Okeechobee News

Vol. 105 No. 50 | Friday, April 25, 2014 | 50¢ Plus tax

Bass club hosts tourney... Page 8

Lake Levels

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Sheriff accepts budget compromise

By Katrina Elsken
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County Board of Commissioners Thursday made Sheriff Paul May an offer of an additional $500,000 to fund the sheriff's office, jail and courthouse security for the remainder of the 2013-14 fiscal year.

This brings the sheriff's budget to $13.6 million for the current fiscal year.

"The appeal has been settled," said Sheriff May. "I have accepted the offer of $500,000 to finish out this year and I have informed them I know what is coming next year.

"As of Oct. 1, they can run the jail and court security, and I will run law enforcement," he said.

Oct. 1 is the start of a new fiscal year.

The sheriff had originally requested a budget of $15.3 million. The county commission budgeted $13.1 million.

The sheriff then offered a reduced budget of $14.8 million, but the county adopted the $13.1 million budget. The sheriff appealed the budget dispute to Tallahassee, which was to be reviewed by Governor Rick Scott's Cabinet.

On April 3, the county offered the sheriff an additional $334,000, but no agreement was

See **BUDGET** — Page 19

Special to the Okeechobee News

Rec. dept. hosts annual 'Eggstravaganza'

The Okeechobee County Recreation Department hosted the annual Easter Eggstravaganza in the county park on Northwest Sixth Avenue. The egg hunt kicked off at 11 a.m. with more than 125 hunters. Eggs were filled with candy for everyone to enjoy. About 125 prize eggs were hidden that resemble a baseball, basketball, football or soccer ball. Those eggs were traded in for goody bags. Free shaved ice and popcorn were a big hit as the line didn't seem to quit. Children of all ages received small toys and prizes just for participating in traditional Easter games. A special thank you to the helpers and participants who made it a success.

Prize check is a scam

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

When Mary Jane Roberts opened the envelope and saw she had won a sweepstakes prize of $395,000 and found a check in that same envelope made out to her for $4,950.68, she just couldn't believe her good fortune.

"I looked at it and thought 'Oh, my God, $4,000.' I thought nothing could be that good," she said.

Then after telling her adult children about her good fortune, she learned it wasn't.

"The kids came over and told me to throw it away," she added.

When asked, Mrs. Roberts said she had not entered any sweepstakes.

'Course, it would be hard for her to know for sure she hadn't entered this sweepstakes since the letter gave no indication as to the name of the alleged contest.

According to that prize notice from Credit Suisse Wealth Management in Baltimore, Md., the $4,950.68 was the initial payment on her prize winnings. The notice directed her to deposit that check into her bank account. Then, after depositing the check, Mrs. Roberts was directed to send $3,200 to Susan Pattison in Baltimore, who is a purported transfer agent for the sweepstakes.

See **SCAM** — Page 19

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Special to the Okeechobee News

Project Prom helps local teens

Project Prom was such a success, organizers are holding a second day for teens to come and get a dress or suit, Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Library, 206 S.W. 16th St. On April 19, more than 100 teens obtained prom clothing from Project Prom. This weekend the program will be opened up to eighth grade formal, church formals and the high school prom. No financial questions are asked. The prom wear, donated by local residents, includes a wide variety of sizes, colors and styles. More than 100 of the donated dresses are still available. Parents are encouraged to come with the student to choose prom wear. Pictured at Saturday's event are (left to right) Anna West, Courtney Moyett, Tammi Kelly, Teresa Chandler and Maggie Buccino.

Pet of the week

Red is a 2-year-old male chihuahua, who is playful and happy. He wants a home of his own. He is available for adoption at Okeechobee Humane Society/Pet Rescue on Highway 98, next door to the Livestock Market. For more information, contact Humane Society Pet Rescue Florida, at 863-357-1104. To see more available animals go to petfinder.com. Homes are also needed to "foster" animals who are waiting for a permanent adoptive home.

Special to the Okeechobee News

Okeechobee Forecast

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Today: Patchy fog before 8 am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 91. Light and variable wind becoming southwest 5 to 10 mph in the morning.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 63. West wind around 5 mph becoming calm after midnight.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 91. Calm wind becoming northwest around 5 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 67. East wind around 5 mph.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 4pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 91. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

Sunday Night: A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. East southeast wind 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!

Medical marijuana

• Our last three presidents admit to smoking reefer, and now our Attorney General finally 'fesses up publicly "he has too," but he only "tried it" and it was nothing but "youthful experimentation." In 2003, our federal government obtained the federal patent for medical cannabis, sewing it away from others in order to get their paws on the gold mine when legalization is finally nationwide. Their reports and findings listed in the patent application touts experiment after experiment of the beneficial properties of cannabinoids in humans with regard to many, many different ailments and disabilities ... yet they continue to publicly claim, "There are no medical benefits," thus leaving cannabis scheduled as a class I narcotic, resulting in people being arrested every single day for possession or use whether it be for medical or recreation; oh, the hypocrisy!

• I can see no reason that the strain of marijuana known as Charlotte's Web should not be approved for legal use to treat seizures in children. This strain does not get anyone high. There would be no reason for anyone to abuse it because it only has medicinal uses. Right now the parents of these children have to move the family to a state where the treatment their child needs is legal. I hope the Florida Legislature and the governor do the right thing and approve the medicinal use of Charlotte's Web.

Trespassing

• The federal government (BLM) is spending millions of dollars to round up cows that are trespassing, but the Obama Administration told ICE to stop arresting and detaining illegal aliens that are trespassing in this country. According to the administration there are no illegal aliens in this country.

Stop

• I hope those who run stop signs and red lights read this. I see cars come out of the shopping centers and don't even slow down to a rolling stop. They just pull out and heaven help anybody that is in the way. Someday they are going to cause a serious accident and lives could be taken. You see on the news and in the papers every day where there has been an accident which involves lost lives and injured people. So, the next time you approach a stop sign, please stop as it may be your life that is lost. The same applies to traffic lights. Don't run through the red light. When that light turns yellow you are supposed to stop. The life you save may be your own.

News updates

• What's up with the sheriff department's web site? They aren't putting recent arrests up. The newspaper is more current than they are. A lot has happened in the past couple of weeks and the public deserves current information. *Editor's note: The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office is now posting their arrests daily. Go to their web site then click on the 'Daily Arrest Report' box on the right side of the page.*

Letters to the editor

Benefit support appreciated

On Jan. 18 our son Walter Morgan suffered third-degree burns over 80% of his body. He was airlifted to Tampa General Hospital where he underwent several surgeries. He was released on April 3 and is making great improvements. We want to thank everyone who helped us during that very rough time. Great thanks to the Okeechobee City Police Department, the Okeechobee County Sheriffs Department, the Okeechobee City Fire Department, the many local businesses and all of the wonderful people of Okeechobee.

Thank you!

Scott and Cherie Morgan

Thank You Okeechobee!

Through everyone's generous donations, over 200 children in Okeechobee were able to celebrate the joy of Easter this season!

A few weeks ago I sent a Letter to the Editor requesting the assistance of the community and everyone came through in a very big way! This past week, Okeechobee Christian Academy students were able to assemble over 200 Easter baskets, using the many items that were donated. The baskets were donated to Jill Rogers with Communities in Schools who distributed them to children in Okeechobee who may not otherwise receive a basket. This project would not have been successful without everyone's help and participation.

We would like to say a special thank you to Waste Management and the B.R.A.T. Club for donating the baskets for us to fill. We would also like to thank American Drilling Services, Inc., The 1-Stop Party Shop, The Brown Cow Sweetery, WOKC, Bank of America, The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Department, The Okeechobee City Police Department, The Pregnancy Center of Okeechobee, Wemmer Family Orthodontics, Everglades Pediatric Dentistry, Seacoast National Bank, Suntrust Bank, CenterState Bank, TD Bank, Teez 2 Pleez, Okeechobee Christian Academy, and The Dollar Tree for allowing us to place collection boxes at their businesses. We would also like to thank Jackie Bass, Yvonne Morgan, Betty Knight and to everyone who contributed to this project.

This is another example of why I love Okeechobee! We are so blessed to live in a community that truly cares when it comes to the children, and still pulls together to help each other when there is a need. When we give a little, God can make it go a long way!

If you would like more information on Okeechobee Christian Academy, please call 863-763-3072 and if you would like to find out more about Communities in Schools, please call Jill at 863-462-5125, ext. 128.

Thank you!

Sarah Reno

Okeechobee Christian Academy

Special to the Okeechobee News

Over 200 children in Okeechobee were able to celebrate the joy of Easter with an Easter basket provided through the Okeechobee Christian Academy and Communities in Schools.

Rotary donates to Grad Night

On April 15, the Rotary Club of Okeechobee was proud to continue its support of the local community by presenting a donation to Okeechobee's Grad Night. The Rotary Club is teaming up with the Okeechobee Kiwanis Club to ensure the graduating high school seniors have a safe and fun night to celebrate their accomplishment. Pictured are president Donna Gaiser (left) and Rotarian and Grad Night committee member Kristy Crawford (right).

Special to the Okeechobee News

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

Address: 107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D Okeechobee, FL 34974
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To Submit News

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

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

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

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Our Purpose...

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

We Pledge...

- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
- To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
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- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
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- To correct our errors and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

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Healthy Families program helps prevent child abuse

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

A presentation on Healthy Families for Martin and Okeechobee Counties highlighted the monthly meeting of the Okeechobee Community Collaborative Council on Tuesday.

Carolyn Moses said Healthy Families receive funding from the Children Services Council of Okeechobee that allowed them to hire a part-time family services counselor. They also receive funding from the state legislature. It is a child abuse prevention program and it enrolls families prior to incidents of abuse and neglect.

Moses said many of these parents have had prior abuse problems growing up. The program also provides early intervention services and prenatal care, and skills, knowledge and bonds early in the life of a child to avoid future abuse problems. They work with pregnant mothers to give them skills they need to be a good parent.

Initial risk screens are given on families to assess what kind of risk they have of abuse.

They look at social and economic factors that can impact parenting in a positive or negative way.

Unplanned pregnancies, incidents of abuse, teenage parents, and other risks are studied to evaluate each case. They also educate parents of resources that are available to them in the community.

It is a free and voluntary program. The counselors have interviews with parents at their home in a casual way and look at their financial situation, explore their childhood, who raised them, ask were there any mental health challenges or domestic abuse issues and other topics.

Moses said it is an in-depth program that really works. They look into the social support a family has, assist in the potty training of a child, and proper discipline techniques.

"Will those people actually tell you these things? Honestly, they really do. A lot has to do with having a kind compassionate person talking to you who wants to help you," she noted.

There is a full-time staff of seven workers and counselors here in Okeechobee. The average length of time a family spends in the program is between three and five years.

They also help the parents realize the potential of problems with others who may care for the child. "Many know very little about the father and most of these are unplanned pregnancies. We do have a lot of teens and mothers who were not ready for a child," she added.

They also provide information on how to cope with crying, bathroom safety around water, how kids can be safe around pets, choosing care givers and safe sleeping techniques.

"A lot of neglect comes from the lack of knowledge—knowledge is power. We want to give parents tools to put in their tool kits," she added.

She recalled a recent incident where a father working two jobs who was stressed almost shook his baby to death. The mother had received skills from her visits and noticed the signs and was able to step in before a tragedy occurred.

Self sufficiency, continued education and goal setting are other life improvements that are encouraged for these parents.

"Prevention services cost less and have long-lasting effects. Put in a good word with legislators as session is going on because the services are needed," she added. If more funds can be obtained from the state, local programs could be expanded in Okeechobee. The office is located at 605 S.W. Park St., suite 212.

Over 200 families and over 400 children have been served in Okeechobee County by this program.

The local office phone number is 863-523-5119.

In her report, Facilitator Sharon Vinson urged the group to provide donations and other support to the annual Grad Night celebration for OHS graduates on Saturday, June 7.

Okeechobee summer activity guides will be available for distribution on the first Thursday in May. Each student in the school system receives a copy to bring home.

The council agreed to support a back-to-school supply drive this summer to benefit My Aunt's House and needy children in Okeechobee.

The council continues to endorse the continuance of the Okeechobee Children Services Council in November. About 8,000 kids were assisted in some form by the council in the past year. The council is reviewing 29 requests for funding this year, the largest amounts they've ever received. They will decide on the grants on May 6. A total of $785,000 was requested by the 29 agencies this year.

Mrs. Vinson said the group should remind the public at every opportunity the importance of the Children Services Council.

The Healthy Start Coalition set their annual meeting for May 16. They are also holding a special event for teens from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Okeechobee High School this Thursday to hand out toiletries and snacks.

Amanda Blewitt said 208 Easter baskets were handed out to teen parents and families from the Communities in Schools this year. All-star camp, Sheriffs Boot camp, and skate board camp signups are coming up in May.

The Okeechobee County Commission and City Council will proclaim May as teen pregnancy awareness month.

Okeechobee News/**Charles Murphy**
Carolyn Moses of United for Families spoke to the Okeechobee Community Collaborative Council on Tuesday.

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May 7 is National Day To Prevent Teen Pregnancy

Special to the Okeechobee News

Hundreds of thousands of teens nationwide are expected to participate in the 13th annual National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy on May 7. The purpose of the National Day is to focus the attention of teens on the importance of avoiding too-early pregnancy and parenthood through an interactive online quiz.

On the National Day, teens nationwide are asked to go http://www.StayTeen.org and take the National Day Quiz, which challenges them to think carefully about what they might do "in the moment" though a series of interactive scenarios.

The latest news on the teen pregnancy front has been incredibly positive. Since the early 1990s, teen pregnancy and birth rates in the United State have declined by 44 percent and 52 percent respectively and are now at record low levels. The teen birth rate declined by an additional six percent in 2012 alone and is at historic lows for all age groups and all ethnic and racial groups.

However, teen pregnancy continues to be a critical issue here in Okeechobee. In the years 2010 to 2012, for every 1000 females between the ages of 14 to 19, 221 gave birth to a child and 38 of those were repeat pregnancies.

The Okeechobee Teen Pregnancy Prevention Task Force, with the goal of decreasing teen pregnancy through collaborative efforts in promoting comprehensive education, self-respect and healthy decision, believes that parents/caregivers are the first and most influential source of sexual education for the children and adolescents.

The Task Force would like to encourage both parents/caregivers and their teens to participate in the National Day by going to http://www.StayTeen.org and taking the National Day Quiz together in hope that it will help start a dialogue between them about sex and contraception, the possibility of pregnancy, and the lifelong challenges of being a parent. The quiz can be taken throughout the month of May.

For more information on the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, please visit http://TheNationalCampaign.org/event/national-day-2014. For more information about the local Teen Pregnancy Prevention Task Force, you can contact Rosalind Brown at 863-462-5777 or Rosalind.Brown@FLHealth.Gov.

Swim team sets fundraiser

The OHS swim team will host a fundraising golf tournament Saturday, **May 17**, at Blue Heron Golf Course from 8:30 a.m. until noon. This is one of the biggest fundraising events the swim team does and is an important one to say the least. The goal of this fundraiser is to keep the cost as low as possible for the families involved in OHS swimming. For information, call 610-945-8337.

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.

Johnny 'Tommy' Thomas Peterson, 58

OKEECHOBEE — Tommy Peterson died April 23, 2014. He was born Dec. 14, 1955 in West Palm Beach to Johnny Mack and Agnes Eula Mae Peterson.

A lifetime resident of Okeechobee, he was a member of the Church of God. He enjoyed hog hunting and raising dogs.

Mr. Peterson was preceded in death by his parents, Johnny Mack and Agnes Eula Mae Peterson and his brother, Dennis Richard Peterson.

He is survived by his wife, Angela Peterson; son, Chad Peterson; daughter, Alanna Kelly (Bryan); six grandchildren, Brett, Justin, Cody, Madalyn, Bryanna and Tracey; brothers, Earl Peterson (Susie), Danny Rae Peterson (Juanita) and Tony Peterson.

The family will receive friends 3 p.m. until services at 4 p.m. Friday, April 25, 2014 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Hospice of Okeechobee, PO Box 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973.

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.

Leah Johns Minnick, 74

OKEECHOBEE — Leah Johns Minnick died April 24, 2014. She was born September 4, 1939 in Okeechobee to Lois Johns Micco. A lifetime resident of Okeechobee, she was employed for 35 years as the Director of Elders for the Seminole Tribe of Florida. She was a member of First Indian Baptist of Brighton. She was a cattlewoman and enjoyed fishing, spending time with her family, shopping and camping. She was a devoted fan of the Miami Dolphins.

Ms. Minnick was preceded in death by her daughter, Catherine Madrigal.

She is survived by two sons, John Madrigal (Mahala) of Brighton and Howard Madrigal (Letty) of Okeechobee; two daughters, Deborah Carter and Donna Turtle both of Brighton; ten grandchildren; and fifteen great grandchildren.

Graveside funeral services will be 1 p.m., Sunday, April 27, 2014 at Ortona Cemetery with Matt Tiger officiating.

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.

William Joseph DeBruyne, 81

OKEECHOBEE — William Joseph DeBruyne, 81 of Okeechobee passed away on April 20, 2014 at Raulerson Hospital.

He was a truck driver and Teamster. Bill was a member to the VFW, American Legion and Eagles.

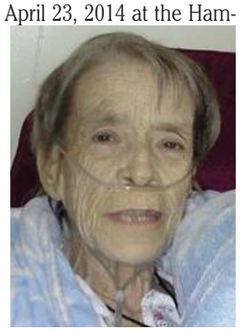
Mr. DeBruyne is survived locally by Patricia Miller of Okeechobee.

No services are scheduled at this time.

Arrangements are under the direction of Seawinds Funeral and Crematory. 3833 SE 18th Terrace, Okeechobee.

Online condolences may be expressed at www.okeechobeeseawinds.com

Gale Graham, 64



OKEECHOBEE — Gale Graham, 64, of Okeechobee passed away April 23, 2014 at the Hamrick House.

Gale was a resident of Okeechobee for 45 yrs. coming from Williston.

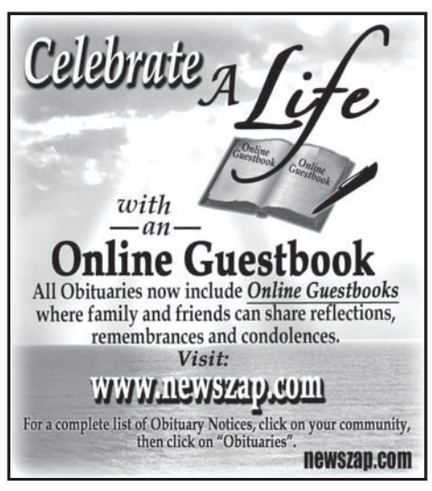
Gale was of the Baptist Faith.

Mrs. Graham is survived by daughter, Teresa Allen of Palm City; son, Phillip Harris of Okeechobee; daughters, Patricia Hunter of Okeechobee and Johnnie Rollison of Ga.; son, Billy Harris; sister, Joyce Ridaught; 21 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Services will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are under the care of Seawinds Funeral Home and Crematory, 3833 SE 18th Terrace, Okeechobee, FL 34974

Online condolences may be expressed at okeechobeeseawinds.com



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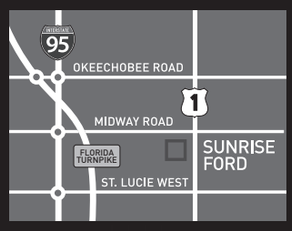

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Koren/Chastain team win bass club tourney

Special to the Okeechobee News

Taylor Creek Bass Club fished their April Tournament out of Okee-Tantie on Saturday, April 12. The team of Steve Koren brought in total of 24.47 lbs. to the scales for the win. Close behind, Bill Seitz and Al Willis took the second place award with total weight of 24.30 lbs. Vicky Brackin and John Schoonmaker finished in third place with total weight of 23.03.

Danny Norton and Bill Pattison took the "Big Fish" award with their 6.71 lbs. catch. Vicky Brackin and John Schoonmaker catch the Second Big Fish 6.18 lbs.

The Taylor Creek Bass Club meets at the Buck Head Ridge VFW Post 9528 on the second Thursday of each month. Tournaments are held the following weekend.

New boaters and (especially) non-boaters are welcome. For information, call Keith Jones, 518-423-8262, or Vicky Brackin 863-528-2027.

Normal tournaments will be "draw team tournaments" with points earned individually for Fisherman of the Year and monetary awards earned as a team. The "classic championship" tournament is held in December.

Special to the Okeechobee News

Danny Norton (right) and Bill Pattison (left) won the big fish award with a 6.71-lb. largemouth.

Special to the Okeechobee News

Bill Seitz (left) and Al Willis (right) took second place with a total weight of 24.30 lbs.

Special to the Okeechobee News

Vicky Brackin and John Shoonmaker finished in the third with a total weight of 23.03 lbs.

Special to the Okeechobee News

Steve Koren and Byron Chastain won the top spot with a total weight of 24.47 lbs.

Submitted photo/**OCSO**

Help for Fonseca

Rogelio Betancurt (left) was the recent winner of the items pictured that were given away as part of a benefit for Eleden 'Ellie' Fonseca (right). The benefit raised $3,302.20 to help Mrs. Fonseca with medical expenses. Mrs. Fonseca is the daughter of Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office employee Angie Rodriguez.

Special to the Okeechobee News/**Marilyn Rinear**

Morning Coffee League winners

Congratulations to Pogey's Restaurant-sponsored team for winning first place in the Thursday Morning Coffee League at Lucky Lanes. Left to right are Linda Bohannon, Phyllis Vest, Marilyn Rinear and Ila Bylsma. The team won in a three-game roll-off after tying with the team sponsored by Bill's Mini Mart.

15th annual Easter Cantata Concert performed

Special to the Okeechobee News

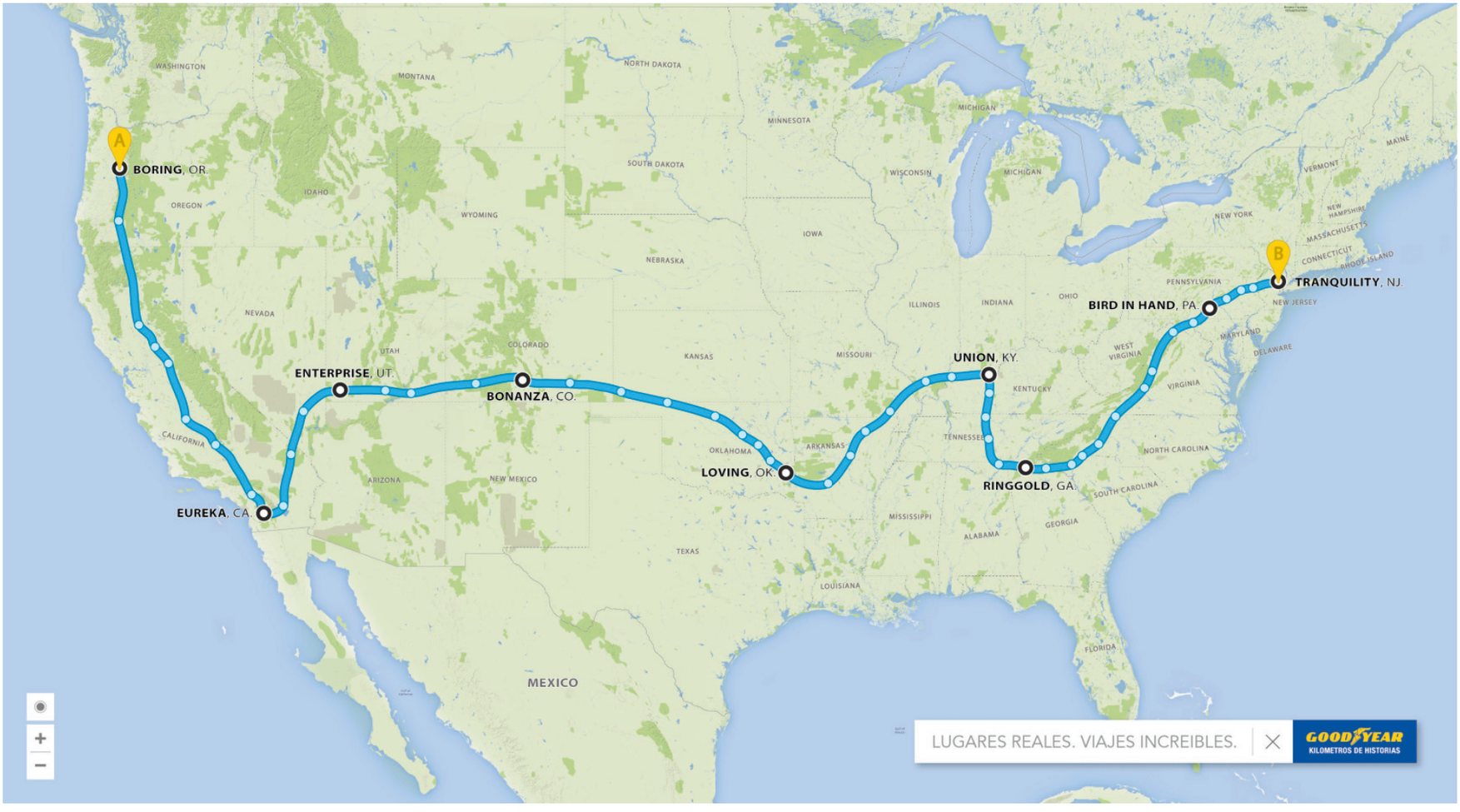
The Okeechobee Community Choir, under the direction of Sandy Perry, recently presented its 15th annual Easter Cantata Concert consisting of seasonal favorites and the cantata, "Who Is This King?" at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church. The choir, comprised this season of 47 singers representing 19 area churches, has presented a Christmas and Easter cantata annually since December of 1999. Local residents and northern visitors who read music a little and can match pitch are encouraged to join. (Less than 25 percent of the members sing solos regularly at their home churches.)

Churches represented were: Bible Truth, Buckhead Ridge Christian, Church in the Woods, Church of Our Saviour, Everglades Baptist, Faith Tabernacle, First Baptist, First Baptist of Lake Josephine, First United Methodist, Grace Community International, KOA Community, Northside Baptist, Okeechobee Presbyterian, Peace Lutheran, Sacred Heart Catholic, Seventh-Day Adventist, The Gathering, Victory Baptist and Westside Christian.

The choir is especially proud of the three new members which brings to five the number of members less than 23 years of age. The choir is grateful to Susan Giddings of The Okeechobee Magazine who videoed the Sunday afternoon concert which can be found at www.okeechobeethemagazine.com. The annual Christmas Cantata Concert is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 19-21.

Special to the Okeechobee News

The Easter Cantata choir included: (seated left to right, front row): Arleen Fanter, Elsie Landers, Joy Kidwell, Becky Fleeger, Jerry Ellsworth, Betsy Cheney and Judi Allen. (second row, seated) Ramona Tuttle, Alexis Devin, Shirley Schmeckpeper, (standing) Debby Huntley, Ginny Bryant, Dale Bryant, Lonnie Kirsch, Merle Bass, Jo Norris, Gloria Jarriel and Sandy Perry (Director). (third row) Carol Dorr, Karen Murphy, Chris Sufficool, Melanie Mello, Joy Jarriel, Christine Jones, Anthony Armstrong, Blaire Law, JoAnn Kane, Jeanne Stickler, and seated, Canda Patterson, Norma Entry, (back row) Marlene Burns, Elsie Ratliff, Nicolle Wood (narrator), Andrew Smiley, Bobby Huntley (sound design), Gary Foord, Reuben Law, John Sufficool, Chris Askeland, Mike Zierden, Dave Fanter, Ron Murphy, Fred Allen, Al Young, Karyne Brass and Connie Shelton. Not pictured are: Allen Patterson-Sound (lights and photographer), Raymond Rosenbaum-Lights, Victoria Davito-Soprano and Lister Goble-Bass.



IRSC School of Business hosts information session

Gaining the competitive edge in today's business climate is more critical than ever, and a degree from Indian River State College is the ideal platform for business success. Find out how IRSC can provide the skills to advance a career in business at the upcoming School of Business Information Session on Tuesday, April 29, at 6 p.m. in C-112 at the Dixon Hendry Campus at 2229 N.W. Ninth Ave. in Okeechobee.

Information on financial aid, scholarships, program options and registration will be available. Attendees will have the opportunity to find out more about degrees offered by the IRSC School of Business, including Associate Degrees in Business Administration, Marketing Management and Accounting as well as learn about bachelor's degrees in Accounting, Business Administration and Organizational Management. Participants can also learn about certificate programs and Business Technology programs, including Aquaculture, Landscape and Horticulture and Golf Course Operations

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Special to the Okeechobee New/**SEMES**

Seminole Students of the Week

Seminole Elementary would like to congratulate their Students of the Week for the week of April 3: Darrell Harden, Sean Zamora, Victor Cardoso, Orrin Wilkerson, Serenity Engelman, Leslie Cortez, Kiara Alvarado, Steviya Fitzpatrick, Danny Leal, Danya Nieto, Adrian Guillen, Julie Castaneda, Jo'Navia Sewell, Ronan Guerette, Hannah Adams, Briseida Medina, Bethany Sallette, Javier Bucio, Christian Martinez, Gerardo Baltazar, Kevin Litteral, Leo Rodriguez, Karina Maldonado, Rosalinda Torres, Victoria Cardoso, Ashley Marker, Shalondra Santos, Ricky Tijerina and Ruben Omar Rosales de Santiago.

Special to the Okeechobee News/**SES**

South Students of the Week

Congratulations to the Students of the Week at South Elementary School for the Week of April 3. They are: Hayden Slovenski, Justice Sanchez, Arissa Carnley, Eli Yeates, Ian Murray, Fernando Sandoval, Alondra Ceron, Terry Allen, Emily Rucks, Trenton Timmes, KaMya Tyson, Victor Lopez Diaz, Brennan Speak, Cassidy Hastings, Jayden Mills, Jerome Roundtree and Cayden Jones.

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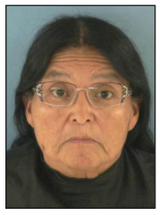
Traffic stop leads to pill arrest

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News


Linda Tommie

A Glades County woman has been released on bond following her arrest on felony drug charges when prescription pills were allegedly found on her by a deputy during a traffic stop.

Linda Sue Tommie, 57, of Reservation Road, was arrested Wednesday, April 23, on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance (oxycodone) without a prescription, possession of a controlled substance (methadone) without a prescription and possession of a controlled substance (cocaine). She was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

She was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of $10,250.

According to an arrest report by Deputy Leland Schoonmaker, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), he stopped a 2011 black Ford pickup truck around 8:21 p.m. because the tag lights were not working. Tommie was the lone occupant of the vehicle, added the deputy.

After having Tommie get out of her vehicle, the deputy reportedly noticed she appeared to be very nervous and was pacing back and forth in front of his patrol unit.

Deputy Schoonmaker then asked for, and received, permission to search Tommie's purse. During that search he found two small bags containing a substance that, when field tested, indicated the presence of cocaine, stated the arrest report.

He then turned to search her vehicle and as he walking toward the truck he reportedly heard something hit the ground. When he turned around he apparently saw two black straws lying on the ground where she was standing. Those straws also contained a white powder that, when field tested, allegedly indicated the presence of cocaine.

OCSO Deputy Tammy Serafini arrived on scene and during a search of Tommie's person she reportedly found a round container. In the container were 17 methadone pills and six oxycodone pills, stated the report.

Deputy Schoonmaker indicated Tommie did not have a prescription for those pills.

The deputy also indicated in his report that he issued Tommie a warning ticket for the non-functioning tag lights.

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).

• Cassandra Lynette Hamilton, 28, Gamble St., Moore Haven, was arrested April 22 by Deputy Matthew Grumbling on a felony charge of fraudulent use of a credit card and a misdemeanor charge of filing a false report with a law enforcement officer. Her bond was set at $5,750.

• Courtenay Smith, 23, Milton Road, Milton, was arrested April 22 by Deputy Corporal Aric Majere on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felony of lewd or lascivious exhibition in the presence of a correctional facility employee. His bond was set at $1,000.

• Adam Thomas Davis, 18, N.W. 35th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested April 22 by Deputy Cpl. Aric Majere on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felony of burglary with an assault or battery. His bond was set at $250,000.

• Ryan Andrew Tiger, 21, N.E. 11th St., Okeechobee, was arrested April 23 by Officer Michael Jordan on a felony charge of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence, criminal mischief, using a firearm while under the influence of alcohol, possession of marijuana under 20 grams and resisting a law enforcement officer without violence. His bond was set at $15,000.

• Timothy Deshon Williams, 24, N.W. 35th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested April 23 by Deputy Tammy Serafini on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with burglary of a dwelling with an assault or battery while armed. His bond was set at $250,000.

• Richard Becerra, 38, N.W. Fifth St., Okeechobee, was arrested April 23 by Deputy Tammy Serafini on an amended Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felonies of aggravated battery and domestic battery by strangulation. His bond was set at $45,000.

• Iva Jean Maya, 36, N.W. 46th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested April 23 by Deputy Elbert Kline on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her the felony of failure to appear - trafficking in cocaine, and the misdemeanors of failure to appear - possession of marijuana under 20 grams and failure to appear - possession of drug paraphernalia. She is being held without bond.

• Tristan Denise Buster, 18, S.E. 34th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested April 24 by Deputy Adam Baker on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with the misdemeanor of violation of probation - driving under the influence. She is being held without bond.

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

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Brahmans blank Jensen; advance to regionals

Okeechobee News/**Charles Murphy**

Kutter Crawford was focused and in control Tuesday as OHS defeated Jensen Beach at the district tournament.

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

After five years absence, the Okeechobee high school baseball team will return to regional play.

Okeechobee defeated Jensen Beach 2-0 at the District 6A-13 semifinals Tuesday afternoon.

Righthander Kutter Crawford allowed just three singles and beat Tyler Bauman of the Falcons in the pitcher's duel. Crawford walked just one and struck out four.

Crawford said he threw strikes and let his defense work behind him.

"Elijah Finney made a great play in the first and that was a big confidence boost. I knew the defense had my back so I'd just get ahead of the hitters, and pound them," he said.

Crawford added an RBI single in the third to score Jarred Morgan who singled. Trenton Hickman scored the second run in the fifth on an RBI ground out by Paul Jackson.

"That second run felt good. Jensen Beach is a good team and they are fundamentally sound," Crawford stated. "They made a few mistakes and we were able to capitalize."

Brahman coach Eric Kindell said the victory felt good but there was still work to do with the district championship game, played Thursday afternoon against South Fork, who upset Port St. Lucie in the other semifinal 3-0.

"This win means a lot but we have another game to get after. I'm proud of the guys. They put their heads down, battled and did all I could ask of them," he added.

A key to the Brahman success was aggressive base running. The team stole three bases and was aggressive on balls in the dirt as they took several other bases in the game.

"We went on situations where we thought we'd get off speed pitches and it worked out for us," Kindell added.

Crawford was dominant throughout and allowed just a two-out single by D.J. Lemay in the third, and two singles in the seventh. He walked a batter and hit a second, Carson Moore in the fourth but was able to pick off a pinch runner Brae Ogle at second base to end the threat.

The Falcons best chance to score came in the seventh as they loaded the bases with no outs on an error, a single by Bauman, and a single by Moore. Crawford made a huge play when he retired Peter Zeblisky on a shallow fly ball to right field. Kutter backed up the plate and when the throw sailed over the catcher's head, Crawford grabbed in and doubled Kyle Bauer off third for a huge double play. He then struck out the final batter to get the victory.

"My job was to back up home plate and when the ball started to sail I knew I had to get it, saw the kid off the base and was able to back door him," he added.

Hickman said he felt the key to the win was the team's attitude and effort. He said they played hard and the entire bench was into the game. He also praised Crawford for the job he did keeping the ball in the infield. He gave up only one base hit to the outfield and three routine fly balls in the game.

"We were so ready for this game. We have waited a long time for this and we're so excited. This win today was truly a blessing and we wanted too bad. We worked so hard and I think we deserve it," he added.

Third basemen Paul Jackson was among the Brahman infielders who had strong games. He made another great grab of a foul ball well down the left field line to retire Jesse Alker in the third.

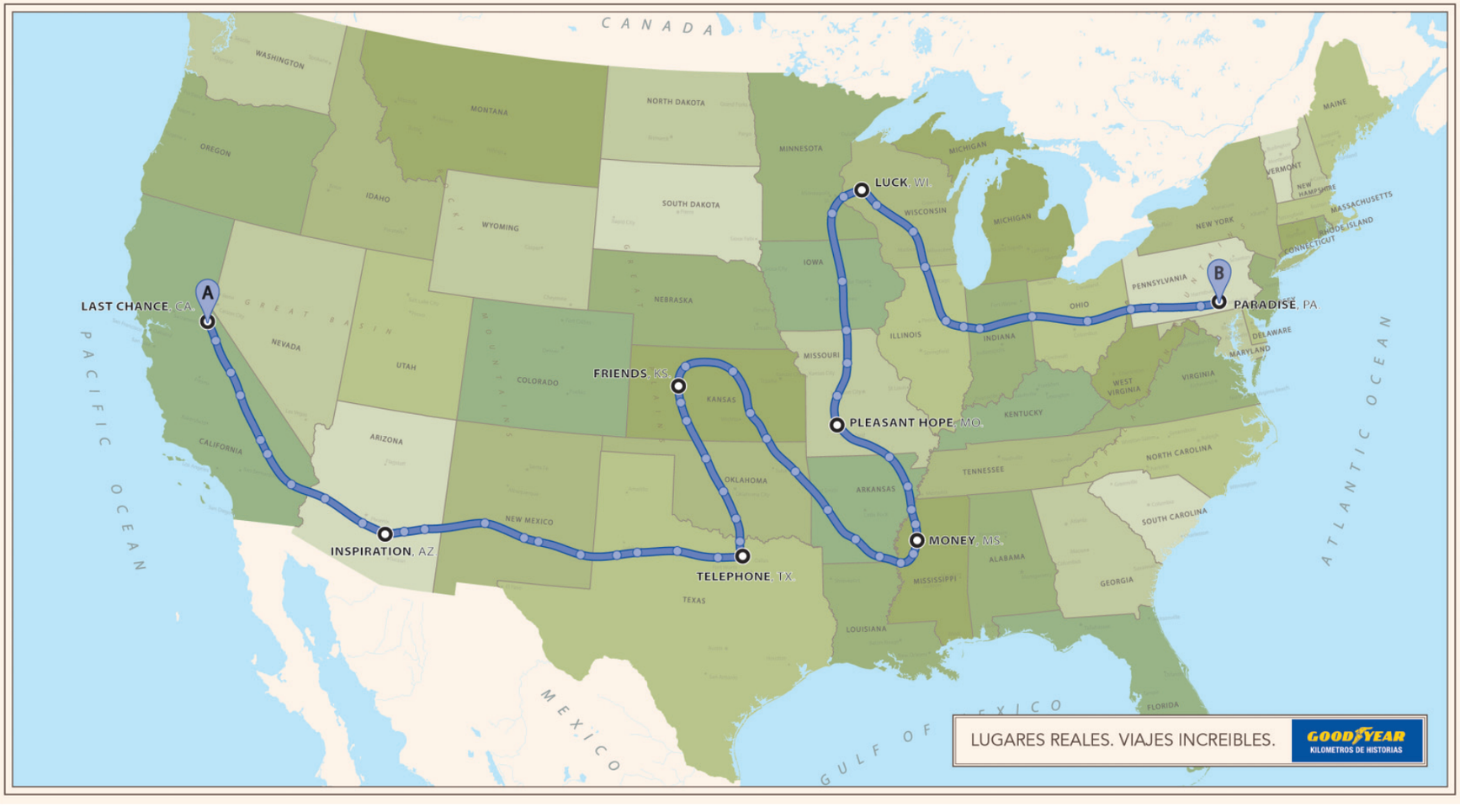
"I make sure I practice hard and treat it like real game situations. Our infield was tough today, we got down and dirty and we made sure we made all the plays. I know I have the quickness and speed to get to the foul pops and I'm going to make an effort to get those," he added.

Catcher Gabe Greseth threw out Zeblisky attempting to steal in the second inning. Crawford also made a fine running catch of a foul pop at the first base dugout fence in the second inning to retire Kyle Guttveg.

Okeechobee (13-10) has won 13 of their last 17 games.

Okeechobee News/**Charles Murphy**

Paul Jackson is tagged out after a strikeout in the seventh inning during Tuesday's game. OHS defeated Jensen Beach to advance to regional play for the first time in five seasons.



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

DRIVER WANTED
Class B, Hazmat & Tanker
Benefits, Vacation, Insurance, Retirment, and good pay.
Palmdale Oil Co.
863-763-3617
120 S. Parrott Ave.
Okeechobee, Fla.

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

DRIVERS:
$5,000 Sign-On Bonus! Great Pay! Consistent Freight, Great Miles on this Regional Account. Werner Enterprises: 1-855-517-2488

Employment Full Time

Entegra Roof Tile, LLC

A local manufacturing company is currently looking to fill positions for Stackers and outside materials handler, on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd shift. Applicants must be able to stack concrete tile neatly onto pallets , perform periodic maintenance, operate forklift and other duties as assigned. Capable of handling up to 25 lb. continuously and up to 75 lbs. at different intervals. Basic math knowledge and safety oriented with GMP. Bilingual a plus. Competitive pay great benefits.

Apply in person at:
Entegra Roof Tile
1289 NE 9th Ave.
Okeechobee, Fla.
34972

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office is seeking applications for Certified Correctional officers. Ideal applicants are those with good moral character, in good physical condition and who are interested in serving their community. Starting salary is $34,000 with less than 3 years experience. Interested applicants should submit an application to Human Resources at 504 NW 4th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972. Applications may be printed from our website okeesheriff.org.

Reading a newspaper helps you understand the world around you. No wonder newspaper readers are more successful people!

Employment Part Time

Retired Professional

Looking for a part time appointment generator, preferably mechanical exp., customer friendly, to work at sales booth in a big box store. Please call 863-385-2665 or send resume to info@advancedairsebring.com

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.

Merchandise

Miscellaneous

Brand New Briggs Stratton Generator, 5500 running watts, 8500 Starting watts. Asking $400 Call 863-467-5652

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

Agriculture

Farm Equipment

SELL OR TRADE 3 POINT HYDRAULIC BUSHOG WILL BUY OR TRADE FOR SELF PROPELLED PULL BEHIND BUSHOG. CALL BOBBI 863-801-2363 OR 863-824-3329

FOR RENT Rentals

Apartments

OKEECHOBEE COMMONS

863-467-9771 TDD 711
402 NW 10th Street
Okeechobee, FL 34972

Accepting applications for affordable 1 bedroom apartments for qualified applicants. Elderly 62 yrs of age or older, handicapped/disabled, regardless of age, with or without children. Rent starts at $612.00 monthly with income based rental assistance available. Units equipped with central heat and AC, stove, refrigerator, carpet and blinds.

This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Condos/Townhouses Rent

Ground Flr. - 1br/1ba., Lake Front view, fully furnished, includes Utilities. $775 mo + Sec. 863-634-0663.

Taylor Creek Condo - 2br./1ba., screened in porch, pool, boat dock, Washer/Dryer, water included. $800 mo. No pets. Move in now! $700. 863-634-0663.

Houses - Rent

ADORABLE: In Town, Okeechobee, 2BR, 2BA, Washer/Dryer, Screen Porch. Lawn Service. Non Smoking. Small pet okay. $750 mo. 1st, last & $500 sec. dep. (941) 504-3954

FOR RENT 1BD/1BA, LIVING & DINING ROOM KITCHEN COMBINATION. RANCH ON 4 ACRES, FT DRUM AREA $600.00/MO. PLUS SECURITY CALL LIZ 734-637-2697

LAZY 7 - 3/2/2; split plan; kids & pets okay; Call 634-9330 or 467-2541.

Okeechobee - CLEAN AND WELL KEPT 2/1, $ 510.00. New updated 12 miles NE of town center, Lawn, pest, trash and water included. **Move In special** Call for details **M-F NO PETS 863.467.9800**

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

Secluded, very private CBS 2/2 on 5 acres in Ft Drum, shady oaks, fenced, horse ready, 1st, last & sec. required $975/mo. Serious inquiries only! (772)216-1669

FOR RENT Rentals

Apartments

Office Space Rent

"Time To Move In Is Now" First 2 Months Free

"Next to Court House"

Commercial Space, 500 SF and up.
863-467-0651

Waterfront Rentals

FURNISHED WATERFRONT 1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH-WITH OR WITHOUT UTILITIES-LONG OR SHORT TERM (863) 467-4371

Join all the people who say, "I sold it in the classifieds."

Real Estate

Waterfront Property

IF YOUR LOOKING FOR A NICE FISHING GET-A-WAY WE HAVE THE PERFECT PLACE FOR YOU. FLEETWOOD, 8X22 FLORIDA ROOM, SMALL PORCHES $6,500.00 O.B.O. NO OWNER FINANCING BROTHER RV PARK 8190 HWY 441 SE LOT 16 CALL 330-556-1576

Mobile Homes

Mobile Home Rent

2 BEDROOM, 1 BATH UNFURNISHED-SCREEN ROOM, DINING ROOM, TILE FLOORS (863) 467-4371

BUCKHEAD RIDGE 2bd./2ba Dble Wide. $500 mo. plus sec. No pets. Call 863-763-4031

FORT DRUM - 5 acres, small pond creek, 2BR, 2BA Trailer, $1,000 down 1st, & security. $700 monthly (772) 464-9226

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

Office Space Rent

Mobile Home Rent

NICE CLEAN COMPLETELY FURNISHED 1BD & 2BD HOMES DIRECTV INCLUDED. RENT STARTS AT $140.00 WEEKLY CALL 863-517-5111

OKEE (off Hwy 70) **-** 1br./1ba., 34ft. $480 mo., 1 br./1ba 44ft. $480 mo., 1 br./1ba 32ft. $360 mo. Single occupancy only. Incld's elec., city water. 1st, Sec. & ref's needed. 561-346-4692.

TREASURE ISLAND: 2 BR, 2 BA, Non smoking env. $750 mo. 1st, last & $500 sec. dep. Call (863)634-6114

Mobile Home Sale

Palm Harbor Homes end of year sale!! 3 retirement models MUST go... Save over $26k, homes from the low 60's, this week only plantcity.palmharbor.com 800-622-2832

Recreation

Campers/RVs

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

Automotive

Automobiles

2000 TOYOTA CELICA GTS - silver, black leather, sunroof, manual 6 speed, 117,000 m, cold A/C, killer sound system w/Bluetooth, well maintained with records. $5,000 /or best offer (561)222-7852

FOR SALE 2004 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS-1 OWNER-LOW MILES-FULLY LOADED-ASKING $4,800.00 OBO. (863) 447-0742

Autos Wanted

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

Public Notices

Public Notice

NOTICE OF QUA MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Okeechobee Utility Authority will meet in regular session on Tuesday, May 13, 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. Such person may provide a court reporter, stenographer, or tape recorder for such verbatim record.

BY ORDER OF THE OKEECHOBEE UTILITY AUTHORITY

John F. Hayford
Executive Director
465078 ON 4/25/2014

visit us at: florida.newszap.com

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2014TD062

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOHN BERAK** 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: **911** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2011**

Description of Property: **LOT E TRACT 13 W1/2 OF W1/2 OF S1/2 OF N1/2 OF TRACT 13 24 34S 33E**

1-24-34-33-0A00-00013-E000
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
MIKE DUFFY

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 **5th day of June, 2014.**
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Gail Mewbourn
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.
464293 ON 4/25;5/2,9,16/2014

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2014TD060

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **DAVID G MURRAY** 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: **2086** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2010**

Description of Property: **INDIAN HAMMOCK H & R CLUB LOT 298**

1-04-34-35-0010-00000-2980
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
BARBARA J JOLLY
WALTER C JOLLY

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 **22nd day of May, 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.
463472 ON 4/11,18,25;5/2/2014

NOTICE OF SALE
To Satisfy Owners Lien

70 West Self Storage
2190 SR 70 West
Okeechobee, FL 34972
5-3-14 @ 10:00 AM

Unit #127 - Regina Y. Peterson
Unit #255 - Gary G. Miller
Unit #426 - Crystal S. Kidd
464952 ON 4/18,25/2014

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2014TD061

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: **1052** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2011**

Description of Property: **LOT K OF TRACT 30 E1/2 OF W1/2 OF N1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 30 25 34S 33E**

1-25-34-33-0A00-00030-K000
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
ANN GRAND PIERRE
NIXON CHARLCEUS

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 **5th day of June, 2014.**
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Gail Mewbourn
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.
464294 ON 4/25;5/2,9,16/2014

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

The classifieds are the most successful salesperson in town.

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
CASE NO: 2014-CA-40

GREAT SOUTHERN BANK a Missouri chartered Trust Company as successor in interest in Inter Savings Bank, FSB,
Plaintiff,
vs.
AMY L. RAULERSON, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF AMY L. RAULERSON and UNKNOWN TENANT,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: **AMY L. RAULERSON, whose place of residence is unknown and whose last known residence address was 7525 Pine Lakes Boulevard, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34952-1510 and all parties claiming interest by, through, under or against AMY L. RAULERSON, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property herein described:**

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Complaint to foreclose on the following described real property, to-wit:

Lot 11, Block 11, BASSWOOD INCORPORATED, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 22, public records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

has been filed against you, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to JOHN D. CASSELS, JR, Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is Post Office Box 968, 400 Northwest 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34973, within 30 days from first publication, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiffs Attorney or immediately thereafter, otherwise a Default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. This Notice shall be published once each week for two (2) consecutive weeks in the "The Okeechobee News".

DATED this 14th day of April, 2014.
SHARON ROBERTSON
Clerk of the Circuit Court
BY: Arlene Nealis
Deputy Clerk
464965 ON 4/18,25/2014

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

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

Shop here first! The classified ads

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

Find it faster. Sell it sooner in the classifieds

ANSWER:

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

Community Events

Brought to you by: ECHOLS PLUMBING & AIR CONDITIONING (863)763-6461
Plumbing & Air Conditioning
Since 1975

Lic#CAC1817236

Eagles hosting dinner

Cypress Hut Eagles will host a steak and seafood dinner on Friday, **April 25**, starting at 5:30 p.m. For information, contact the Cypress Hut Eagles at 863-467-1154.

Cattlewomen to host a BBQ

The Okeechobee Cattlewomen will host a barbecue Friday, **April 25,** at Eli's. For an $8 donation you get brisket sandwich, side, dessert and soda. Delivery is available for an order of five or more dinners. To pre-order, call Melissa at 863-634-7712 or Janette at 863-801-4426.

Relay for Life is April 25

Join the American Cancer Society in the world's largest movement to end cancer. Relay for Life will be held in Okeechobee on Friday, **April 25**, from 6 until 9 p.m. at the Agri-Civic Center, 4601 S.R. 710. For information, visit their website at www.relayforlife.org/okeechobeefl.

Project Prom open April 26

Project Prom will open Saturday, April 26 ,for students who are attending eighth grade formal, a church formal or the high school prom to get a dress or suit. Parents are welcome to come and no financial questions are asked. It will be held at the Okeechobee County Library, 206 S.W. 16th St., from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. For information, contact Tammi Kelly at 772-708-6764 or by e-mail at tammiphotos@gmail.com.

FFA alumni clay shoot slated

The annual Okeechobee FFA Alumni Sporting Clay Shoot will be held at Quail Creek Plantation on Saturday, **April 26**. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. and the event starts at 10 a.m. For information, call Buddy Mills at 772-519-0603, Darryl Boney at 863-634-0642 or Ray Annuez at 863-610-0219 or email at okeechobeeffaalumni@gmail.com.

Moose hosting bingo

Okeechobee Moose Lodge #1753, 159 N.W. 36th St., invites you to join them for bingo at the lodge on Thursday, **May 1**, at 1 p.m. and Friday, May 2, at 5:30 p.m. Lunch will be available for a small charge on Thursday. Sunday, May 4, is the pot luck dinner at 2 p.m. Proceeds benefit Moose Charities

BBQ dinner benefits church

A barbecue chicken dinner fundraiser to help the Okeechobee Church of the Trinity and Trinity Christian Private School funds, will be held Friday, **May 2,** from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Dinner includes one-quarter chicken (leg portion) and all the fixings for a donation of $7.50. If meals are purchased in advance, you get 10% off your total order. For information, call 863-623-6500.

Trail club planning benefit

Big Lake Trail Riders Club is a non-profit organization that puts on an equestrian 5-speed show event every third Saturday of the month at the Okeechobee Cattlemen's Arena on U.S. 441 N. The club is having a quarter auction to help pay for expenses on Friday, **May 2**, at the Okeechobee Civic Center on U.S. 98 N. Doors open at 6 p.m. There will also be a spaghetti dinner for $6. For information, call Donna Munn at 863-447-9595.

Center hosting Spring Fling

Okeechobee Senior Services will have a dinner and dance Friday, **May 2**, from 2 until 5 p.m. at the Senior Center, 1690 N.W. Ninth Ave. The event is free to all adults and their guest 60 years of age and older. Music will be provided by Carl Cable. Photographer Ruth McKenna will be on hand to take pictures at a formal and a fun picture venue, and door prizes will be awarded for each table. Space is limited. Call 863-462-5181 to reserve your seat or a table for eight.

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Lead-in for bird or walk
4 Nervous and irritable
9 Thai cash
13 Musician Turner
14 Words Alice read on a cake
15 Month in Madrid
17 Waist bag
19 Once more
20 "It's __ bet": "No risk"
21 Everlasting, to a poet
22 Cal. entry
25 Herbal remedy for indigestion
27 Custard dishes
30 River in NW France
31 "The Star-Spangled Banner," e.g.
32 Countdown-ending numero
33 Leveling wedge
37 Pen name
38 Renege
41 Amin of Uganda
42 Twice vier
44 Word of surprise
45 __ Zee: area where the Hudson River widens
47 Taj Mahal home
49 Heavenly higher-ups, in Christianity
50 Piece of Le Creuset cookware
54 Chess piece
55 People with skill
56 Place to store valuables
59 Station
60 Sense of humor
64 Old hat
65 Popeye creator Segar
66 Type of museum
67 Kane's Rosebud, e.g.
68 Nobel-winning Irish poet
69 It may need a boost

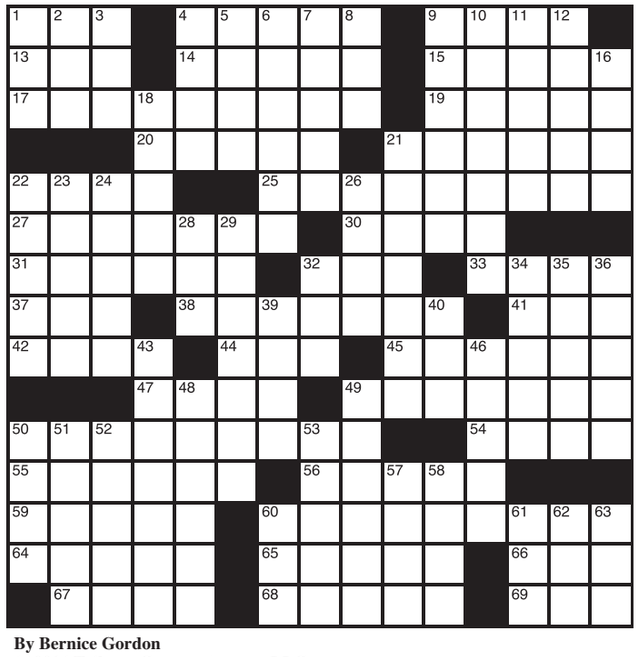
DOWN

1 Peanut butter brand
2 Alias, for short
3 Hankering
4 They may be done by ones who have gone too far
5 Family nickname
6 Support crews
7 Game show personality
8 "__War": Shatner series
9 Defeated
10 49-Across, por ejemplo
11 Soul partner
12 Puzzle video game with three heroes
16 Top draft status
18 "Of course!"
21 Along the way
22 Red Sea port on its own gulf
23 __ Wars: Rome vs. Carthage
24 Tuner's concern
26 Words to Nanette?
28 Playboy nickname
29 Political fugitives
32 Island instrument
34 River horse
35 Snake River state
36 Belarus capital
39 Tide type
40 Roofer's supply
43 Stage in a frog's life
46 Medicare section for physician services
48 Destroyed the inside of, as a building
49 Verse segment
50 Hula Hoop et al.
51 "Golden Boy" dramatist
52 India neighbor
53 Small egg
57 Workbook chapter
58 Strong alkalis
60 "30 Rock" star
61 Be indebted to
62 Pick on
63 Outer: Pref.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com



By Bernice Gordon
(c)2014 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Real Estate Directory

$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

Owner Financing
(subject to approval; call for terms and conditions)

Call:
Joe Stas
Licensed Realtor®
Mixon Real Estate Group, LLC
Lic. Real Estate Broker
(863) 261-4141

SELLERS NEEDED FOR LARGE ACREAGE!
WE HAVE BUYERS WAITING!

"No one sells more Farm and Ranch Properties than Tucker."

#1 Top Producer in Farm & Ranch!

Brandon Tucker
Lic. Real Estate Broker (772) 201-8722
104 N.W. 7th Ave. Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Office: (863) 763-4010
The Tucker Group LLC

NORTH LAKE COUNTRY ESTATES
Pristine POOL Home. Two spacious bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 garage. Remodeled Kitchen, Corian, Pullout Pantry, built in desk. Exquisite Baths, bowl sink, soaking tub, HCP tile shower. 20x30 metal building. 1/2 acre, shuffle board, horseshoe pit. Made fo FAMILY FUN! MLS208040 **$159,000 Call Lori (863)634-1457**

Visit our website...
www.MixonGroup.com
to view our
Over 100 Listings
Mixon Real Estate Group, LLC
Lic. Real Estate Broker
Office: 863-763-6000

Century 21®
Hazellief & Prevatt Realty Inc.

David Hazellief, 863-610-1553
Betty Hazellief, 863-610-0144
Sharon Prevatt, 863-634-7069
Dee Reeder, 863-610-2485

(863) 763-2104 • Se Habla Español

NEW LISTING

1023-M: Seminole Cove spacious DW on lake. 2,241 Total Sq Ft./1,557 under air. Enclosed porch w/storage rm, large living rm w/sitting area, dining area, and much more! Easy to show-**$110,000 MLS #208000**

5071-H: Dixie Ranch Acres Large 4/2 Modular home, 2,204 Total Sq Ft on approx. 1 acre. Spacious kitchen with hutch and dining area and living rm. and much more! **$175,000** MLS # 207917

5030-H: Okeechobee Golf Estate. 3/2 on ½ acre. 2,567 Total sq ft/1,485 under air. Spacious kitchen, split bdrm plan, walk-in closet. Family rm overlooks golf course and much more. **$180,000** MLS #207710

4001-M: 3/2 DW with 2,288 Total Sq Ft/1,288 under air. Split bdrm plan, attached carport, updated with new carpet and some appliances, screened back patio. Get ready to go fishing! **$59,000** MLS # 207823

NEW LISTING

4003-C: Turtle Cove Lake Access, beautiful Rim Canal view! Spacious, double carport & more on quiet cul-de-sac. Includes 2 extra lots, 1 with large shed & electricity. **$95,000** MLS # 208003

NEW LISTING

4006-C: Turtle Cove Lake access! Cozy condo, enclosed porch, open patio with great water view, seawall, completely furnished! In move in condition. Extra lot has shed & electricity. **$68,000** MLS # 208005

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Your Medical and Health Care Directory

Common reasons for a hysterectomy

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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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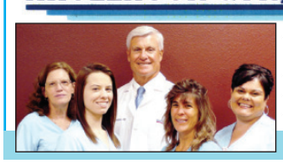

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Orthopaedic Specialists at Raulerson is located at 1924 Hwy 441 North, Okeechobee (just north of the Hospital, in the blue-roof building)

SCAM

Continued From Page 1

Once Pattison had received that money, Mrs. Roberts would receive a check for the remainder of her prize winnings.

Or, so claimed the letter.

The Michigan native, and winter visitor to Okeechobee, was also directed to contact her 'claim agent' Tony Elam at 1-604-401-1016 "... to activate and claim your prize."

The letter also urged her to not say anything about the letter.

"As part of our security measures to protect your claim, we recommend that you keep this letter away from the public. Exposing your claim numbers may encourage multiple claims," stated the notification.

Obviously, this is a scam and fortunately for Mrs. Roberts she didn't fall for it.

Attempts to contact Mr. Elam at that British Columbia, Canada, phone number were unsuccessful. Instead of talking to Mr. Elam, this newspaper only received a recording stating the phone number was busy and we should call back.

The check Mrs. Roberts received was drawn on the account name of Ernests Taxidermy & Crafts in Monte Vista, Colo., and was dated March 27, 2014. According to the check, Ernests' account was in the Sunflower Bank N.A. in Salina, Ks.

Several attempts were made to reach someone with the taxidermy shop but those, too, were unsuccessful.

This newspaper was able to reach a representative with the Kansas bank, but they chose not to comment.

It was ascertained, however, that Sunflower Bank does have a branch in Monte Vista.

Mrs. Roberts indicated she'll soon be returning to Michigan for the summer, but she'll not do it as a sweepstakes winner. And, she'll not do it as a victim.

Special to the Okeechobee News

Easter fun

Area children hunted Easter eggs at the Okeechobee County Recreation Department's annual Easter Eggstravaganza in the county park on Northwest Sixth Avenue on Saturday.

BUDGET

Continued From Page 1

reached.

On April 15, representatives of the sheriff's office and the board of commissioners presented their cases to the cabinet aides in Tallahassee. The aides would have reviewed the case and made their recommendation to the cabinet. The two sides were scheduled to return to Tallahassee on May 7.

At the Thursday meeting, county attorney John Cassels advised commissioners to try to settle the dispute locally. He said however the Cabinet rules, it will affect the relationship between the county and the sheriff in the future.

Commissioner Joey Hoover's first motion for a counter offer of an additional $500,000 was defeated 3-2. Commissioner Margaret Helton voted in favor of the offer, with Commission Chairman Frank Irby, Commissioner Ray Domer and Commissioner Bryant Culpepper voting against it. Before the vote, Commissioner Culpepper said he thought if they did not approve a compromise, the case would be settled by the Florida Cabinet. He said he thought the cabinet would give the sheriff more than an additional $500,000.

Immediately after that vote, the board took a five-minute break. Apparently that was long enough for two commissioners to change their minds.

When the board resumed, Commissioner Culpepper asked if they could vote on the issue again. Commissioner Hoover made the motion a second time. This time the vote was 4-1 in favor of offering the $500,000 compromise, with only Commissioner Domer dissenting.

County administrator Robbie Chartier said that $177,000 of the $500,000 would come from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund and $323,000 would come from the general fund. She said the increase to the budget was not sustainable. To keep the sheriff's budget at that level next year, the county will have to increase taxes in one form or another.

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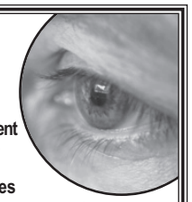

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