Top pay including benefits. Must have references & apply in person at:

Quality A/C & Heating
5351 SW 16th Ave.
Okeechobee, Fl.
Great job for the right person!

Southeast Milk

is seeking a Full Time Lab Tech/PPD Clerk
JOB SUMMARY: Lab-Run tests on milk samples; PPD-Perform data entry of milk pick up manifest data. Wed-Sun, \$11-\$13 hr, full benefits options. Associates degree in science preferred. Contact Eric at 863-634-0379 for details. Access www.southeastmilk.org for an Employment Application DFWP & EEO

Grand Oaks Assisted Living Community

Part Time Maintenance Person Level II Background check required. Apply in Person M-F 9am - 4pm 203 SE 2nd Street

Employment Full Time

ADVERTISE and Get Results

www.newszap.com
click on classifieds

Financial

Business Opportunities

NOTICE

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

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

Services

Excavation

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

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

Merchandise

Furniture

SOFA, RECLINER, 2 TWIN BEDS, MATTRESS AND BOX SPRINGS, DRESSER W/MIRROR, 4 UPHOLSTERED CAPTAIN'S CHAIRS ALL IN GOOD CONDITION CALL CHRISTINE FOR PRICES 863-763-7712

Pets/Supplies

FOR SALE - PORTABLE ABOVE GROUND DOG KENNEL, COST \$635 WILL SELL FOR \$175. IDEAL FOR WHELPING PUPPIES, MUST SEE TO APPRECIATE. 317-443-0486

YORKIPOO PUP - Toy black male 16 wks old. Shots, health cert. Very Playful. \$300. cash only 863-610-2725.

FOR RENT

Rentals

NW OKEE: 2 BR Apts available on quiet street. Pets welcome. \$550mo, and \$650mo. 1st, last & \$500 sec. 561-346-1642.

Condos/Townhouses Rent

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

Houses - Rent

KINGS BAY - 3br./2ba. Includes lawn service, pool and all appliances. \$900 month plus sec., Move in special \$1250 Call 863-634-0663.

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

OKEE 2bd/1ba Clean CBS House, furnished, enclosed porch, w/d, large yard, storage shed, well water, by 15-B. \$725 mo. plus security. Call 786-201-0306

NICE 2BD/1BA, 1 CAR GARAGE, \$700 MONTHLY AND \$700 DEPOSIT. CALL 772-260-5029

OKEE- 2/1 - \$490.00 and 3/2 - \$ 599.00 - 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.

Apartments

GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIZED APARTMENTS FOR RENT IN OKEECHOBEE AT THE TANGLEWOOD APARTMENTS MUST MEET ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS. PLEASE CALL 863-467-2079. TTY 1-800-233-6694.



Houses - Rent

OKEE Little Farms - 3 BR, 2 BA, doublewide, fenced, 2 acres plus. \$1,095. per month. References & deposits required. Call (863)226-3436 or (423)237-8948

Storage Space Rent

QUICK & EASY STORAGE BOAT & R.V. SPECIAL UP TO 25FT \$25.00 PER MONTH 863-763-2232

Real Estate

Houses - Sale

2002 Doublewide, Okeechobee Little Farms 3 BR, 2 BA, fenced, 2 acres plus. Pond. \$139,000. Call (863)226-3436 or (423)237-8948

Lots - Sale

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

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

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

Mobile Homes

Mobile Home Rent

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

FORT DRUM - 5 acres, small pond/creek, 3BR, 2BA Trailer, Deposit required Rent \$850/mo. (772) 464-9226

Apartments

Mobile Home Rent

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

M.H. FOR RENT, COVERED BOAT PARKING, STORAGE SHED, GOOD AREA, 50+, REF. 1ST & LAST \$400.00 PER MO. CALL 502-803-1876 OR 502-682-2403

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

Mobile Home Sale

FOR SALE MOBILE HOME WITH ADD ON, FURNISHED, GOLF CART, PONTOON BOAT W/TRAILER. \$20,000 CALL HEIDI 561-762-3387

Recreation

Campers/RVs

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

Fifth Wheels

Pullrite Super Glide 5TH Wheel Hitch. For 16000# trailer. \$600. Bought new 2007. For short bed trucks. Automatically moves aft as you turn to prevent collision with truck cab. Call Jud Springer 301-904-6158.

Automotive

Automobiles

2010 MERCURY MILAN WHITE, EXCELLENT COND., LOADED, LEATHER, NEW TIRES 29,000 MILES, \$12,500.00 CALL 701-210-2066

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

Autos Wanted

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

Public Notices

Public Notice

School Board Visit to Schools

Members of the Okeechobee County School Board will visit Everglades Elementary, Osceola Middle, and Okeechobee High School, during the morning of Friday, February 7, 2014. These are informational visits only, and no official business or decisions will take place.

Ken Kenworthy
Superintendent of Schools
468005 ON 1/31/2014

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 14th day of FEBRUARY 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:

1998 FORD WINDSTAR VAN
2FMZA5143WBE56399
1992 CHEVY STORM 2 DOOR
3B1RF2363N754933
2008 BMW 3-SERIES 4 DOOR
WBVA37528NL49596

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. 461068 ON 1/31/2014

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, pursuant to the "Fictitious Name Statute," will register with Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations the fictitious name, to wit:

Lone Oak RV Park
Under which we expect to engage in business at:
5940 Hwy 441 SE Okeechobee, FL 34974
In the City of Okeechobee/County of Okeechobee, Florida.

That the parties interested in said Business enterprise are:
Richard W. Glens Charlotte R. Glens
Dated at Okeechobee, Okeechobee County, Florida, this the 28th day of January, 2014.
461056 ON 1/31/2014

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

READING A NEWSPAPER...

leads you to the best products and services.



Public Notice

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

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs

ACTION: Notice of Availability

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Eastern Regional Office has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed federal approvals and funding of a road expansion project for Harney Pond Road (BIA 1300/CR 721A) on the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Brighton Reservation in Glades County, Florida (Township 39 S, Range 32 E, section 13 & 14). The project involves the widening of an existing 2-lane asphalt roadway to include a center turn lane for a distance of approximately 1.3 miles. The proposed drainage system includes interconnection and enhancement of the existing drainage swales along the north and south sides of the roadway; ultimately draining into the existing outfall.

The BIA has reviewed and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA), titled Harney Pond Road Widening, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department to determine the environmental impacts associated with the projects in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

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

This FONSI is a finding on environmental effects, not a decision to proceed with an action, therefore cannot be appealed.

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

Scott C. Meneely
Acting Director, Eastern Region
Bureau of Indian Affairs
461067 ON 1/31/2014

Public Notice

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 with-in 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 457557 ON 1/10,17,24,31/2014

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Co. that makes Motrin and Tylenol
6 In ___ land
10 Flew the coop
14 Happen next
15 "Doctor Zhivago," e.d.g.
16 ___ Lackawanna Railway
17 Home of the City of 1,000 Minarets
18 Ben Stiller's mom
20 Best Supporting Actress winner for "Vicky Cristina Barcelona"

22 Beehive St. capital
23 Aqua Velva alternative
24 Military division
28 Classic sports cars
29 Casino area
30 The Columbia R. forms much of its northern border
31 Edit menu command
34 General's level
38 Night sounds
40 Kilmer of "The Saint"

41 ___ flu
42 Quaint storage pieces
45 Animal rights org.
46 Arles "A"
47 "___ Day Will Come": 1963 #1 hit
48 Set down
50 Household attention getter
52 Ancient Dead Sea land
54 Org. offering motel discounts
57 Major oil conferences (they're found, in a way, in 20-, 34- and 42-Across)

60 Where many tests are given
63 Indian princesses
64 Lie low
65 Price-limiting words
66 Playing marble

67 Countercurrent
68 Noticed
69 Nuts for sodas

DOWN

1 Wranglers and Patriots
2 Theater supporter
3 Backstreet Boys contemporary
4 Con
5 Long-distance fier's complaint
6 Jumped
7 Sleep disorder
8 Omar's "Mod Squad" role
9 Harsh, as criticism
10 2007 "Dancing With the Stars" contestant
11 Horse and buggy ___
12 Christmas buy
13 Afternoon cup
19 Longtime Pennsylvania congressman John

21 Spirit ___ Louis
25 "Honest!"
26 Zagreb native

27 Natural dye
28 Bit of dust
29 Skin
31 "Sure"
32 Nary a soul
33 Beardless Dwarf
35 Partner of out
36 Ballerina's step
37 Glimpse
39 News exclusives
43 Funny-sounding bone
44 Plumlike fruit

49 Pacific Surfliner operator
51 Walk casually
52 Overact
53 Mischievous kid
54 Year's record
55 Tums target
56 Beasts of burden
58 Make do
59 Rival of Cassio
60 Ally of Fidel
61 It may be flipped
62 Insert

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

A	W	E	D	S	P	A	R	T	A	L	I	A						
R	A	C	E	T	U	R	N	I	M	A	M	S						
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xwordeditor@aol.com

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By Jack McInturff
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ANSWER:

Public Notice Public Notice

NOTICE OF OUA MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Okeechobee Utility Authority will meet in regular session on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 8:30 A.M., at the Okeechobee Utility Authority Offices, 100 SW 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

The needs of hearing or visually impaired persons shall be met by contacting the Executive Director's Office at 863-763-9460 at least 48 hours prior to the Public Hearing by any person wishing assistance.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Authority with respect to such meetings, he or she will need a record of proceedings and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made; which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based.

BY ORDER OF THE OKEECHOBEE UTILITY AUTHORITY

John F. Hayford Executive Director 460955 ON 1/31/2014

JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) have received the following application for

Federal grant funding. Final notice is hereby given of FEMA's consideration to provide funding in the form of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds will be provided in accordance with Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990 FEMA is required to consider alternatives to and to provide public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains of wetland. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority or low-income populations.

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state, and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Applicant: Okeechobee County 304 NW 2nd Street Okeechobee, FL 34972

Project Title: FEMA-1785-034-R, Okeechobee County, Installation of Stormwater Collection & Conveyance System at Oak Park, Drainage Project

Location of Proposed Work: The area affected by this project is the southern portion of the Oak Park residential subdivision in southwest Okeechobee County, approximately bounded by SW 32nd Avenue to SW 37th Avenue, and SW 19th Street to SW 23rd Street.

Proposed Work and Purses: The project includes storm pipes, ditch bottom inlets, manhole structures, 1 control structure, 2 hydro dynamic vortex separators, and improved swales for the purposes of providing water quality treatment and improving flood protection within the project limits. Driveway culverts will be eliminated due to cover issues and replaced with small PVC drain basins. Existing road cross culverts will be replaced by the proposed drainage system. The proposed discharge will be into the County's SW 32nd Avenue ditch.

South Florida Water Management District issued Permit #47-01144-P for the project on September 16, 2013, under Application #130802-7.

Project Alternatives: The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are: Alternative 1) No action alternative - This alternative does not provide for mitigation of damage to property and disruption of transportation or services experienced in the past as a result of flooding during tropical storm or hurricane storm events, or for the duration of flooding that occurs under those conditions. Alternative 2) Discharge into an existing pond to the south of the project was considered. However, the County was unable to acquire the right to use the pond through voluntary means.

Comment Period: Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comment should be made in writing and addressed to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program - FEMA-1785-DR-FL, 2702 Directors Row, Orlando, FL 32809. These are due within 15 days of this notice. The state (FDEM) will forward comments to applicable regulatory agencies as needed. Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting:

Deborah Belcher Grant Administrator for Okeechobee County

Phone: 850-893-0694 Email: debroumelis@earthlink.net

Adele Balmer, Environment Specialist 407-856-5019 Florida Division of Emergency Management Adele.Balmer@em.myflorida.com

Holly Swift, Planner IV/Project Manager 407-888-3720 Florida Division of Emergency Management Holly.Swift@em.myflorida.com 461062 ON 1/31/2014

Butcher celebrates Big Cypress National Preserve anniversary

Special to the Okeechobee News

Internationally renowned landscape photographer and environmentalist Clyde Butcher and his wife, Niki, invite the public to attend their annual Presidents Weekend open house Feb. 15-16, 2014 at their Big Cypress Gallery in the Big Cypress Preserve, Western Everglades.

This year's event serves as a kick-off for the year-long, 40th anniversary celebration of the preserve, which was the first national preserve in the U.S. Thus, the Butchers are donating all proceeds from the weekend's

events to the South Florida National Parks Trust to support its education program at the Big Cypress Preserve.

During the two-day President's weekend event, guests have the opportunity to meet the photographer—known for his large format, black-and-white film masterpieces—take guided swamp tours, and learn about Butcher's two-decade history of photographing in the preserve, among other natural settings, and displaying his breathtaking and work at the gallery.

"We are thrilled to help celebrate this momentous anniversary and bring awareness to the preserve at the same time. This is a perfect opportunity to focus on the beauty of this special place and support the grass roots effort to protect it for future generations," said Clyde Butcher.

The Butchers, who rarely make public appearances, will be in the gallery both days to greet guests and autograph books. A number of other family-friendly activities will take place throughout the weekend, including lectures by both Clyde and Nikki Butcher and guided swamp walks, allowing visitors to explore the preserve and subject of many of Butcher's photographs right in the backyard of the gallery. Guests interested in taking part in a swamp walk are asked to

bring a bag lunch and reserve a space online in advance. The times are as follows:

Schedule of events for Saturday and Sunday:

- 9:30 a.m.—"Big Cypress National Preserve: Primeval Beauty," a lecture by Clyde and Niki Butcher held in their back pond theater.
- 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m.—(throughout the day): Meet Clyde Butcher, who will share stories about photographing the Big Cypress Preserve and sign books.
- 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (every hour on the hour)—Guided swamp walks behind the Big Cypress Gallery. Space is limited.

For more information about the event, directions, or to reserve your swamp walk, call 239-695-2428 or visit clydebutcher.com

A large selection of Clyde's photography can be viewed at his Venice Gallery & Studio in Venice, Fla., and at his Big Cypress Gallery, which is located on 13 acres in the center of the Everglades, midway between Naples and Miami on Tamiami Trail (Hwy. 41), in the Big Cypress National Preserve. The gallery is surrounded by more than a million acres of national park wetlands and wild Florida cypress strands. For more information, go to www.clydebutcher.com/events.cfm.

Public Notice Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE: CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Tuesday, February 4, 2014 City Council Regular Meeting has been canceled.

The next regular scheduled meeting is Tuesday, February 18, 2014, 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. Contact City Administration at 863-763-3372, or website www.cityofokeechobee.com, to obtain a copy of the agenda.

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.

By: James E. Kirk, Mayor Lane Gamioitea, CM, City Clerk 461017 ON 1/31/2014

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 ABUEQBAB

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. 457555 ON 1/10,17,24,31/2014

Public Notice 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 835.28 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 9V OF SAID FOUR SEASONS ESTATES THENCE NORTH 00 DEG 59 MIN 43 SEC EAST ALONG SAID EAST LINE OF SAID LOT 9V 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

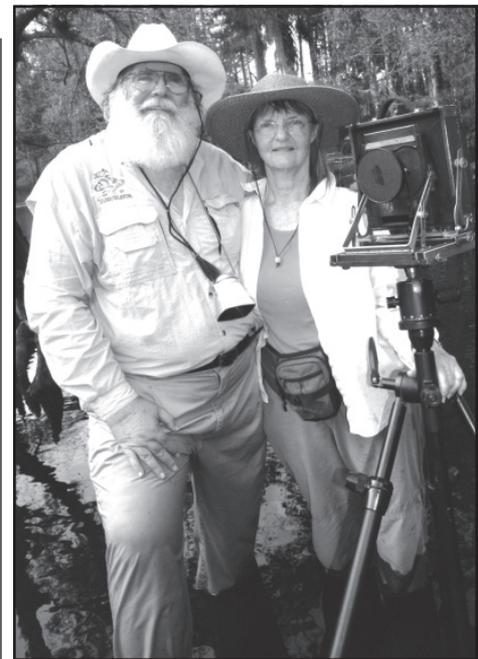
1-17-37-36-0A00-00020-A000 Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

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

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

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Special to the Okeechobee News Clyde and Niki Butcher.

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<p>NEW LISTING</p> 	<p>5030-H: Okee Golf Estate. 3/2 on 1/2 acre. 2,567 total sq ft/1,485 under air. Large kitchen, split bdrm plan. Family rm overlooks golf course. Garage and storage bldg. On cul-de-sac. \$180,000 MLS #207710</p>		<p>1008-H: Okee Estates Lake Access CBS home with 2,593 Total sq ft/1,564 under air, living room, family room, office, large porch, RV storage, Shed with electric, and more! \$179,000 MLS # 207560</p>
	<p>2000-C: Lake Access Taylor Creek Condo 1/1 completely furnished. Ceramic tile throughout. Amenities: clubhouse, boat slip & storage, seawall, pool and more. A fisherman's dream! \$55,000 MLS #207714</p>		<p>2001-M: Very nice 2006 DW on a cul-de-sac. 2,318 Total sq ft/2,048 under air, split plan, large living rm, dining rm, master bath, large utility room, shed, front and back porch. \$71,900 MLS # 207502</p>
<p>NEW LISTING</p> 	<p>4007-M: Turtle Cove Rim Canal access, with full length addition mobile, plus closed in porch overlooking water. Extra lot across street included. \$70,000 MLS #207703</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p> 	<p>1012-H: Blue Heron Beautiful house right on the golf course! 3BR/2BA with 2,795. Ceramic Tile throughout house and carpet bedrooms. Screened back porch. \$169,900 MLS # 207681</p>

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Weather conditions key for FLW anglers

CLEWISTON — The 19th season of the major leagues of bass fishing, the Walmart FLW Tour, kicks off Feb. 6-9 with the Walmart FLW Tour on Lake Okeechobee presented by Mercury. Hosted by Roland and Mary Ann Martin's Marina & Resort and the Hendry County Tourism Development Council, the tournament will feature 180 of the world's best bass fishing pros and 180 co-anglers casting for top awards of up to \$125,000 cash in the pro division and up to \$25,000 cash in the co-angler division.

"If the weather gets right, it could be the perfect storm like it was in 2011 when they broke all of the records," said Mercury pro Drew Benton of Panama City, Fla., who won this event last season. "It's been too cold and the major spawn hasn't happened yet. It all depends on the weather, but we could easily see a four-day total of 100 pounds again."

Straight Talk pro J.T. Kenney of Palm Bay, Fla., shared Benton's enthusiasm.

"Even though it really screws up the fishing, it takes these cold fronts to trigger those big giant schools of fish that live out in the main lake and are uncatchable to move into the grassy areas and spawn," Kenney said. "That's the time of year when we can see

the big 30-pound stringers. I really believe that if we hit a warming trend before the tour event, it's going to be lights out.

"When it happens, it'll be pretty quick," Kenney continued. "Water temperatures right now are pretty cold — I've seen the lower 50s. Once that water temperature gets back up to 60 to 63 degrees, they're coming."

Kenney said that the weather will also play a huge role in how the tournament anglers fish.

"If it warms up, we're going to see more of the feeding-type baits. Swimbait will be really popular. Weightless stick baits and ribbontail worms will catch a lot of fish. But, if it stays cold, then reaction baits are going to be the way to go. I like to flip the mats with a heavy weight, or use lipless crankbaits and jerkbaits."

"There's endless opportunities on Okeechobee right now, and I think you're going to be able to catch them any way you want to," Benton said. "I think the jig bite is going to get better on the outside. Sight fishing might come into play. You can find them on the outside of the grass on a spinnerbait or a swimjig. From what I saw a few

weeks ago, there aren't as many mats to flip as in years past. I think the winner is going to have to be versatile, because I don't see anyone being able to strictly punch mats for four days and win on that alone."

Both anglers said if the water temperatures warm by tournament time, they expect to see the winning mark top 100 pounds.

"If it stays cold, I think that the winner will probably be in the low-to-mid 70-pound range," Kenney said. "It really depends on the weather. Either way, Lake Okeechobee is a great place to be the first week of February."

In FLW Tour competition, anglers are also vying for valuable points in hopes of qualifying for the 2014 Forrest Wood Cup, the world championship of bass fishing. The 2014 Forrest Wood Cup will be in Columbia, S.C., Aug. 14-17 on Lake Murray and anglers could win as much as \$500,000 — the sport's biggest award.

Anglers will take off from Roland and Mary Ann Martin's Marina & Resort in Clewiston at 7:30 a.m. the first two days of competition. On the last two days takeoff will be at the Clewiston Boat Basin at 7:30 a.m. Thursday and Friday's weigh-ins will

be held at Roland and Mary Ann Martin's Marina beginning at 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday's final weigh-ins will be held at the Walmart at 1005 W. Sugarland Highway in Clewiston beginning at 4 p.m.

Fans will also be treated to the FLW Outdoors Expo at the Walmart on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. prior to the final weigh-ins. The Expo includes Ranger boat simulators, the opportunity to interact with professional anglers, enjoy interactive games, activities and giveaways provided by sponsors, and fans can learn more about the sport of fishing and other outdoor activities. All activities are free and open to the public. Also on Sunday, country music artist Josh Thompson will perform a free concert on the Walmart weigh-in stage at 3 p.m.

Coverage of the Lake Okeechobee tournament will be broadcast in high-definition (HD) on NBC Sports Network when "FLW" airs May 17 from 11 a.m.-noon.

For details and updated information, visit FLWOutdoors.com. For regular updates, photos, tournament news and more, follow us on Facebook at Facebook.com/FLWFishing and on Twitter at Twitter.com/FLWFishing.

Brahmans suffer 57-38 road hoop loss in PSL

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Brayvon Young had 17 points and Centennial held Okeechobee to 21 points in the final three quarters of the game as they defeated the Brahmans 57-38 on Tuesday night in Port St. Lucie.

Eddie Neal had 12 points, Jacob Stewart nine points and Roshell Thomas eight points for the struggling Brahmans who fell to 8-13 on the season.

Michael Zientz had 10 points for Centennial and Jeff Desgranges grabbed eight rebounds.

Brahman coach Shawn Hays said the

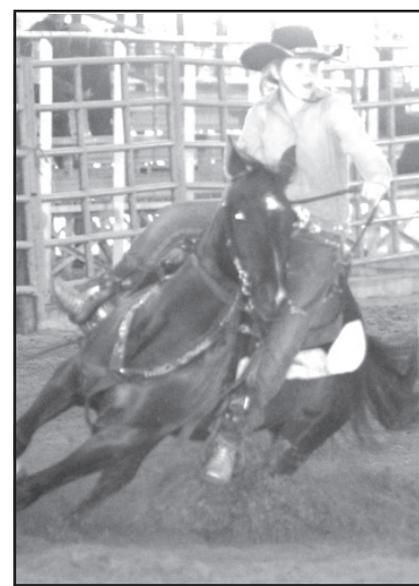
team got off to a good start but just couldn't keep their momentum.

The high point for the Brahmans was their defense and their intensity. They kept the game close until the fourth quarter thanks to their defensive play.

"Defensively, we didn't play that bad but it is really tough to overcome 23 turnovers," Hays admitted. "We have to be better at taking care of the basketball."

Centennial improved to 8-10 on the season.

Okeechobee won the junior varsity contest 53-51.



Special to the Okeechobee News/**Bobbi Poole**

Senior barrels winner

Toni Sposato, won the division of Senior Barrels event with a high point of 17.62 in the Youth Rodeo held Jan. 19 at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center.



Okeechobee News/**Charles Murphy**

January is National Mentoring Month

Sharon Vinson (left) of the Shared Services Network accepted a proclamation from Okeechobee School Superintendent Ken Kenworthy (right) for Big Brothers Big Sisters to mark January as National Mentoring Month at the Jan. 21 meeting of the Okeechobee County School Board.

Robertson honored

Alvina Robertson (right), secretary for staff development, retired after 27 years of service to the school system.

Superintendent of Schools Ken Kenworthy (left) thanked her for her dedicated service at the Jan. 21 meeting of the Okeechobee County School Board.



Okeechobee News/**Charles Murphy**

OCRA needs sponsors for baseball and softball teams

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



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