OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 105 No. 26 | Friday, February 28, 2014 | 50¢ Plus tax

Country Hills home damaged in fire ... Page 5

Lady Brahmans rout Westwood ... Page 14

IRSC to host Writers' Day ... Page 10

Deputy seeking female suspect gets a surprise ... Page 5

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Special to the Okeechobee News

Teen angler catches big fish

Kenny Whaley won the prize for big fish in the Big 'O' Teen Anglers' first tournament for 2014. He also took second place in total fish weight in the 11-15 age group. For more on the tournament, see page 2.

State files new charge in death of a local man

Victim died from injuries sustained in fight, says report

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

The state has charged an Okeechobee man with manslaughter for his alleged involvement in a fight that led to the death of another local man.

Ramiro Reyna, 23, N.W. 47th Terrace, was initially arrested on a charge of aggravated battery and was being held on $200,000 bond in the Okeechobee County Jail.

Reyna reportedly struck Gerardo Alvarez-Manzo, 45, in the face on Jan. 27 while the two were in the parking lot of the El Cielo Azul Bar. The blow apparently caused Mr. Manzo to fall backward and hit the back of his head on the asphalt.

Ramiro Reyna

Mr. Manzo later died at Lawnwood Regional Medical Center in Fort Pierce.

On Monday, Feb. 24, Assistant State Attorney Robert Moeller filed the manslaughter charge against Reyna and set the bond on that charge at $400,000. At this point, the aggravated battery charge has not been dropped. Attempts to reach Mr. Moeller for comment Thursday were unsuccessful.

Detective Bill Saum, of the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), said the District 19 Medical Examiner's Office has ruled the cause of death to be

See **FIGHT** — Page 5

Drug operation nets local cocaine arrest

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

During a recent undercover drug operation, a confidential source allegedly purchased crack cocaine three times from an Okeechobee man.

Keenan Karl King, 22, N.W. 11th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Tuesday, Feb. 25, on felony charges of sale of a controlled substance (cocaine) within 1,000 feet of a specified area (three counts) and possession of a controlled substance (cocaine) with intent to sell within 1,000 feet of a specified area (three counts).

See **DRUG** — Page 5

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Bigford, Haff win teen anglers bass tourney

Special to the Okeechobee News

The Big "O" Teen Anglers, Inc. held their first tournament of the year on Jan. 26. It was a tough day and the conditions were less than ideal. The 22 anglers caught 20 fish weighing 30.72 lbs.

The winners in the 11-15 age group were:

- First place, Cody Bigford, 4.97 lbs.
- Second place, Kenny Whaley, 4.03 lbs. and big fish 4.03 lbs.
- Third place, Jonah Segovia, 1.51 lbs.

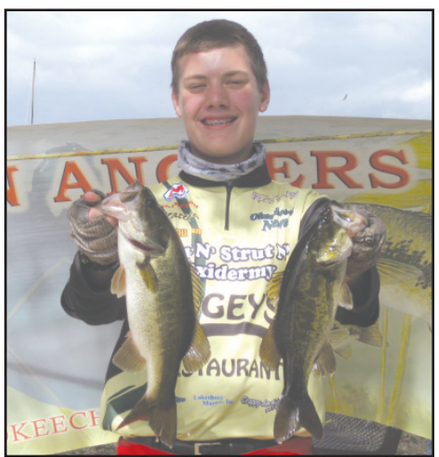
The winners in the 16-18 age group were:

- First place, Matthew Haff, 5.10 lbs.
- Second place, Drew Wanczak, 4.57 lbs.
- Third place, Jose Hernandez 2.34 lbs., and big fish, 2.34 lbs.

We would like to thank our boat captains: Mike Ingram, Leroy Bauer, Dave Straight, Larry Wise, Mike Zubricky, Jim Newell, Robert Haff, Bob Miller, Roy Delozier, Roger Bohannon and Logan Bohannon.

Special to the Okeechobee News

Jonah Sergovia took third place in the 11-15 age group.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Matthew Haff won first place in the 16-18 group.

Special to the Okeechobee News

Cody Bigford won first place in the 11-15 age group at the Big "O" Teen Anglers' first tournament of the year with 4.97 lbs. of fish.

Special to the Okeechobee News

Drew Wanczak placed second in the 16-18 age group.

Special to the Okeechobee News

Jose Hernandez claimed third place for the 16-18 age group, and also had the big fish for that group.

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Today: Some clouds in the morning will give way to mainly sunny skies for the afternoon. High 76F. Winds NNW at 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight: A mostly clear sky. Low 53F. Winds light and variable.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Sunny skies. High around 80F. Winds N at 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday Night: Clear skies. Low 56F. Winds NNE at 5 to 10 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, along with a few afternoon clouds. High 82F. Winds ENE at 5 to 10 mph.

Sunday Night: Clear skies. Low 58F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.

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Letters to the editor

A small town with a big heart

On Tuesday, Feb. 18, a group called "Quarters For A Cause" held a benefit for my daughter, Rhonda Townsend, who was diagnosed with cancer in October, and is currently undergoing chemotherapy.

I found out that these caring people do a benefit once a month for local people going through tough times.

It was a wonderful, heartfelt, fun evening and I was absolutely stunned by how dedicated and hardworking these folks, our neighbors, were.

I can only guess at how much time and effort was spent to help my child, and others who have benefited from the gifts of love our community has provided.

I personally, have to thank my fellow members of Raulerson Auxiliary, our sheriff in the C.O.P. group and Sacred Heart Church for all their prayers and support for me during Rhonda's journey.

To everyone involved here in our little town with such big hearts, I can only wish you all God's love and protection around you all the days of your lives.

Gratefully,
Rhonda's mom,
Barbara Munsey

Who is the bad partner?

The Florida Legislature is discussing whether to use political might to seize control of the management of Lake Okeechobee, and water reservoirs, from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and turn control over to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD).

This proposal is a bad idea; it overlooks the history of the management of Lake Okeechobee, and related water bodies, in regard to the Clean Water Act.

First, Florida petitioned the federal government for the construction of the Herbert Hoover Dike, and the Central and Southern Flood Control Project, to provide flood relief and water supply sources for agricultural and urban development in southeast Florida.

This expensive effort, in conjunction with navigation projects for the Kissimmee, St Lucie, and Caloosahatchee Rivers, resulted in a fair weather water management system that is unable to adapt to increasingly common drought and flood conditions.

Second, Florida through its agency, now known as the South Florida Water Management District, managed water for the benefit of agriculture and urban water supplies, a reasonable effort until the effort abandoned any concept of environmental water supplies for estuaries or preserved wetland systems such as Everglades National Park. Additionally, public waters were allowed to be degraded, and were assisted to be degraded, by the actions of public agencies that were supposed to be adhering to the provisions of the Clean Water Act. The deterioration reached such extremes that the federal government sued the State of Florida, and its agent, the South Florida Water Management District to prevent further degradation and restore national resources.

The lawsuit dragged on for years until Governor Chiles symbolically surrendered the state's sword, which resulted in a court-overseen and monitored settlement agreement.

Third, as part of the partnership, the State of Florida and federal government agreed to a federal/state restoration effort task force, which in turn developed a restoration plan that was agreed to by both parties. The plan calls for cost sharing, and joint consultation in management. This is where we are, or should be, today.

Unfortunately, in the years of bad management of Lake Okeechobee, water levels were allowed to reach heights for water supply purposes that led to deterioration of the Herbert Hoover Dike. As a result, the corps had to institute new regulation schedules to protect the dike's primary purpose of flood prevention. Additionally, SFWMD practiced favoritism for water supply deliveries, while shunting flood waters to communities that were not normally in Lake Okeechobee's flood zones. Only in these last few years have these adversely affected communities on the east and west sides of the lake been able to get the Corps of Engineers to consider their needs,often contrary to SFWMD recommendations.

However, in fairness, SFWMD has been a responsive partner in many projects outside of the Corps' domain or interest.

The quality of the environment is key to the economies of east and west communities. Experience has demonstrated that without the creative tension of the partnership, both partners receiving input from affected parties, that one agency will be swayed to the interests of favored stakeholders/lobbyists, to the detriment of the other stakeholders, notably the silent stakeholder, Nature.

This is a situation that needs both the belt and the suspenders of state and federal government, because otherwise, our pants have kept falling down. Trying to co-opt the federal role, in management, while expecting the federal dollars, indicates the lessons of the lawsuit have been forgotten. It is possible that some Florida interests think they have gotten all they want from the effort to date, and thus the rest can be abandoned. We on the west coast know that our needs have not been addressed, except through temporary and discretionary relief, and that we need equitable attention from both partners. Eliminating one will only result in harm to our communities, our economies, and our environments.

Wayne Daltry
president of the Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association

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!

Hunter shot by friend

• Please refrain from using the word "accident" when describing the discharge of a firearm.

Wild fire

• I have noticed quite a few items in the papers and online about fires lately. The cold weather killed the brush and it dried out so it is more vulnerable to fire. It only takes a spark to start it ... a cigarette thrown out a car window, an ATV without a spark arrestor, a hot vehicle parked on tall grass, a campfire left unattended, a brush burn that gets out of control. Pay attention to what you are doing.

Telephone scams

• The Chamber of Commerce is alerting businesses to what is likely a telephone scam. A company called Loyalty Publishing/Skyline Publishing that is calling businesses in the community and trying to get them to buy advertising. The chamber says that this is a scam, as these callers are telling people that they are working with the chamber and that is not true.

• Two years ago they were telling people that they were working with the Sheriff's Office and they were not. After six calls they decided to quit calling businesses in Okeechobee, until now apparently.

• If someone calls and claims to be collecting on behalf of the sheriff's office or city police or fire department, it's a scam. The local agencies do not contract with companies to do fund raising by phone. If someone calls and makes such a claim, get as much information as you can about their name, phone number, organization, etc., and then hang up and contact local law enforcement.

• It's always something. They call and claim to be representing a group that helps veterans, or law enforcement, but if you actually check it out less than 5 percent goes to actually help anyone. Nearly all of the money collected goes to "administrative" costs. Save your donations for local organizations you know and trust.

Okeechobee County Fair seeks contest participants

The Okeechobee County Fair Association is seeking adult and youth contest participants for the upcoming fair March 11-16. The contests consist of quilting, sewing, leatherwork, painting, drawing, photography, horticulture, scrapbooking, jewelry making, cake decorating and woodworking. There will also be food competitions such as home baking and canned goods, as well as a vegetable competition featuring garden vegetable, fruit and vegetable and largest vegetable categories. This year the Lego Building contest will be open to both youth and adult exhibitors. This year we will again have the educational posters and educational displays competitions. Individual youths may enter the educational poster contest and 4-H Clubs or FFA Chapters may enter the educational display contest. The top three club/chapter displays will win awards. The duct tape creations, tablescaping, trash-to-treasure creations and digitally enhanced photography will also return this year. Download the entry forms and rules at the Okeechobee County Fair Web site, www.okeechobeecountyfair.com, or pick up copies of the 2014 Premium Book at the Okeechobee County Extension Office at 458 98 N. The deadline for entries is Feb. 28. If you have questions, contact Dianne Spann at 863-634-3327.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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Alleged flasher arrested, jailed

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

When Deputy Marcus Collier was sent Monday afternoon to S.E. 20th Court he was looking for a disoriented female, but he found much more.

As he drove through the area around 3:24 p.m. a witness reportedly told the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) deputy she had seen a female wearing a black tank top and white shorts who was acting "very strange." This was the second person who had reported seeing the female.

Deputy Collier kept searching and finally saw a person wearing a black tank top talking to a man who was working on a vehicle in the driveway of a home on S.E. 21st Court. That person also had white shorts — but the shorts were down around the person's ankles.

"I pulled into the driveway and, at that time, the person exposing themself pulled their pants up," stated Deputy Collier. "The person working on the truck asked me if I saw what happened. I advised him I did."

As it turned out, the "female" Deputy Collier was searching for was actually a man.

When the deputy talked to the flasher, the man "... wouldn't really speak and when he did he slurred his words," stated the report.

Deputy Collier went on to point out that he did not detect any alcohol on the man's breath. He then asked the Lake Worth man if he was on drugs, but the man reportedly said he only used marijuana.

Deputy Collier then arrested the man on a misdemeanor charge of exposure of sexual organs. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail on a bond of $500.

Jail records indicate he has been released on bond, and apparently with his shorts worn properly at the waist.

Country Hills home damaged by fire

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County fire crews report $55,000 in property damage was done to a home at 13012 N.E. 14th Ave. in Country Hills Estates on Monday night.

Paramedic Jay Curtis reported that five units and nine firemen were dispatched just before 7 p.m. to the Marty Casselton residence and found the structure fully involved upon their arrival.

Fire crews said the home was being used by two households and a wall between the two families might have helped prevent the quick spread of the fire.

The American Red Cross Okeechobee office quickly responded to the scene to help the families involved. The listed owner of the property is Ted Butler of Okeechobee.

Fire crews spent better than four hours on the scene and over 3,000 gallons of water were used to put out the blaze. The Florida Fire Marshal's Office was called to investigate the cause. There were no reports of any injury in the blaze.

FWC seeks public's help to manage black bears

In March, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will hold seven public meetings to discuss conservation and management of black bears in central Florida and how people can get involved.

Under the FWC's Florida Black Bear Management Plan approved in 2012, seven bear management units (BMUs) will be established throughout the state.

The BMU approach will allow the FWC to manage bears based on the characteristics of bears, people and habitat in different parts of Florida.

The first steps are being taken to create the Central BMU to manage bears in central Florida, which includes the state's largest bear subpopulation in the Ocala National Forest and surrounding areas.

"We areexcited about getting the perspective of local stakeholders on bear management and conservation in central Florida," said Dave Telesco, FWC Bear Management Program coordinator. "We are looking forward to working together to reduce human-bear conflicts so people and bears can coexist in Florida."

Go to MyFWC.com/Bear and look for "Which BMU are you" to find out more about black bears in Florida.

"A guide to living in bear country" is also available at MyFWC.com/Bear by clicking on Brochures and Other Materials, and you can find more on bears and the bear management plan at MyFWC.com/Bear.

FIGHT

Continued From Page 1

blunt head trauma. The medical examiner also said the manner of death was homicide.

According to an arrest report by OCPD Officer Ryan Holroyd, the two men had been in the bar at 706 S.W. Second St.

The report then quoted a witness who said they saw Mr. Manzo walking behind Reyna in the bar's parking lot shortly after midnight.

The witness reportedly told the officer that, for no apparent reason, Reyna turned around and hit the victim in the face. The older man fell backwards and struck the back of his head on the asphalt.

Reyna, continued the report, had a beer bottle in one hand but the witness was not sure if he struck the victim with the bottle.

Officer Holroyd went on to state that when he arrived at the scene Mr. Manzo was bleeding from his nose and mouth and his breathing "... was very heavy and labored." At one point, stated the officer, the victim went into cardiac arrest and emergency medical personnel had to perform cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Mr. Manzo was taken to Lawnwood by ambulance because he was too unstable to be airlifted, stated the officer's report.

"He was later diagnosed with a life-threatening subdural bleed (brain bleed) near the rear of the brain," the report pointed out. "Additionally, he was without oxygen for an extended period of time — approximately 40 minutes."

He died Monday, Jan. 27, at 7:44 p.m.

During his interview with Detective Saum, Reyna reportedly said the victim had threatened him three times that evening, and that Mr. Manzo would "pat" his waist as if to indicate he had a weapon under his shirt.

Reyna went on to tell the investigator that as he walked out of the bar Mr. Manzo was behind him and allegedly said to Reyna "I'm going to kill you." At that point Reyna turned around and hit Mr. Manzo in the face with his right fist, added the report.

Reyna then got into his car and left.

Officer Holroyd's report indicated no gun or any other type of weapon was found on, or around, Mr. Manzo.

DRUG

Continued From Page 1

King is being held in the Okeechobee County Jail on a bond of $225,000.

According to arrest affidavits by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force the confidential source met King in the Douglas Park Subdivision on three separate occasions. On each one of those occasions, the source bought suspected crack cocaine from King, the report added.

Each deal was allegedly conducted within 1,000 feet of Alderman Park, pointed out the reports.

After each purchase the suspected crack cocaine was field tested, and each one of those tests indicated a positive result for the presence of cocaine, the report stated.

The arrest reports do not indicate how much the suspected coke cost, or the amounts purchased.

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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.

Ryan Chester Underhill, 35

OKEECHOBEE — Ryan Chester Underhill died Feb. 23, 2014. He was born Dec. 13, 1978 in Stuart, Fla. to Charles Edward and Cynthia Underhill.

A lifetime resident of Okeechobee, he was a cable installer and enjoyed RC hobbies and flying. He was a member of Christ Fellowship. He had the gift to build, fix and take care of many things including the land, dairy, anything mechanical and electronics. He was a devoted, father and son.

Mr. Underhill was preceded in death by his grandparents, Chester Underhill, Inez Underhill, Dorthe Chilcutt and Booth Chilcutt.

He is survived by his wife of 14 years, Carla Underhill; son, Chester Underhill; daughter, Haylie Underhill; father, Edward Underhill; mother, Cindy Underhill all of Okeechobee; and brother, Aaron Underhill (Jessica) of Palm Beach Gardens.

Visitation will be 2 p.m. until services at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28, 2014 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to his children's trust fund at Bank of America.

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.

Search obituaries nationally at http://www.legacy.com

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VFW to host karaoke

VFW Post 4423, 300 N.W. 34th St. will have karaoke from 7 until 11 p.m. Friday, **Feb. 28,** and Saturday, March 1. The kitchen will open at 5 p.m. On Sunday, March 2, a grilled pork cutlet dinner will be served from 1 until 3 p.m. All proceeds are donated to local veterans organizations. For information, call 863-763-0818.

Eagles serving steak dinner

The Cypress Hut Eagles #4509,will serve ribeye steakr, shrimp or fish dinners starting at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, **Feb. 28**. Entertainment will be provided by "he Harpers. Saturday, March 1, is the monthly birthday bash with taco salad being served by the Ladies Auxiliary. Karaoke by Jay will be the entertainment. Sunday, March 2, we are serving southern fried chicken. Tuesday, March 4, is the weekly dart tournament with hamburgers being served. The public is welcome. Proceeds from Tuesday goes to Arnold Palmer's Children Hospital and the rest will go to other local community and national charity funds. For information, call the Cypress Hut Eagles at 863-467-1154.

Church hosting singing group

7th Day Christian Church, 912 N.W. Park St. at S.R. 70 W., will feature the Celebration Singers on Friday, **Feb. 28,** at 7:30 p.m.

Blood drive planned

A special blood drive will be held Friday, **Feb. 28**, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Wemmer Family Orthodontics, 2025 U.S. 441 N., for Kennedy Dillon, 2, the daughter of Josh Dillon. Kennedy has been diagnosed with leukemia, which affects production of blood components. All blood donated can be used to treat patients needing whole blood, plasma, platelets and red cells. In addition to this drive for whole blood, a second drive to collect blood platelets as well as whole blood for Kennedy will be held March 14 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the same location.

AMVETS hosting paper bingo

Join the AMVETS Post 200, 8590 S.R. 78 W., for paper bingo Friday, Feb. 28, and every Friday after that. The post will open at 11:30 a.m. Early bingo starts at 12:30 p.m., and regular bingo begins at 1 p.m. Call Pat at 330-556-1576 for information.

OCSO plans BBQ fundraiser

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office will host a barbecue fundraiser Friday, **Feb. 28,** starting at 11 a.m. There is a $10 donation with all funds going to the March of Dimes. For information, call 863-763-3117.

BBQ benefits Bruce Nast

A benefit barbecue for Bruce Nast, the owner of Unlimited Auto and Marine Upholstery, will be held Friday, **Feb. 28**, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Okeechobee Utility Authority, 100 S.W. Fifth Ave. For a $10 donation, the dinner will include: pulled pork, baked beans, cole slaw, roll and dessert. Whole Boston Butts will also be available for $30. Delivery is available to businesses with a minimum of five orders. For information, or to purchase tickets in advance, call Becky Barnhart at 863-763-9460, ext. 219.

Church outreach is March 1

Bible Truth Tabernacle, 1319 S.R. 70 E., will host a Community Outreach on Saturday, **March 1**, from 1 until 5 p.m. Come enjoy free food and drinks, music, photo booth and more. We will give away clothing and household items. We will be available to pray with you as well. Our church is located in the plaza across from Dan's Meat Market.

Car wash/bake sale planned

A car wash and bake sale will be held at Tractor Supply, 3371 U.S. 441 S., on Saturday, **March 1,** from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. All proceeds go to Relay for Life and the America Cancer Society. For information, call Ronda at 863-357-6811.

Restaurant hosting speaker

A health talk and plexus meeting will be held Saturday, **March 1**, at Beef O'Brady's Restaurant, 608 S. Parrott Ave. There will be free samples and a prize drawing. For information, call 863-763-0669.

Fundraiser aids tennis team

Enjoy a short stack for a tall cause Saturday, **March 1,** from 8 until 10 a.m. at Applebee's, 1210 N.E. Park St. The restaurant will host a pancake breakfast fundraiser to benefit the Okeechobee High School tennis team. Tickets are $10. For information, call 216-695-7967; or, e-mail morgan.ungerott@okee.k12.fl.us.

Seniors club hosting dance

A new single seniors club will host a dance Saturday, **March 1,** at Cowboys, 202 N.E. Seventh Ave., in the Bull Pen. Doors will open at 5 p.m. for supper, and the dance starts at 7 p.m. A door prize will be given. For information, call Marie at 863-957-0676.

Dodge Ball tourney planned

The B.R.A.T. Club will host a Dodge Ball Tournament Saturday, **March 1,** in Flagler Park #3 starting at 9 a.m. All proceeds are kept by the B.R.A.T Club for future events. The field will be limited to the first 30 registrations. Contact Allison Chandler at 863-697-9096; or, e-mail her at alsn@embarqmail.com.

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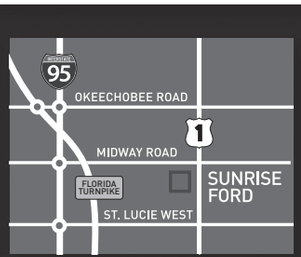

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Okeechobee County rodeo royalty crowned

Special to the Okeechobee News

The court of Miss Rodeo Okeechobee was crowned Saturday, Feb. 22, at the American Legion Post 64 during the coronation ceremony. The girls were joined by Miss Rodeo Okeechobee 2013 court, family, friends and members of the Okeechobee Cattlemen's and Cattlewomen's Association.

Crowned as Miss Teen Rodeo Okeechobee was Katie Brummett, 18 of Okeechobee. Katie is the daughter of Donald L. and Cindy Brummett. Katie has been active for many years in 4-H and FFA. She has shown in English and western disciplines. Katie has enjoyed participating in the rodeos in Okeechobee as a flag bearer. "Being able to represent rodeo, Okeechobee, and the Cattlemen will be an honor," she stated. "I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as Miss Teen Rodeo Okeechobee 2014. I look forward to meeting the fans, the sponsors, and the contestants. I can't wait to visit schools, and speak to the media to help spread word of our rodeos."

Crowned as Miss Rodeo Okeechobee Princess was Nicole Boultin, 11, of St. Cloud. Nicole served as Miss Rodeo Florida Sweetheart 2013. She is the daughter of James and Julie Boultin. Nicole has been showing in western discipline shows for the past five months. She is active in dance, and martial arts. She enjoys cooking, going to garage sales with her grandmother and playing with her dog, Morris. "Rodeo is a big part of Florida's history, and that history started right here is Okeechobee County. I am excited to be part of that history!" she stated.

Alexis Todd of Narcoosee was crowned Miss Rodeo Okeechobee Sweetheart. She is the daughter of David and Sherry Todd. Alexis enjoys barrel racing and pole bending. Besides riding her horse and competing, Alexis likes to hunt. Alexis' school and life ambitions are to attend the University of Florida and become a large animal vet, so she can help sick horses. Her recent school honor was to receive the Blast Award and her grades are great. Alexis stated, "I am so excited about being Miss Rodeo Okeechobee Sweetheart because now I represent the great Okeechobee rodeo. I am excited to be able to visit the schools and talk to the kids about the rodeo, and to talk to the adults about the hard work that goes into the rodeos."

Special to the Okeechobee News

Rodeo Okeechobee Sweetheart Alexis Todd, Miss Rodeo Okeechobee Princess was Nicole Boultin and Miss Teen Rodeo Okeechobee Katie Brummett are looking forward to Florida's Cowtown Rodeo March 8 and 9 at the historic Okeechobee Cattlemen's Rodeo Arena on U.S. 441 N.

These young ladies will hold their titles for one year. During the year they will attend the rodeos here in Okeechobee, Silver Spurs Indiantown and perhaps others. They will attend other pageants as visiting royalty and work to promote the Okeechobee County Cattlemen's Rodeo beginning with the Spring Rodeo to be held March 8 and 9. They are available for appearances throughout the year and look forward to being involved in the community. If you wish to have the girls attend your events or meetings, please contact the coordinator, Michelle Harper at 863-634-6397. You can follow them on their Facebook page, Miss Rodeo Okeechobee.

Spring festival is March 1

A Spring Fling Festival will be held in the woods at Freedom Ranch on Saturday, **March 1**. Gates will be open from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. There will be all kind of items for sale as well as food vendors. There will also be live music, buggy rides and a cake walk. Entrance fee is $1 per car, except for vendors. Freedom Ranch is located at 11655 U.S. 441 S.E. E-mail at: springflingfest@gmail.com; or, call 863-763-9800.

Legion offers Sunday bingo

American Legion Post 64, at 501 S.E. Second St., will host Sunday night bingo on **March 2** at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. The kitchen will offer a limited menu. Payoffs will be determined by player attendance. All proceeds will benefit the American Legion veterans programs. The event is open to the public. The American Legion now has free WIFI for its lounge and dining room patrons.

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Special to the Okeechobee News/**CES**

Central Students of the week

Central Elementary School would like to congratulate the students of the week for the week of Feb. 10: Cole Wright, Jaleik Brifil, Jose Garcia, Jacob Guinn, Michelle Campos, Mia Schneider, James Landaverde, Arliawna Micco, Braydon Crawford, Jaelyn Lineberry, Cristian Mederos, Bryan Guzman Portillo, Jasmin Flores, Thomas Wigfall, Aaliyah Brifil, Casey Bonneau, Cassie Moore, Gaury Duran, George Seca, Kiah Jackson, Keyla Albarran, Haven Bast, Anna San Martin, Aleah Pritchard, Natalia Velasquez, Mariah Jenkins, Kamryn Rider and Rye Dioquino.

Special to the Okeechobee News/**YMS**

YMS Students of the week

Yearling Middle School is proud to announce our students of the week for Feb. 10: Kaelee Howard, Jordyn Winslade, Daniel Vega, Maria Aguirre and Reyes Rodriquez.

Special to the Okeechobee News/**SES**

South Elementary Students of the Week

Congratulations to the Students of the Week at South Elementary for the Week of Feb. 7. They are: Landen Ramsey, Madison Smith, Gabriel Sanchez, Jackelen Barcenas, Leann Powell, Kimberley Yates, Sha'Kayla Tolliver, Logan Hamblen, Damon Tyner, Cameron Hamblen, Elijah Harrison, Yahira Gomez Garcia, Jacob Hardy, Kora Lemmerman and Brice Anuez.

Dr. Fred Brown Memorial Poker Tournament planned

The Dr. Fred Brown Memorial Scholarship Poker Tournament will be held on Wednesday, **March 5**, at the Speckled Perch Steak House. The first 100 players have guaranteed seating. Pre-register to play. Sponsorships available.

For more information, contact Russ Brown at 772-285-9914 or email at rband3@yahoo.com.

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Indian River State College announces Writer's Day

The English, Communication, and Modern Languages Department at Indian River State College will offer a Writer's Day on March 15 in the Brown Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Y Building, Room Y-102, on the IRSC Main Campus in Fort Pierce.

The session will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided. This program is designed to enhance anyone's writing and thinking. Participants may register for a fee of $25 per person (payable to the IRSC Foundation). Participation is limited to the first 55 registrants.

This year the focus will be on poetry and flash fiction. Many of the day's activities prompt participants to produce short works on the spot that will be shared at the end of the day.

The program will also include multimedia, interactive presentations, and discussions dealing with a variety of writing related topics, such as: dialogue, style, poetic language, cultivating wonder, mystery boxes, characterization, passion, play, creativity, beauty, failure, technology, listening, critical thinking, and so on.

These discussions will improve writing and communication techniques and foster an aesthetic appreciation for written expression. The program is supported by the IRSC Foundation through the Gladys Williams Wolf Endowed Teaching Chair in Communications and the Center for Media and Journalism Studies.

To register and for further information, contact Dr. Matthew Brooks at mbrooks@irsc.edu or 772-462-7842.

Special to the Okeechobee news

Teachers honored

Delta Kappa Gamma is an international educator society. One of DKG's seven principles is to honor key women educators. Two of Okeechobee's Teachers of the Year were honored at DKG Beta Nu's Feb. 1 meeting held at Nutmeg's. DKG Beta Nu president Linda Vaughn honors Okeechobee Teachers of the Year Debbie Raulerson and RaeAnn Whiteside.

Special to the Okeechobee News/**CES**

Students of Character

The students chosen to represent their classrooms for demonstrating the Character Counts skill of Fairness at Central Elementary School are: Alyssa Ramirez, Shyla Aguirre, Brandyn Lineberry, Kenia Rayo, Angel Montoya-Tello, Aiden Bigford, Alyssa Bottari, Ryan Thomas, Laura Sandoval, Thalia Thomas, Abigail Martz, Gabriaela Orozco, Lilly Maxwell, Emma Vanderfhoff, Rosalinda Caballero, Juan Cruz-Diaz, Yasmine Espinoza, April Rose Salva, John Gaona, Damaris Olivera, Beautiful Smith and Cetia Campbell.

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March of Dimes directors tour NICU

Special to the Okeechobee News

The Board of Directors of the March of Dimes Treasure Coast Division recently had the opportunity to tour the Level II Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the new Tradition Medical Center, located in Port St. Lucie. Having a baby who requires a NICU stay is never easy, but Tradition Medical Center is making it a bit easier. Unlike most NICUs, Tradition Medical Center has six private — and quiet — NICU rooms, where parents are allowed to stay overnight with their newborn. Each room is monitored at a central location, including video of the baby at all times.

Tradition Medical Center, which opened in December 2013, has an entire floor devoted to labor and delivery. Over 200 babies have already been delivered there. Each patient room on the maternity floor is private and allows the mother to be in the same room for the entire birth experience, from labor and delivery through recovery and post-partum.

The March of Dimes Directors were allowed this opportunity because the newest board member is Libby Flippo, MSN, RN, the Assistant Vice President/ Site Administrator and Chief Nursing Officer for Tradition Medical Center. The remaining March of Dimes Board members are: Chair, Nick Blount of FPL; Vice-Chair, Laura McCall of the Law Office of Cassels & McCall; Secretary, Mage Cable, retired educator; Jeff Meyer of Vero Insurance; and Deborah Sanders of the Stuart law firm, Crary, Buchanan.

Many people identify the March of Dimes with the Salk vaccine, which led the way to the eradication of polio, but the polio vaccine was only the beginning. In the decades to follow, March of Dimes efforts to improve the health of babies have included: funding the development of surfactant therapy and other lifesaving treatments, promoting folic acid awareness to prevent neural tube defects, and pushing for regionalized neonatal intensive care units.

For more information about the March of Dimes or its largest fundraiser, March for Babies, call Laura McCall at 863-763-3131.

Special to the Okeechobee News

Left to right are March of Dimes board members,Deborah Sanders, Magi Cable, Jeff Meyer, Laura McCall and Nick Blount visiting one of the private NICU rooms at Tradition Medical Center.

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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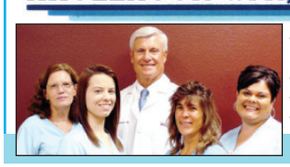

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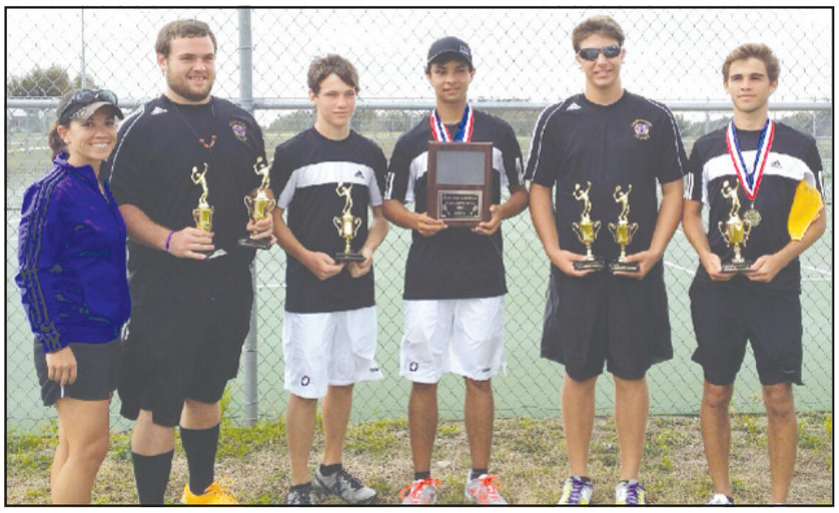

Special to the Okeechobee News/**Courtesy photo**

Tennis tournament winners

The Okeechobee High School boys tennis team took first place at the Heartland Conference tournament held in Highlands County. Left to right are coach Morgan Ungerott, Cody Walker, Dylan Ferneau, Otto Ramirez, Colt Root and Lucas Penido.

Special to the Okeechobee News/**SEMES**

Seminole Elementary Students of the Week

Seminole Elementary School would like to congratulate their Students of the Week for the week of Feb. 14: Samantha Clark, Thomas Kayser Jr., Yamileth Villegas, Kali Russell, Vincente Betancourt, Erick Quiroz, Joey Olvera, Jesus Olvera, Angel Nieto, Araceli Ruiz, Adan Garcia, Mary Dunn, Emilio Borja, Sabin Griffis, Jayquavious Thomas, Madison Chaplin, Julie Castaneda, Briana Pelayo, Maria Calais, Michael Cruz, Carlos Alanis, Kevin Carr, Jannet Roman, Kendrick Henry, Miguel Montoya, Brandon Perez, Louza Yamin, Zachary Skinner, Princess Espinal, Kirsten Nunez, Jonathan Thomas, Daisey Campos, Jaime Hernandez and Claudia Vega.

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Saccavino's 4-hitter leads Jensen past OHS

By Charles Murphy
Okeechobee News

Paul Saccavino tossed a four-hit shutout and C.J. Fitzpatrick had a two-run single as Jensen Beach defeated Okeechobee 5-0 in high school baseball action Tuesday night at OHS.

Saccavino kept the Brahman hitters off balance all night and didn't allow two base runners to reach base in the same inning or allow anyone in scoring position until the seventh inning.

"It feels pretty good. I was loose and I had a good time. That is when I'm at my best. I just try to get really focused and zone everything else out and focus on the next batter," ha said.

Jensen Beach (4-1) came in off a walk-off victory against district opponent South Fork and coach Chris Vaccaro said two back-to-back district wins is a great way to start the season.

"It feels great. The boys are on a good roll. They're not too high and not too low. The best part about this team is they love one another, they play together, trust in each other's play and they pick each other up," he explained.

Okeechobee (0-4) just couldn't get their offense going and a few early mistakes put them in a hole from which they couldn't dig themselves out. A pair of errors and a passed ball in the first inning on the infield allowed Fitzpatrick to score the game's first run.

The Falcons took advantage of two batters hit by pitch and a wild pitch on a called third strike to score three more times in the second. Fitzpatrick's single through the hole into left field drove home two runs and made it 4-0.

Okeechobee News/**Charles Murphy**

Bailey Kirton receives a pickoff throw as Willie Bastini scrambles back to the bag during Tuesday's game at OHS. Jensen Beach defeated OHS 5-0.

That was all Saccavino would need as he kept the Brahman hitters off balance and threw strikes. His pitch count was also low in the late innings.

"The four-run lead definitely allowed me to settle in. It's always nice to have a lead behind you and not have to gut out every inning," he explained.

Kutter Crawford threw five, strong innings for the Brahmans as he allowed just four base hits and struck out five. Jarrod Morgan added a scoreless inning of relief.

On defense the Brahmans got excellent plays from Elijah Finney on a line-drive hit by Tyler Bauman, and a diving catch of a foul pop by Paul Jackson off the bat of D.J. Lemay. Gabe Greseth also threw out a base runner, Willie Bastini, trying to steal.

OHS coach Eric Kindell was disappointed his team wasn't more alive in the dugout and also noted some routine plays weren't executed.

"We are playing very lackadaisical. We are not that kind of team. We have to be in the game from the beginning to the end. If the guys don't buy it'll be a long season for them," he explained.

Kindell said future practices will focus on better approaches at the plate and not falling into old habits. The team will also continue to work on the fundamentals and eliminating mental mistakes.

He praised Saccavino for throwing strikes and for late movement on his pitches.

"The ball ran in to our batters quite a bit. When the guys made up their mind to swing, the pitches moved in on them and we didn't figure it out until the final inning," he said.

Okeechobee hit a number of slow rollers and didn't hit very many pitches sharply. Christian Crews and Greseth had back-to-back singles in the seventh and Kevin Coleman was hit by a pitch to load the bases. Saccavino got ahead of Morgan who hit a line drive toward the middle on which shortstop Skip Bauer made a nice play to end the game.

Vaccaro said he enjoyed watching Saccavino pitch.

"He was more than strong all night. He does a good job setting up the hitters because he studies the night before to find out about the other team's hitters," said Vaccaro.

Lady Brahmans rout Westwood

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee High School won their fourth straight game as they routed struggling Westwood 20-0 in high school softball action Tuesday in Fort Pierce.

Okeechobee (4-2) got strong pitching from Danyelle Sheffield and Breanna Billie as they won another district game against the Lady Panthers (0-6).

Billie threw two shutout innings on the mound and also added a home run for the Lady Brahmans. Bethany Stuart added a double. OHS was patient at the plate as they drew a number of walks and took advantage of Lady Panther fielding miscues.

OHS coach Mary Huff called it a rough game but noted the team made some adjustments and executed well.

"The Panthers struggled and there wasn't much to report. We hope the next few games will be better," she said.

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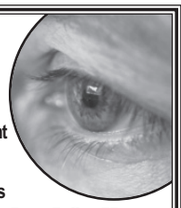

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Brahman net teams down Jaguars

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School Brahman boys tennis team had an easy time of it as they overwhelmed the Port St. Lucie Jaguars 7-0 at the Okeechobee sports complex on Tuesday.

Okeechobee lost just one game in the entire match in one of the more lopsided matches the team has had in many seasons.

Otto Ramirez defeated Luis Siles, 8-1. Lucas Penido defeated Nico Saavedra, 8-0Cody Walker defeated Santi Saaverdra, 8-0, Colt Root defeated Andri Cordova, 8-0 and Dylan Ferneau defeated Ben Vitac, 8-0 in lopsided affairs.

Okeechobee News/**Charles Murphy**
Dylan Ferneau gets ready for a hard serve in his match with Ben Vitac of PSL on Tuesday. OHS prevailed 7-0.

The doubles teams of Walker and Root defeated Siles and Nico Saavedra, 8-0. In #2 doubles it was Colton McCreary and Kirby Dobbs over Santi Saavedra and Cordova, 8-0.

OHS coach Morgan Ungerott explained that this match at least was a good warm up for her team and a tougher schedule in the next few years. She singled out a couple of players for their efforts.

"It was nice to see Lucas Penido play well today and for him to go for his shots. Kirby Dobbs and Colton McCreary stepped in and played well in doubles today. We are fortunate that we can put in many combinations of players and come out with a great team win," the coach said.

Ungerott said she has scheduled Morningside Academy, a strong tennis program, for two matches in Okeechobee in the next two weeks and is anxious to see how her boys respond to the tougher opponents.

"These types of matches will get us ready for the district tournament. We focus one day at a time and continue to get better," she added.

The Lady Brahmans rallied to defeat Port St. Lucie in an exciting match, 4-3. Kearstin Dorrance defeated Adeife Marciniar, 8-2, in the #1 singles match. Rachel Williams defeated Theona O'Brien, 8-0. April Hopenkamp defeated Evie Hollenzer, 9-7 (7-3 in tie breaker). The doubles team of Dorrance and Elizabeth Santelices defeated Juliet Graton and Marciniar, 8-5, to clinch the match for Okeechobee.

Lady Brahmans coach Stefanie Menoff admitted it was a tough match for her team but one that should help them.

"We were very close in almost every match. I'm very proud of the girls for being able to come out on top," she said.

Rachel Williams said she felt she played a good match and tries to modify her game plan to match up with her opponent.

"I just try to play my best. I feel the team has done pretty well overall. We've won some and we've lost a couple," said. " It was a good match today and we did pretty well."

Williams didn't play as a freshman but decided to come out as a sophomore. She said her aunt plays a lot of tennis and that got her interested in the sport.

Williams also enjoys the challenge of doubles play and working with her partner Kayla Orr.

"I really enjoy playing doubles. We play well together. It was tough at first but we are communicating better on the court and doing better," she said.

Lady Brahmans tennis team has good showing in tourney

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Lady Brahmans competed well in the Heartland Invitational Tennis Tournament in Highlands County on Friday and Saturday.

Chelsea Walker and Kayla Orr reached the semifinals in singles before being eliminated by Sebring. Also in the semifinals were Kearstin Dorrance who lost in straight sets to Sebring. Elizabeth Santelices had a strong tournament as she bowed out in the semifinals but not before fighting for three sets against Madison Burnett of Hardee County. Santelices fell 6-3, 3-6 and 6-2.

Rachel Williams won her first round match with Jasmine Santana of Avon Park, 6-0 and 6-4, before bowing out against Sarah Beet Rogers of Sebring, 6-1 and 6-3.

In doubles play Dorrance and Santelices reached the semis as they defeated Susana Oceguera and Abby Clark of Hardee County in straight sets, 6-1 and 6-3. Okeechobee again was eliminated by Sebring in the semifinals, 6-2 and 6-1.

OHS coach Stefanie Menoff said the girls played well but could have had a luckier draw.

"We ended up playing Sebring in multiple spots and they have a strong team. I do feel these matches were great practice for our team," she said.

Brahman Theatres III
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II: "SON OF GOD" PG-13
Fri., Tues. & Thurs. 7:00 & 9:20, Sat., Sun. & Wed. 2:00, 4:20, 7:00 & 9:20, Mon 3:00 & 7:00
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Sunday Worship 11:00 am
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Announcements

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

Estate Sale

ESTATE SALE 409 SW 15TH STREET. FRI. 2/28 7:00AM-4:00PM AND SAT. 3/1 7:00AM-2:00PM FURNITURE,BEDDING, SMALL APPLIANCES, FRAMES, BOOKS,BIKES, DISHES, LUGGAGE, A CAR AND MUCH MORE!

Garage/ Yard Sales

3 FAMILY SALE 439 SW 28TH TERR. OFF EAGLE BAY DRIVE. MARCH 1ST, 8:00AM TILL ? FISHING POLES & EQUIPMENT,TOOLS, KITCHENWARES, H.H. NICK-KNACKS,CLOTHES & ETC.

OKEECHOBEE, Friday & Saturday, Feb. 28th & March 1st. 8am-1pm. 2581 S.E. 25 Dr. Lots of Miscellaneous Items.

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OKEECHOBEE-FOUR SEASONS - 7235 NE 2nd St, FRI/SAT/SUN 2/28-3/2, 9-5. FINAL MOVING SALE all must go. Ladders, tools, TV, microwave, lawnsweeper, household, more.

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

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Employment

Employment Full Time

Maintenance Person
for full and part time positions.
Knowledgeable of plumbing, electrical, aluminum fabricating, golf course and equipment, swimming pool. Willing to learn water and sewer plant operations. All employees will have background check.
Please call 863-532-1766

Washington County School Program
At Okeechobee Youth Development Center
ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCY
MATH TEACHER (Grades 6-12)
(This school is located in a Department of Juvenile Justice Facility)
Position requirements are detailed at website:
Go to http://www.wcsdschools.com
Go to Administrative Services and click on Job Announcements
Create an account with a username and password, unless you have already completed this process.
Complete your application for a CERTIFIED POSITION and attach a resume, etc.
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APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAR. 7th, 2014 (midnight)
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CLASS A -CDL DRIVER must have DOT medical, drug free & clean driving history. 2.5 yrs. tanker endorsement. Call 863.467-9800. M-F 9:00 to 4:00.

We are immediately hiring experienced **carpenters & finishers** for a concrete construction project. Please contact Doug Creel at 305-970-9868.

Employment Part Time

CLEANING CREW
Looking for 2 person cleaning crew for a large ranch house in NW Okeechobee County. Work 4 - 6 hrs 1 day every other week M-F. Please contact 561-395-2600 ask for John Luce or Don Baker.

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

Faith Academy
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Business Opportunities

Financial

Business Opportunities

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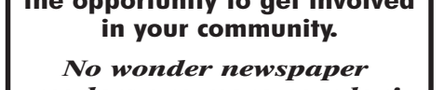

Business Opportunities

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.

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Get a quick response to any item you may be selling with a classified ad.

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115 temporary jobs from 1-Apr-2014 through 30-Nov-2014.

Duties: Perform variety of attending duties at amusement facility (traveling carnival). Set-up, tear-down, operate amusement rides, food concessions and/or games.

Post-employment, random drug testing and background checks may be required.

Travel with the carnival is required. No training or experience is required. Equal Opportunity, FLSA (13)(a)(3) exempt employer not subject to Federal hourly wage, overtime or recordkeeping requirements. No overtime expected. Overtime, if any, calculated and paid as per applicable regulations.

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Employer will pay the prevailing hourly wage for each work location, ranging from $8.22 to $10.73 per hour.

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Merit increases and/or bonuses may be awarded at employer discretion. Employer makes available mobile housing valued at $100.00/week. If employee opts to utilize this housing there will be a $35.00/week payroll deduction where permitted by state regulation.

Employer makes available transportation from venue to venue and scheduled transportation to laundry, shopping valued at $20.00/week.

Please apply by either:
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Reithoffer Shows, Inc.,
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2014 models are here! $8,500 Pre Construction Savings. Call John Lyons 800-622-2832 ext 210 for details.

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27FT. RV - WITH 10X20 FLORIDA ROOM, 10X22 CARPORT, FURNISHED, GOOD CONDITION. 55 & OLDER PARK, $6,000.00 LOW LOT RENT CALL 937-307-8884

Campers/RVs

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Automotive

Autos Wanted

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

Public Notices

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

The County Coalition for Responsible Management of Lake Okeechobee and the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries and Lake Worth Lagoon will hold the **Lake Coalition Meeting on Friday March 07, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.** in the "Judge William L. Hendry Courtroom" at the Historic Courthouse, 304 N.W. 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida.

Please take notice and be advised that if any person desires to appeal any decision made by the Coalition with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, such interested person will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose may need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Karson Turner as Chairman
County Coalition for Responsible Management of
Lake Okeechobee and St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries

Sharon Robertson, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Paula Poskon/ Deputy Clerk
462231 ON 2/28/2014

PUBLIC NOTICE: CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

The next regular scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, March 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 Gamiotea, CMC, City Clerk
462826 ON 2/28/2014

LEGAL NOTICE

Public Auction will be held at Johns Towing Service storage lot located at 704 Northeast 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34972 on MARCH 14, 2014 at 9:00 A.M. Pursuant to Florida Statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage charges. Year, make, model and VIN are as follows.

1994 FORD VAN
VIN #1FMCA11U8RZA86289
1997 CHEVY BLAZER
VIN #1GNDT13W0V2224029

Terms of sale are cash, and no checks will be accepted. Seller reserves the right of final bid. ALL SALES ARE FINAL! NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE! Said automobiles will be sold in "As Is" condition with no guarantee's.
462799 ON 2/28/2014

The classifieds are the most successful salesperson in town.

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE OKEECHOBEE COUNTY CANVASSING BOARD FOR THE 2014 ELECTION CYCLE

Pursuant to the Sunshine Law of Florida, notice is hereby given that the Okeechobee County Canvassing Board will meet at the office of the Supervisor of Elections, 304 NW 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida at 3:30 p.m. on March 6, 2014.

The board will convene for an orientation meeting to discuss matters pertaining to the 2014 election cycle.

DIANE HAGAN
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
462633 ON 2/28/2014

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

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

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2013TD054

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **BISHOP M WRIGHT SR** 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: **3216** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2011**

Description of Property: **TAYLOR CREEK DEVELOPMENT 2ND ADDITION REPLAT LOT 2**

1-36-37-35-0030-00000-0020
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
DOUGLAS FARRAR SWEET
VERA J BRIGGS
VERA J SWEET

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 **3rd day of April, 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 that 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.
459756 ON 2/21,28;3/7,14/2014

Public Notice

NOTICE OF SALE
To Satisfy Owners Lien

70 West Self Storage
2190 SR 70 West
Okeechobee, FL 34972
3-15-14 @ 10:00 AM

Unit #246 - Aero Executive Paint - Jessika C. Pantojas
Unit #249 - Aero Executive Paint - Jessika C. Pantojas
Unit #466 - Antonio R. Bonilla
462698 ON 2/28;3/7/2014

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

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

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

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2014TD018

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: **2176** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2011**

Description of Property: **ORANGE BLOSSOM RANCHES LOT 16 BLOCK 13**

1-15-36-35-0040-00130-0160
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
N & A REAL ESTATE INC
N & A REAL ESTATE IX LLC
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 **3rd day of April, 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 that 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.
459755 ON 2/21,28;3/7,14/2014

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2014TD052

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **KRINDA C CANNON** 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: **439** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2010**

Description of Property: **LOT D OF TRACT 25 W1/2 OF W1/2 OF N1/2 OF N1/2 OF TRACT 25 14 34S 33E**

1-14-34-33-0A00-00025-D000
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
BRUCE E LINN
DIANNA M JOHNSON
DONNA J LINN
EVELYN W LINN DECEASED
GREGORY D LINN
STEVEN P LINN

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 **3rd day of April, 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 that 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.
459753 ON 2/21,28;3/7,14/2014

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2014TD053

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JEFF & JENNIFER GAUTHIER** 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: **763** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2011**

Description of Property: **LOT 1 OF TRACT 08 EAST 1/2 OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF TRACT 08 SECTION 22 AS TO THE SOUTHERN COLONIZATION COMPANY PLAT OF TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH RANGE 33 EAST ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4 PAGES 3-3E INCLUSIVE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA.**

1-22-34-33-0A00-00008-I000
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
GREGORY NEVILLE

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 **3rd day of April, 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 that 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.
459754 ON 2/21,28;3/7,14/2014

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO: 2012-000075-CA

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP,
Plaintiff,
VS.
RICHARD THOMPSON A/K/A RICHARD R. THOMPSON, et al,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE
TO: UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF RICHARD THOMPSON A/K/A RICHARD R. THOMPSON whose residence is unknown if he/she/they be living; and if he/she/they be dead, the unknown defendants who may be spouses, heirs, devisee's, grantees, assignees, lien ors, creditors, trustees, and all parties claiming an interest by, through, under or against the Defendants, who are not known to be dead or alive, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in OKEECHOBEE County, Florida:
LOTS 14 AND 15, THE PINE LANDS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, PAGE(S) 35, PUBLIC RECORDS OF. OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORID.
has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on TRIP SCOOT, P.A., the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 110 S.E. th Street, 15th Floor, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301, within 30 days from the date of the first publication of this Notice of Action) and file this original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition filed herein.
WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court at Okeechobee County, Florida, this 24th day of Feb., 2014.
SHARON ROBERTSON
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
BY: Arlene Nealis
TRIPP SCOTT, P.A.
ATTN.. FORECLOSURE DEPARTMENT
110 S.E. 6th STREET, 15TH FLOOR
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
foreclosures@trippscott.coln
462725 ON 2/28;3/7/2014

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
462725 ON 2/28;3/7/2014

NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF NAMES OF POTENTIALLY INELIGIBLE VOTERS

Pursuant to Section 98.075(7) of the Florida Statutes, the following persons are hereby notified that they are potentially ineligible to be registered to vote. Failure to respond within thirty (30) days of this notice may result in determination of ineligibility by the Supervisor of Elections and removal of the registered voter's name from the statewide voter registration system.

William M. Clark
Last known address:
8680 SE Hwy 441
Okeechobee, FL

Johnathan K. Peppers
Last known address:
1506 SE 8th Dr.
Okeechobee, FL

Scott A. Johnstone
Last known address:
7291 SE 8th St.
Okeechobee, FL

If further assistance is needed, please contact the Okeechobee County Supervisor of Elections.

Diane Hagan,
Okeechobee County
Supervisor of Elections
304 NW 2nd St, Room 144
Okeechobee, FL 34972
(863)763-4014
462634 ON 2/28/2014

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

ANSWER:

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).

• Melanie Sue Olds, 33, N.E. 12th Lane, Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 25 by Deputy Matthew Grumbling on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with the felony of dealing in stolen property. Her bond was set at $20,000.

• Norma Mae Price, 72, S.R. 70 W., Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 25 by Deputy Corporal Chris Hans on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with the felony of introduction of contraband into a county detention facility. Her bond was set at $5,000.

• Gary Dennis Padgett, 63, N.W. 32nd Drive, Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 25 by Deputy Paul Jackson on DOC warrants charging him with the felonies of violation of probation - aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and violation of probation - purchase of a controlled substance (cocaine). He is being held without bond.

• Donald H. Nettles, 47, N.W. 98th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 25 by Deputy Matt Hurst on an amended DOC warrant charging him with the felonies of violation of probation - burglary of an occupied structure and violation of probation - petit theft. He is being held without bond.

• Jason Allen Milner, 34, Block Island Road, Wellington, was arrested Feb. 26 by Deputy Timothy Porter on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the misdemeanor of violation of probation - boating under the influence. He is being held without bond.

• Douglas Giles, 56, U.S. 441 N., Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 26 by Deputy Timothy Porter on a DOC warrant charging him with the felony of violation of probation - unemployment compensation fraud. He is being held without bond.

• Robert Lee Holmes, 48, N.E. 15th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 26 by Deputy Leland Schoonmaker on a DOC warrant charging him with the felonies of violation of probation - sale of a controlled substance (cocaine) and violation of probation - possession of a controlled substance (cocaine) with intent to sell. 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.

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

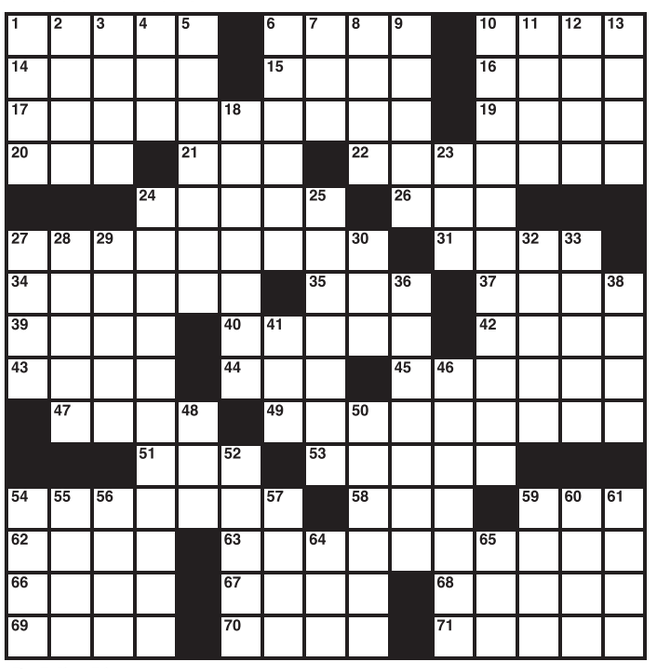
ACROSS
1 Derby drink
6 Scully on "The X-Files"
10 "Wasn't I amazing?!"
14 Met offering
15 Carded at a club
16 "It's __ to tell ..."
17 Caribbean preserves?
19 "Amazing!"
20 NBA tiebreakers
21 Mineo of movies
22 Vitality
24 WWI's Red __
26 Moths-flame connector
27 South American fellow?
31 Backed-up, in a way
34 Lined up
35 Not blabbing
37 __-Z: classic Camaro
39 The Bee Gees' "Gee"
40 Fred's dancing sister
42 Prefix with -naut
43 Japanese noodle
44 "__ durn tootin'!"
45 Arrives
47 Zero, to Zapata
49 North American food container?
51 Available sans Rx
53 Hogwarts motto language
54 On a rampage
58 Oatmeal cooker
59 Corp. leader's degree
62 Many a Saudi
63 Balkan priestly vestment?
66 Oscar winner Minnelli
67 Brio
68 Harriet's TV hubby
69 Bakery worker
70 Polite rural agreement
71 Ceaselessly

DOWN
1 One-named singer with the debut album "Leave (Get Out)"
2 __ the crack of dawn
3 Moon landers, briefly
4 Internet __
5 Pal
6 Play exchange
7 Noun modifier: Abbr.
8 Spring tide counterpart
9 Allow entry
10 East African beachgoer's color?
11 On a liner, say
12 Cameron on camera
13 1998 insect-world animated film
18 Seed used in sauerkraut
23 Cagey locale?
24 West Indies watering hole?
25 C or D, to old Romans
27 A cappella group bookings
28 Confederacy foe
29 Start of a Flintstone cry
30 Brynner of "The Ten Commandments"
32 Dimin.'s opposite
33 Andrea __: ill-fated ship
36 Nuclear test unit
38 Yale Univ. state
41 Yule's mo.
46 Textbook update specification
48 Got into a stew?
50 Flamethrower fuel
52 __ eights
54 Indonesian island
55 "Modern Family" actor Stonestreet
56 Demolish, as a building
57 Bauhaus painter Paul
59 Pencil puzzle
60 Pancake with caviar
61 In the sack
64 Eng. majors' degrees
65 Nitrogenous dye

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com



By Julian Lim
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SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

Real Estate Directory

LAKE OKEECHOBEE ACCESS JUST OFF TAYLOR CREEK - Newly updated home with high end laminate, newly painted inside and out, vaulted ceilings and ceiling fans in every room. This includes two lots and the other lot has a Carolina shed with carport, newly painted. A boat dock behind each property. Lot has new electrical and full RV hookup. New septic, patio has new roof. Yard has fruit trees. MLS 207786, **$149,000.**

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Vicki Anderson
Lic. RE Broker
863-634-4106
For more Information

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Betty Hazellief, 863-610-0144
Sharon Prevatt, 863-634-7069
Dee Reeder, 863-610-2485

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ON 5 ACRES

5017-H: Sunset Strip - Luxury 2-story 4 br, 4 ba Lg 9000 SF metal barn w/tack rm, screened in pool, pond, plus **so much more**! Must see to believe! ~~$549,000~~ **NOW $529,000** MLS #207283

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

5030-H: Okee Golf Estate. 3/2 on ½ 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

3003-M: Ancient Oaks. Neat 1BR/1BA RV. Shed with washer and dryer back porch. All the appliances are in the RV. **$28,000 Owner financing available.** MLS #206858

ON 2+/- ACRES

5015-H: Crooked Creek 5 br, 5½ ba Spanish style home. 8,488 Total Sq Ft/6,159 under air. 10 ft ceilings, lg arch frame windows and more ~~$389,000~~ **NOW $358,999** MLS #207286

LAKE ACCESS

3000-M: Treasure Island 2 br, 2 ba SW w/large addition. 1162 Total Sq Ft/1134 under air. Two sheds, boathouse, dock seawall, pontoon boat and more! ~~$55,000~~ **NOW $45,000** MLS #207230

• **Commercial** Corner Lot (SE 88th Blvd) **$33,000** MLS #207398 • **Basswood Lots** starting at **$3,000** • **Commercial** 1.84+/-acre Okee Hammock Hwy 441 **$75,000** MLS# 207402 • **Pine Ridge lot $7,500** MLS #207132 • **Potter Rd** (NW 30th Ter) 5+/- acres **$38,000** • **319+/-acres** on Hwy 441 N **$4,000,000** • **55+/-acres** on SR 710 **$330,000.** Make Offer! • **Oak Park** 2-lots side-by-side with large shady trees. **$10,000 each** • **In town lot** (SW 5th St) **$3,900** MLS #206637 • **14+/- acres** of commercial property on the Rim Canal with lake access. **$1,500,000** MLS #207408

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$69,000

Hwy 78 West Near Okee-Tantie. 2 Bed 2 bath CBS Home. Features include a large waterfront lot, bonus room which can be finished to a third bedroom, Screen room, and More. MLS#207825

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(subject to approval; call for terms and conditions)

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John Arrigo
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2014 Grand Cherokee Laredo
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170 AVAILABLE AT SIMILAR SAVINGS

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2014 200 Sedan
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2014 300
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2014 T&C Touring
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115 AVAILABLE AT SIMILAR SAVINGS

DODGE

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140 AVAILABLE AT SIMILAR SAVINGS

2014 Avenger
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2014 Charger
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RAM

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2014 C/V
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4 AVAILABLE AT SIMILAR SAVINGS

2014 2500 Crew Cab 4x4
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