OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 105 No. 72 | Sunday, June 15, 2014 | 75¢ plus tax

Family loses $4,000 in scam
... Page 8

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Special to the Okeechobee News

Boy Scout gets his Eagle Scout

Colton Brown, from BSA Troop 913 Okeechobee, recently received the coveted rank of Eagle Scout. The City of Okeechobee presented Colton the Distinguished Service Award for his Eagle Scout project which consisted of installing new boards in 16 iron benches in the downtown park pictured above, with his parents and scout masters. He is also a member of the BSA Order of the Arrow and NESA (National Eagle Scout Association). Congratulations Colton. Left to right are Michael and LaDonna Brown, Colton Brown, Danny Parker and Jody Bell.

Who'll run jail come Sept. 30?

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

When county commissioners voted Thursday to not assume operation of the county jail, one question was still left unanswered: Who is going to run it after Sept. 30?

Due to his budget battles with the county, Sheriff Paul May has said that will be his last day as the county's chief correctional officer. Since that is the end of fiscal year 2013-14, the sheriff felt that would be the best time to give the jail's keys to the county.

But the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners, by a 4-1 vote on June 12, said they didn't want to be in the corrections business.

So, now, the matter will likely be settled in state court.

But if the sheriff isn't going to run the jail; and the county isn't going to run it; who is?

"By Sept. 30 we'll likely have a judicial decision on what's going to happen. A judge may tell me to run it until this is settled," Sheriff May said Friday, June 13. "As far as leaving the jail unattended? That's not going to happen."

And county attorney John Cassels agrees that the jail should remain in the hands of the sheriff.

"I would think he's more responsible than to leave the

See **JAIL** — Page 5

Board sets hearing date for Bonasera

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County School Board voted to continue the suspension of the union president who is accused of giving pills to a woman in exchange for inappropriate photos of that woman.

Superintendent of Schools Ken Kenworthy also provided the board Tuesday, June 10, with a letter that listed additional grounds to support his recommendation to discipline Tom Bonasera, the president of the Okeechobee County Educators Association.

The letter, said Mr. Kenworthy, claimed Mr. Bonasera violated Florida Administrative Code which requires a teacher to not use his/her institutional privileges for personal gain or advantage; accept a gift or favor that might influence professional judgment; and offer no gift, gratuity or favor to obtain special advantages.

Mr. Bonasera is accused of dispensing 20 pain killers to a fellow female teacher in exchange for suggestive photos of that teacher.

Legal counsel suggested the school board schedule Mr. Bonasera's hearing for August to give both sides more time to do their due diligence and discovery.

A hearing date was set for Friday, July 11, at 9 a.m.

Mr. Kenworthy also alleged Mr. Bonasera violated multiple district policies that require all employees report alleged misconduct by any school board employee that affects the health, safety or welfare of a student.

In other disciplinary action, the board voted to continue a hearing on Seminole Elementary School paraprofessional Elaine Murphy.

Board attorney Tom Conely said both sides have agreed to the continuance.

Ms. Murphy is accused of pulling the hair of a 6-year-old student.

They voted to continue the suspension without pay for Ms. Murphy.

A hearing on a motion to dismiss filed by Ms. Murphy was scheduled for Tuesday, July 8, at 9 a.m.

The board also hired the legal firm Brown, Garganese, Weiss & D'Agresta to represent Mr. Kenworthy in another personnel matter.

The contract for the local law firm of Conely and Conely, P.A., to provide legal services to the

See **BOARD** — Page 5

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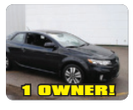

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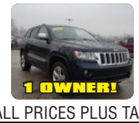

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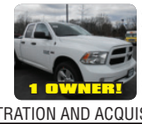

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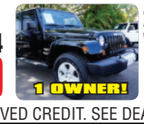

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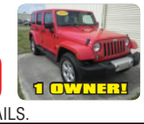

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Thoughts for Father's Day

My Father Remembered

Andrew R. McKillop

God came out in this dispensation revealing Himself as: The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit.

When we were younger we thought of and viewed our father as God. As we grew older, we recognized that while he was larger than life, he did not have the attributes of God: He was not omniscient, omnipotent, nor omnipresent. In fact at times he was woefully ignorant. He didn't know French, and Algebra to him was also a foreign language.

But in other respects, disobedience was not tolerated and we quickly learned we did not live in a democracy ... rather it was more like a theocracy, ruled by one man. Though shalt not come home late, shalt not use bad language, shall follow the commandments of the house and never question his authority, his rule, or his decision. Punishment was quick and severe. We rapidly learned obedience was better than the consequences.

But he was a gentleman, he held the bike as you took your first wobbly rides then yikes, ouch when he swabbed your abraded knees or elbows with iodine, as you will remember was the choice item to use when dealing with cuts, abrasions, etc.

He taught the value of money daily. I remember one Saturday; cleaning trays and bowls large enough to take a bath in, scraping the floor, taking out the ashes, and carrying in enough coal to keep the fire in the bakery oven going for the night. For all of this labor, some 5 or 6 hours, I received a nickel. My kids thought this traumatic experience adversely affected my generosity when I became the father.

On a serious note, my father and mother were both blood bought Christians. Their prayers and teachings, I am convinced, led me at an early age to accept Jesus as my Savior. A scripture was read before meals and then father gave thanks for the food and all the other mercies we received. Sometimes, I confess, I wanted to shout, "Read faster! Pray less! I'm so hungry and all the food is getting cold!"

The later part of my teen years, you know the rebellious state, father didn't seem to be as smart as I formerly thought. Also he became, or to me appeared to be, more a despot than a father. Then the government of the United Sates interceded. I suddenly became very popular or so the notice said. "Having submitted yourself to a board composed of your friends and neighbors, and having been found fit for duty, you are hereby ordered by the President of the United States to report at 7 a.m. to the local draft board to be inducted into service of the USA. I wasn't in the Army very long before I had an epiphany—suddenly my father became one of the smartest men alive. I couldn't believe how many years had passed that I didn't recognize that.

Later in life, married with four children when I was away at a hospital meeting and alone in my hotel room thinking about this, I wrote him a letter. I told him that I didn't believe I would have had the guts to do what he did. He came home to Scotland, discharged after serving in Mesopotamia (Iraq), India, etc. for five years in the British Army. He married his high school sweetheart but discovered that there were no veterans benefits in Great Britain such as in the U.S. forces. Jobs were scarce. Even though he was a journeyman, skilled as a lead burner, or chemical plumber as they were called, little or no work was available. He had a wife and a son. He borrowed half of the money from his father-in-law, a police constable, and the other half from his oldest brother, a railroad engineer, to buy a ticket to America via Montreal, Canada. He had to leave his wife and son to seek a better life for them.

I could go on and on regarding the sacrifices he made to provide for his growing family: six boys and one girl. He earned my respect and love! I think of him as a better man than I am and when he went home to be with his Lord just before his 93rd birthday, I thought, "There goes a real man, a great father, my father. Thank you Dear God for giving me a believing father."

My Daddy — from Father's Day 1970

Anna Jane Evans Breland-O'Steen

When things go wrong
And others may not understand
You're always there beside me
To lend an outstretched hand.

When I have worries
That seem too big to bear
You're the one person I know
Who will really, truly care.

You may not always be right
And sometimes even a little wrong
But the love you show for your family
Could never be more strong.

You cast a ray of sunshine
Wherever you may go
And lift the weary spirits
And make the sad hearts glow.

You mean no harm to anyone
And no man do you shun
I know that God will bless you
When your life on earth is done.

Children! Don't even think it childish
To say "I love you, Dad."
Cause I know he's the best friend
That I ever, ever had.

So, just for the record
And for all the world to know
I'm so glad I'm able to tell you
"Daddy, I love you so!"

Note: The author is thankful she didn't wait until it was too late to verbally express her love for her daddy, Pelham P. Evans, who died at age 80. She hopes you won't let this Father's Day pass without saying the magic words, "Daddy, I love you!"

Public Forum/Speak Out

Sheriff at commission meeting

• If there is not enough money in the county budget, where is it supposed to come from? This is why we have budgets, so you know how much you can spend. I cannot afford to pay more taxes, can anyone else? I am paying taxes for things I get no services from and do not use. Out of town lawyers and court costs, this ain't going to be cheap! Just send all the inmates to Arizona—seems to be working for Obama.

• Good for Sheriff Paul May! Stand your ground. If you can't get what's needed to operate an institution safely then step away.

Aide accused of pulling hair

• This is so sad for us people who really love teaching children and it's our passion. I believe people like this makes our school system look bad. So sad for the people that really enjoy working with children because that makes the parents not want to send their children to school.

• Okeechobee schools are just like every school ... you have the really excellent teachers who go above and beyond and then you have the teachers who just do their job and you have the ones who aren't very good at what they do and then you have the ones who don't need to be teachers. It's not Okeechobee teachers who are bad, it's the teachers who aren't good that are bad. You don't throw out a whole bag of apples just because one at the bottom is bad.

• If more parents would be involved and help and encourage better behavior in the students, it would also make teaching them easier. I home school mine for the fact I want to know what they are learning and to make sure they can move at a rate they are understanding. But we have had some very great teachers in Okeechobee the last few years my kids attended public school.

• I had great teachers all my life in school. Just like families ... just 'cause you got one bad apple in your family tree don't mean the whole family is bad. When you go buy vegetables do you pick through the tomatoes?

• For every bad teacher, there are hundreds that are good.

• Parents need to teach their kids to behave at home when maybe it wouldn't be so hard on teachers to have some control.

• This has been the best school system for my kids—they are all doing well. My kids all have amazing teachers.

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Tonight: Scattered thunderstorms in the evening. Partly cloudy skies overnight. Low around 70F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 40%

Extended Forecast

Monday: Scattered thunderstorms in the morning, then mainly cloudy during the afternoon with thunderstorms likely. High 89F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 80%.

Monday Night: A few clouds. Low 71F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.

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Second arrest made in burglary

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Christopher English

Jennifer N. Seifert

Thursday was not a good day for Christopher Lance English.

First, the 24-year-old man was arrested by Detective Mark Shireman on felony charges of burglary of an occupied structure, uttering a forged instrument and two counts of grand theft.

When that Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) investigator was through with English, he was then arrested by OCSO Detective Howard Pickering on a felony charge of dealing in stolen property.

English, S.E. 35th Ave., Okeechobee, is being held in the Okeechobee County Jail on $20,000 bond.

Detective Shireman indicated in his arrest report English was the second person arrested in connection with a June 3 break-in at a local business in which cash, checks and a computer were stolen.

He arrested Jennifer Nicole Seifert, 20, Tuesday, June 10, on felony charges of grand theft and uttering a forged instrument. She was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of obstruction. She is being held on $5,500 bond.

According to Detective Shireman the man apparently broke into the U.S. 441 N. business by using a screwdriver to pry open the back door. Once inside he took $1,140 in cash as well as a number of checks.

Reports state Seifert cashed one of the checks for $750. English and another unidentified man reportedly each cashed one of the stolen instruments, but the amounts of those checks was not indicated in the report.

A fourth check was found in English's home, stated the detective.

The Hewlett-Packard computer was reportedly found hidden in the rafters of a boat house behind the man's home.

While Detective Shireman was working this case, he and OCSO Detective Javier Gonzalez searched a home on S.E. 30th Terrace. During that search Detective Gonzalez reportedly found a 42-inch flat screen television that had been stolen from another residence on S.E. 30th Terrace. That case was being worked by Detective Pickering.

The three investigators next went to English's home where they found a pile of recently burned items. Detective Pickering sorted through the ashes and allegedly found several pieces of jewelry that had been stolen from the same home as the TV set.

The homeowner was able to identify the TV and the jewelry, pointed out Detective Pickering.

JAIL

Continued From Page 1

keys under the mat. I don't think anyone disagrees he should be able to run the jail more efficiently," said Mr. Cassels. "I just think this thing has gotten a life of its own and blown out of proportion."

That still leaves a very big question, and that has to do with money.

This situation began when the sheriff and commissioners couldn't agree on a budget for the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO). Because of that impasse, Sheriff May felt it would be best if the county would assume operation of the jail.

So, if the sheriff has to run the jail come Oct. 1 — which is the start of fiscal year 2014-15 — from where is the money going to come?

When asked, Sheriff May simply said he didn't know.

The 2013-14 approved budget for the jail was $5.4 million, which is the same amount the sheriff said it would take for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Cassels said if it all boils down to the money, then there is an appeals process the sheriff should follow.

That process was started in April when Sheriff May took his budget appeal to Tallahassee. But shortly after he and the county presented their cases, county commissioners offered him an additional $500,000. Sheriff May took the money and stopped his appeal.

"He knows he should be running the jail. But, he feels he doesn't have sufficient funds to run the jail," said Mr. Cassels.

The county attorney went on to say he still hasn't given up hope the two sides will sit down and come up with a solution that satisfies both of them.

If not, then they will certainly go to court.

As to who will initiate those proceedings, Sheriff May said the county should be the one to file the lawsuit.

"But if they don't, we'll certainly look into doing so ourselves," he said.

The sheriff is being represented by Port St. Lucie attorney Adam M. Fetterman.

However, Mr. Cassels thinks it should be the sheriff who files the action.

"The sheriff is the one holding the keys to the jail, and so I think the burden is greater on him to take the first step," he reasoned.

Still, continued the county attorney, he feels the best thing for both sides is to take a breath and cool down.

"The rhetoric has gotten so heated we need to step back. I'm an eternal optimist and I would rather settle this thing than fight them," added Mr. Cassels.

After all, he pointed out, both sides need to remember they are sworn to work for the greater good of the public.

"I believe the sheriff has the best interest of the public at heart, and I believe the commission does to," said Mr. Cassels.

BOARD

Continued From Page 1

board was renewed for one year.

A $171,655 contract with the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office to provide school resource officers for another year was also approved.

The board also voted to terminate Sheila Goolsby, a bus driver for the district. That termination was effective May 16.

In another matter, the board passed a resolution to honor the passing of Dr. Frank H. Platt, a former school board member 1967 until 1973.

His widow, Reba Platt, spoke to the board and thanked them for their kindness in consideration of this proclamation.

She said her husband was a true advocate for education and said "I'm sure he would be pleased to get this recognition."

The board set an executive session for 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 24, to discuss the annual union contract negotiations. Those negotiations will begin June 25 at 9 a.m.

Okeechobee News/**Charles Murphy**

The family of Dr. Frank H. Platt accepted an award from Superintendent of Schools Ken Kenworthy (right) and the school system for his contribution to education as a citizen, a former school board member and chairman between 1967 and 1973.

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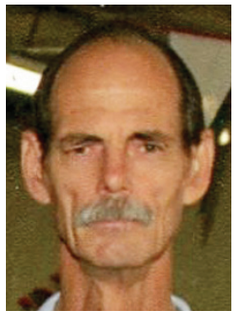
Mark Alan Ballinger, 65

OKEECHOBEE — Mark Alan Ballinger died June 13, 2014. He was born January 31, 1949 in California to Herbert and Delores Ballinger. He played professional baseball for ten years for the Cleveland Indians, California Angels and Kansas City Royals. He was a resident of Okeechobee since 1983 and he managed Badcock Furniture.



Mr. Ballinger is survived by his wife of 42 years, Linda Kay Ballinger; mother-in-law, Ruby Meares both of Okeechobee; brother, Jim Ballinger (Ann Marie); two sisters, Kelly Frost (Gary) all of Thousand Oaks, California and Jackie Killeem (Kevin) of Woodside, California.

Visitation will be 10 a.m. until services at 11 a.m. Wednesday, June 18, 2014 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hospice of Okeechobee, P.O. Box 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973.

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

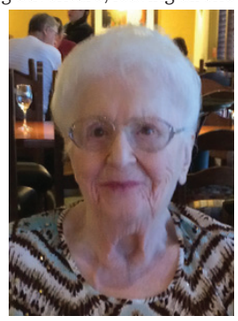
All arrangements are entrusted to the direction and care of the Buxton, Bass and Conway families of the Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home, 400 North Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida, 34972.

Legacy.com®

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

Marcella Ochs Sweda, 96

OKEECHOBEE — Marcella Ochs Sweda returned to the Lord and was reunited with loved ones on June 6, 2014. Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on April 12, 1918, Marcella lived a long, wonderful and at times challenging life. She helped support her family by working as a waitress at Horn and Hardart Restaurant and the Frankford Arsenal. In 2012, Marcella went on a big adventure, leaving all she had known for 94 years, and relocated to Okeechobee, FL to be closer to two of her children and their spouses. She loved spending time with her family, was an avid Bingo player and took great pleasure in playing Penny Poker. Marcella loved to play the Lottery and going to the Casino, always knowing the next number called or the next spin would be the big win! She had her daily routine, always reading the newspaper and making her own breakfast - taking her time as she felt she had "rushed all her life!" - She enjoyed her friends at Grand Oaks and was grateful for the kindness and support of the staff who treated her like family. Marcella looked forward to the many outings especially to The Olive Garden, where she always ordered her favorite meal, Eggplant Parmesan. While she no longer crocheted due to arthritis, it had been one of her passions and she made many coats for her "grand-dogs," sweaters for her husband and afghans for family and friends.



Mrs. Sweda was preceded in death by her first husband, Stanley "Big Stan" Sweda who died serving his country in WWII; husband, Harry Sweda; three sisters, Joan, Helen and Marie; and her brother, John.

She is survived by her son, Dr. Stanley Sweda (Rennae) of Okeechobee; two daughters, Marcella Curcurito (Chris) of Levittown, PA and Gail Siekmann (Rolf) of Hobe Sound; sister, Eleanor Beaudet of Laurel Lake, New Jersey; numerous nieces and nephews and many "grand-dogs" and "grand-cats."

Services will be held in Pennsylvania as well as at Grand Oaks in Okeechobee on Tuesday, June 17th from 2-3:30pm.

Memorial contributions may be made to Treasure Coast Hospice (1201 SE Indian Street Stuart, Florida 34997), Heroes 4 Hope (1115 North Parrot Avenue Okeechobee, Florida 34972), The Military Order of Purple Heart Service Foundation (Chapter 717, 7305 N Military Trail, Riviera Beach, FL 33410) or a Humane Society of your choice.

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.

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Dads offered free meal

The Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post #9528, Buckhead Ridge, will host a Father's Day breakfast Sunday, **June 15**, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, biscuits and gravy, waffles, juice and coffee will be available free to dads with a $5 donation for all others. Proceeds from the breakfast will go toward our Veterans and Family Program. For information, contact the Post at 863-467-2882.

Sunday bingo slated

American Legion 64 will host bingo Sunday, **June 15**, at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. in the bingo area. The kitchen will offer a limited menu. Payoffs will be determined by player attendance. All proceeds to benefit the American Legion veterans' programs. The event is open to the public.

Free VPK program slated

Faith Academy Preschool free summer VPK is a Christian-based summer program for children who will be attending kindergarten in the fall of 2014. Children must be 5 on or before Sept. 1 and have not participated in a VPK program during the school year. The program is free and includes meals. Classes start **June 16**. For information, call 863-763-8800.

Historical Society to meet

The Okeechobee Historical Society will meet Monday, **June 16**, at noon in the Museum Building on U.S. 98 N. The Tantie Quilters will continue to meet on Thursdays during the summer from 9:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Auction aids local youth

Okeechobee Quarters for a Cause will host an auction and Luau party Tuesday, **June 17**, for Ethan Herndon, 9, who is in need of a heart transplant. The event will be held at American Legion Post #64, 501 S.E. Second St. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Those participants wearing Luau-inspired clothing will be eligible for a special prize. There will be prize giveaways, food and drinks. Participants musts be 18 years of age or older. For information, call Christy at 863-697-1247.

Moose events announced

Okeechobee Moose Lodge #1753, 159 N.W. 36 St., invites the public to join them Friday, **June 20**, for bingo at 6:30 p.m. The kids party slated for June 21 has been canceled. Monday, June 23, tacos will be served starting at noon. Wednesday, June 25, chicken wings and/or chicken fingers will be served from 5 until 7 p.m. Thursday, June 26, bingo will start at 1 p.m. and lunch will be available for a small fee. Check the Lodge bulletin board for special meals on Tuesday and Friday.

B.R.A.T. dance planned

The Okeechobee B.R.A.T. Club (Building Relationships Among Teens) will host a Teen Dance Party at Okeechobee Freshman Campus, 610 S.W. Second Ave, on Saturday, **June 21**, from 7 until 10 p.m. The party is for students ages 12-16. Come dressed in your best pajamas for it's a pajama party. The cost is $7 and includes pizza, soda and chips. For information, contact Allison Chandler at 863-697-9096.

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Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

JUNE 9 & 10, 2014

MONDAY SALE AT 12:00PM...TUESDAY SALE AT 12:00PM

COWS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:	LAST WEEK:
800-1000	74.00	- 125.00	92.94	89.00
1000-1200	74.00	- 125.00	93.87	99.11
1200-1400	81.00	- 123.00	103.27	100.08
1400-1600	95.00	- 122.00	104.78	100.79
BULLS:				
1200-1400	107.00	- 125.00	116.00	103.77
1400-1600	113.00	- 129.00	118.07	105.17
1600-1800	114.00	- 126.00	120.33	117.09
1800-2000	119.00	119.00	119.00	121.67
STEERS:				
150-250	210.00	- 415.00	305.73	318.71
250-300	240.00	- 360.00	284.83	276.38
300-350	180.00	- 300.00	259.64	247.35
350-400	192.50	- 275.00	231.06	227.72
400-450	170.00	- 247.50	221.07	215.37
450-500	168.00	- 240.00	212.05	209.19
500-550	160.00	- 222.00	204.60	205.06
550-600	140.00	- 214.00	197.80	195.68
600-650	128.00	- 200.00	178.00	187.44
650-700	161.00	- 196.00	179.29	177.67
HEIFERS:				
150-250	210.00	- 365.00	278.90	291.11
250-300	210.00	- 280.00	236.71	247.06
300-350	200.00	- 257.50	227.26	221.23
350-400	165.00	- 260.00	211.37	210.92
400-450	160.00	- 224.00	204.29	206.53
450-500	170.00	- 216.00	200.22	197.26
500-550	150.00	- 208.00	196.90	191.36
550-600	160.00	- 204.00	187.17	177.09
600-650	150.00	- 196.00	181.43	171.00

	MONDAY	TUESDAY
CLFS	534	631
COWS	130	207
STRS	26	89
HFRS	12	46
BULLS	16	18
YRLINGS	22	21
MIX	8	0
TOTAL	748	1012

Everybody should be smiling! Prices continue to get a little stronger! Feeder calves were up $1-$2. Slaughter cows and bulls up the same. PCA Internet sale next week at "Marco" should break records for prices. Please call us anytime to help you market or haul your cattle; we offer competitive pricing.

H H Partin, St. Cloud, topped the calf market with a high of $4.15 bought by B & M Cattle.

711 Ranch, Kenansville, topped the cow market with a high of $1.25 bought by Central Beef.

Bred cow, bred heifer and Angus and Brangus bull sales coming in October!

Jeff

Prices reported are higher end #1 Quality. For #2's and Brahma type calves adjust down by $10-$30.

Road Watch

U.S. 441 (North Parrott Avenue) from CR 68 East to 364th Street: Maintenance contract: Crews will be cleaning the ditches. There are no lane closures scheduled. Motorist should use caution and watch for workers close to the road.

U.S. 441 (North Parrott Avenue) from N.W. 290th Trail to N.W. 344th Street: Maintenance contract: Crews will be repairing concrete ends on drainage pipes. There are no lane closures scheduled. Motorist should use caution and watch for workers close to the road.

SR 70 east of Okeechobee/N.E. 34th Avenue to Williams Road/N.E. 48th Avenue: Maintenance permit project: Crews are relocating utilities along the south side of the road. No lane closures are scheduled, but use caution and watch for workers close to the road.

SR 70 E from the Okeechobee city limits to N.E. 30th Avenue: Maintenance project: Crews are repairing the sidewalk on both sides of the roadway. No lane closures are scheduled, however, use caution and watch for workers close to the road.

SR 70 from 28th Avenue to 70th Avenue: Maintenance project: Crews will be trimming trees on both sides of the road. No lane closures are scheduled, however, use caution and watch for workers close to the road.

Landscape workshop will be offered in Spanish

Commercial landscape workers who apply fertilizer are required to have a Limited Certification Urban Landscape Commercial Fertilizer license. A workshop to provide training for this license will be conducted in Spanish on June 20, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Indian River Research and Education Center, 2199 S. Rock Road, in Fort Pierce. Registration fee is $30. Pre-registration for the class is required. Register online at http://gibmpespanol6-29-14.eventbrite.com or by e-mailing Christine Kelly at ckellybe@ufl.edu. Study materials in Spanish can be requested by e-mailing ckellybe@ufl.edu. Please give name, address, including zip code and the number of manuals requested.

Beginning farmers seminars planned

Okeechobee area residents who would like to start growing their own crops can take advantage of a series of seminars offered by the University of Florida/IFAS.

The program is designed for beginning farmers who have little to no farming experience. It will cover topics such as pest management, marketing, soil management, irrigation, nutrient management and crop selection.

Farmers who successfully complete the program will receive a certificate of completion.

Each workshop will be held 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration is $30 per workshop and includes two sessions, lunch, course materials and a field trip to a local farm. Register at your county extension office or online at www.eventbrite.com.

The workshops will be held July 12, at the UF/IFAS Extension Office in Indian River County; Aug. 9 at the UF/IFAS Extensin Office in St. Lucie County; and, Sept. 13 at the UF/IFAS Okeechobee Extension Office.

The program is sponsored by the UF/IFAS Treasure Coast Small Farms Working Group.

For more information, contact the Okeechobee County Extension Office at 863-763-6469.

The Okeechobee County farming cooperative group will meet on June 26, at 6:30 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Extension Office to continue plans for a local green market.

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Family loses $4,000 in scam

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Shortly after sending $4,000 to a Sergeant Cooper with the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), a local family finally realized they had been duped.

The spurious sergeant was running a con known as the grandparents scam and preyed on the family's desire to help out a loved one.

OCSO Deputy John Ashby stated in his report that an Okeechobee man received a phone call from Sgt. Cooper on June 11. The make-believe deputy told the man his grandson had been arrested and he needed $4,000 to get out of jail. The man then spoke to someone he thought was his grandson.

The fictitious grandson said he and his friends were stopped and that deputies had searched the car and found marijuana. He and his friends were then taken to the county jail, he said.

Deputy Ashby pointed out in his report that the grandfather said whomever he was talking to on the phone seemed to know a lot about his real grandson.

The counterfeit cop took the phone and again told the grandfather that $4,000 was needed to get his grandson out of jail. However, because the local sheriff's office is corrupt, Cooper told the grandfather to send him the $4,000 via Money Pak green dot cards.

Deputy Ashby went on to state the grandfather then called his daughter and told her what had happened. She then called the con man, who told her to get the green dot cards and put $500 on each card. He also told her to go to different cashiers when she purchased the cards.

She did as she was told, stated Deputy Ashby.

Sgt. Cooper called her back the next day and said he needed another $4,000 to get her son out of jail. He said her son had passed his drug test, but the judge needed $8,000 of the $32,000 bond to release her son. She told the fake cop she would need some time to raise the money, and he told her to call him back when she had the green dot cards.

In normal situations, if someone's bond is set at $32,000 they would have to come up with 10 percent of that amount in cash and some sort of collateral for the remainder. So in the above case, the mother should have paid $3,200 in cash (10 percent) and then have collateral totalling $28,800 to get her son released.

Deputy Ashby indicated in his report when Cooper told the woman he needed another $4,000, she knew she was scammed.

The woman gave Deputy Ashby the sergeant's phone number and it turned out to be a Canadian number.

She also told the OCSO deputy she had called the sheriff's office to find out if there actually was a Sgt. Cooper working there. She was told there was no Sgt. Cooper working at that agency, and no one was employed at the Okeechobee City Police Department by that name.

Next, she called her son. He told her he had not been arrested and he was not in jail.

Unfortunately, she made those last two very important phone calls too late.

With Deputy Ashby by her side, she again called Sgt. Cooper. With the speaker on her phone activated, she told the bogus cop she wanted the judge's name and address so she could talk with him.

The fake deputy told her the judge's name was Phillip Banks and his address was 1000 Main Street in Okeechobee.

Cooper then told her he was turning this over to his captain and hung up.

OCSO Deputy Ashby explained the scam to the woman and that even though the phone number she had for Cooper was a Canadian number, it could actually be coming from somewhere else.

"I advised her, as far as her money, it was gone," stated Deputy Ashby.

OCSO Investigations

ASSAULT
- 3700 block of N.E. Fourth Trail
- 4200 block of S.E. 74th Way
- 3900 block of N.W. Eighth St.
- 300 block of N.E. Third St.

BURGLARY
- 3300 block of S.E. Fourth St.
- 900 block of N.W. 23rd Lane
- 9000 block of S.E. 62nd Drive
- 2200 block of N.W. Fifth St.
- 3400 block of S.E. 35th Ave.
- 3900 block of S.E. 25th St.
- 3600 block of N.W. 17th Ave.
- 3100 block of U.S. 441 S.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 8000 block of U.S. 441 S.E.

FRAUD
- 1400 block of N.W. 43rd Ave.
- 300 block of S.W. 30th Terrace
- 600 block of S.R. 78 W.

IDENTITY THEFT
- 3300 block of S.W. 21st St.

THEFT
- 100 block of S.W. 18th Ave.
- 800 block of N.E. 15th Ave.
- 2400 block of S.E. 38th Trail
- 4200 block of S.E. 74th Way
- 8500 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
- 400 block of S.W. Fourth St.
- 4100 block of S.W. 11th Way
- 3300 block of U.S. 441 S.
- 4200 block of S.E. 23rd Court
- 6900 block of N.E. 11th Lane
- 700 block of S. Jenifer Ave.
- 2200 block of S.E. Eighth Ave.

Paternity Questions?

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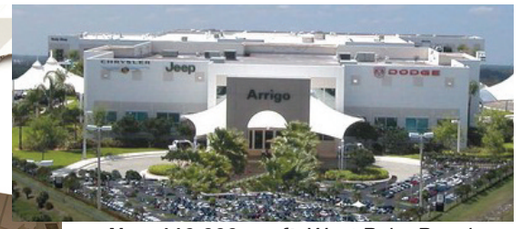
Arrigo Marks 25th Anniversary

***Original** Dodge dealership 1989*

The year was 1989 when Joe Arrigo and his oldest son, Jim, recognizing that the path to success is to do what you love, bought a tiny 50-year-old Dodge dealership in West Palm Beach. Joe had sold cars for almost 60 years; Jim followed his father into the business after graduating from Western Illinois University with degrees in management and marketing. Together, they saw in this small car lot the stepping stone to big dreams.

Soon more Arrigos joined Joe (serving as Board Chairman) and Jim (Owner/President) in the family business. Jim's brother John became Vice President and General Manager; sister Virginia Landrum was Chief Financial Officer, with brothers-in-law Don Landrum and Bob Watson also coming on board. Since then, John Arrigo and Virginia Landrum have both become partners in Arrigo Enterprises.

From left to right, Owner & President Jim Arrigo, father Joe Arrigo, sister Chief Financial Officer Virginia Landrum and Vice President & General Manager John Arrigo



***New 110,000 sq. ft.** West Palm Beach showroom on Okeechobee Blvd.*

***New 330,000 sq. ft.** Sawgrass showroom on Commercial Blvd. and Madison Ave.*

***New 72,000 sq. ft.** Ft. Pierce showroom on U.S. Hwy. 1*

It didn't take long for South Florida car buyers to see that something special was happening at Arrigo Dodge. A rapidly growing customer base led to significant expansion. By 2003, the company had added Chrysler and Jeep and, the next year, moved into a spectacular new home: a 110,000-square-foot dealership on 44-plus acres on Okeechobee Boulevard. Here, customers have $3 million in inventory to choose from, plus 48 service bays, a comfortable lounge with WiFi access, and even an on-site Enterprise Rent-a-Car location.

"Our goal was to create a truly amazing shopping experience for our customers," says Jim. "With so many combined years of family experience in the car business, we know what it takes to completely satisfy and delight customers with both sales and service."

As more delighted customers spread the word to their friends and neighbors, the Arrigos' business continued to grow substantially, eventually doubling in size with the acquisition of 330,000-square-foot Sawgrass Fairbanks Dodge-Chrysler-Jeep. In 2011, expansion continued, with the opening of Arrigo Fiat studios in Sawgrass and West Palm Beach. The final piece of the puzzle (for now!) is a third Dodge-Chrysler-Jeep-Ram store, opened further up Florida's East Coast in December 2011. The 72,000-square-foot Fort Pierce location is managed by Joe Tufo, cousin to John and Jim.

Leveraging volume buying power was a key to the Arrigos' growth. "Obviously in the car business, size matters," John says. "We stock over 3,500 new vehicles at 3 locations. Chances are incredibly good that whatever model, color and options a customer wants, we have that exact vehicle in stock, on the lot! People in South Florida learned that they didn't need to shop around to find the car they want– they just needed to shop with us!"

Today, 25 years after opening that first tiny Dodge store, the Arrigo family has established itself as one of the largest volume auto retailers in the entire U.S., and is ready to celebrate that achievement in a big way.

The Arrigo 25th Anniversary Sell-A-Bration kicks off on June 4 at all three South Florida locations. Every weekend until the end of June, all locations will hold drawings for a 50-inch TV. No purchase is necessary; just stop by any dealership to register. In addition, all Arrigo customers will receive NO Charge Lube, Oil and Filter changes for LIFE with every new vehicle purchased during this month long sell-a-bration. And best of all, Arrigo will be offering special 25th Anniversary discounts and rebates up to $13,000 off all vehicles; Arrigo Fiat's discounts and rebates will be up to $6,000 off. Zero down payment and zero percent APR financing will be available on select brands and models with approved credit.

How did Arrigo become the leading automotive name in South Florida, with so much competition? It was simple, according to Jim Arrigo. "My father and I started this business because we loved it," he says. "I think customers could see that from the beginning. When you're committed and passionate about your business, people want to do business with you. It's as simple as that."

For more information, please visit or contact:

Arrigo Dodge-Chrysler-Jeep-Ram West Palm Beach (6500 Okeechobee Blvd., 800-234-8820), Sawgrass (5901 Madison Ave., Tamarac, 855-412-7744) and Fort Pierce (5851 S. US Highway 1, 855-374-5022);
or Arrigo Fiat of West Palm (6500 Okeechobee Blvd., 888-354-0717) and Sawgrass (5901 Madison Ave., Tamarac, 888-785-4509).

Poison-proof your home

A skull and crossbones on a pesticide box is a good indication that what's inside is deadly. But a poison, which can lead to severe unintentional injury or death, might not always come in the form you expect. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) say that many substances can be poisonous if a person takes too much of them. Especially dangerous are prescription drugs, which account for more than 90 percent of accidental poisoning deaths.

With school out and kids at home for the summer, it's a good time to review some ways to poison-proof your home. Here are some tips from the CDC and the Environmental Protection Agency:

• Read the labels of cleaning products and other chemicals to be sure you follow the instructions for proper use.

• Store chemicals in locked cabinets or on high shelves that kids can't reach. Some of the substances to store this way include:

- bleach
- pesticides
- ammonia
- cleaning products

• Store prescription medicine in locked cabinets or on high shelves.

• Get rid of medicines that are expired or you no longer need. To safely dispose of them follow federal guidelines.

• Don't store cleaning products where you store food. Someone could mistake a chemical for a food product.

• Keep laundry detergents and cleaning products in their original containers. The labels usually have information for addressing accidental poisonings.

• Install a carbon monoxide detector, and regularly replace the batteries, if required.

• Don't mix household chemicals. The combining of certain chemicals can create dangerous fumes.

• Open a window or turn on a vent when using household cleaners indoors.

• And here's one tip for pet owners: Dogs and cats are at risk of poisoning too, so immediately clean up any chemical spills outside, especially anti-freeze.

According to the CDC, every day 87 people die as a result of unintentional poisoning; another 2,277 are treated in emergency departments. Unintentional poisoning deaths in the United States increased by 160% from 1999 to 2009. If you do need emergency care, Raulerson Hospital's Emergency Department is available for adults and children 24/7. If you have a non-emergency question regarding poisons, call Consult A Nurse® at 863-763-9228.

Special to the Okeechobee News

'Workshop of Wonder' VBS is June 16-20

"WOW" Vacation Bible School! Youth helper, Joshua River, and students, Josaiah and Maryann Harris, help prepare for a fun week of "building." Workshop of Wonder: Kids Under Construction, will be held June 16-20 at the First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. (behind Bank of America). Come at 5:30 p.m. for dinner and then the "building with God" rotation time. Did you know that Jesus was a carpenter? All kids ages 3 years through fifth grade are welcome to attend and learn about woodworking along with Bible stories. Space is limited, pre-registration requested. Call 863-763-4021.

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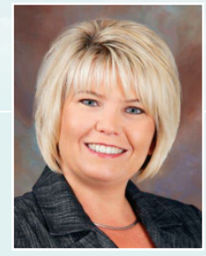

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Announcements

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 *.

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***LOST* A** SET OF KEYS, HAS TWO CLIPS, APPROXIMATELY 20-30 KEYS ON IT, SEPARATED BY INDIVIDUAL RINGS. IF FOUND PLEASE CALL 863-610-0346

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

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

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Contact Jim at 863-287-9687

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

Experienced person needed to work on large dairy farm. Must have experience operating a feed wagon and be able to communicate in English. **Call 863-763-2279, 9:00 am - noon for more information. DFWP.**

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Financial

Business Opportunities

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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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Apartments

Beautiful Samantha's Garden Apartments
2BR/2BA, in town, W&D, $800 mo. + sec. dep. Call (863)467-9250 or (863)634-5780.

Beautiful Twnhm. 2br/1ba, Tiled floors. Incldes Water. $725/mo. + dep. Pool & Tennis Court Avail. 863-801-7206 or 561-358-8128.

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

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OKEECHOBEE - 1/1, New floor covering, clean, furnished, cable, Wi-Fi, elec, satellite W/D included, fenced yard, small pet okay. $600/mo plus sec (863)467-1950

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2BED/1BATH HOUSE ON WATER BUCKHEAD RIDGE CALL GREG TO SEE 863-763-3374 OR 863-447-9376 1ST, LAST & SEC. $750.00 MONTHLY.

CITY LIMITS, 3/1 CBS CENTRAL A/C AND HEAT, CARPORT, NICE CORNER LOT. $700/MO. LAST AND SECURITY CALL 863-634-8942 FOR INFORMATION.

LAKE ACCESS, 3BR, 2BA, CBS home, newly remodeled. $960/mo. incl. lawn maint. Call 863-610-1276.

OAK PARK - 2/1 CBS, fenced yard. $750 mo. Call (863)634-8757 leave message.

OAK PARK - 2/1 NEW APPLIANCES $900 A MONTH CALL 863-467-1466

OKEE - 3br./2ba., A/C, W/D, Lrg. Barn, 7 stalls, 5 acres fenced, bring you horses! $900 mo., 1st., last + Sec. Neg. Call Bob 863-610-1171.

OKEECHOBEE- 2/2, fenced yard, sheds, Fla room, w/d, all appls., $550/mo (863) 634-0042

Treasure Island, 4/2 fenced yard with tile and new carpet throughout. $800/mo plus sec dep. SE 36th Ave. No pets. 863-634-0663.

Houses - Rent

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The classifieds are the most successful salesperson in town.

Rental Needed

RENTAL NEEDED STARTING JULY (FLEXIBLE). 3 OR 4 BEDROOM CBS OR FRAME HOME. LONG TERM LEASE, HAVE A DOG. CALL 561-254-5998 OR 863-801-5769

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Fifth Wheels

2006 Mobile Suite 5th Wheel new rear a/c, frig, water heater, awning and toilet last year. fully self contained, generator, well insulated, leather ceilings, 1 owner well taken care of. asking $37,500 o.b.o also have RV lot for sale in Big O RV Park with pavers and shed, very nice $18,500. o.b.o. call 863-447-9220

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

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

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

Public Notices

Public Notice

Okeechobee County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate

The Okeechobee County Special Magistrate will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. The public meeting will be held at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, located at 1728 N.W. 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida. For more information, contact Beth Albert at the Planning and Development Department, 1700 NW 9th Ave., Suite A, Okeechobee, Florida, 34972, (863) 824-3050.

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

Beth Albert
Code Enforcement Officer III
465830 ON 6/15/2014

NOTICE OF LIVESTOCK SALE BY OKEECHOBEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

You are hereby notified that I will offer for sale and sell at public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash the following described livestock;
3 domestic Yorkshire cross hogs, description as follows:

One 500+ pound bar white in color with black markings on rump and

One female approximately 50-60 pounds white with gray markings on rump and

One bar approximately 50-60 pounds white with gray markings on rump;
at 11:00AM on the 24th Day of June, 2014 at the following place: Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, 504 NW 4th Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, to satisfy a claim in the sum of $554.63 for fees, expenses for feeding and care and costs thereof.
Dated this 12TH day of June, 2014

Paul C. May,
Sheriff
Okeechobee County, Florida
465840 ON 6/15/2014

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Okeechobee Utility Authority (OUA) will receive proposals for the purpose of securing banking services. The RFP is titled:

*** Request for Proposal for Banking Services**

Detailed RFP documents are available upon request from the office of the Finance Director, located at 100 S.W. 5th Avenue, (Tel.) 863-763-9460. Email: bcoule@ouafl.com The OUA intends to review the submitted RFP's and reserves the right to reject any or all RFP's.

The RFP's must be delivered to the Finance Director's office, located at Okeechobee Utility Authority Administrative Office, 100 S.W. 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34974, on or before 3:00 PM, July 28, 2014. The submittal must be contained in a sealed package clearly marked on the outside with the submitter's name and the project name for which the submittal is made.

Basil J. Coule
Finance Director
465795 ON 6/13,15,18/2014

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

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!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

ANSWER:

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

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

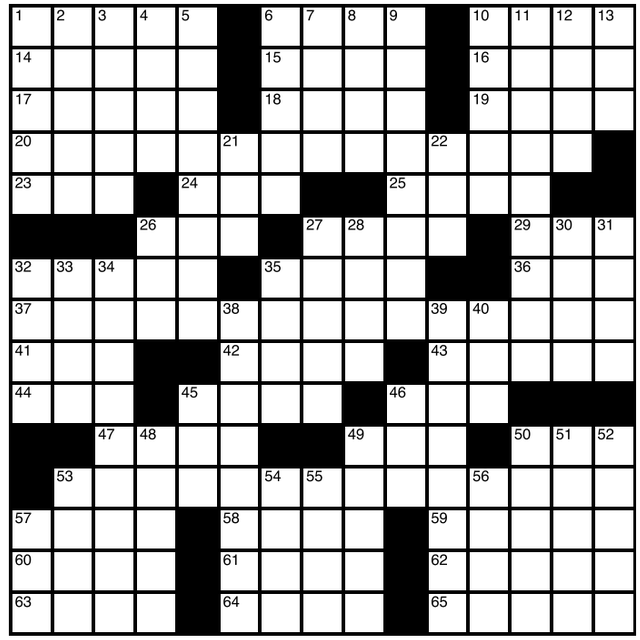
ACROSS
1 Mar. 17th honoree
6 Amazed
10 Gray timber wolf
14 Pasta sauce brand
15 Sonny's partner
16 Et __: and others
17 Word before PG or PG-13
18 Sacred
19 Bismarck is its cap.
20 Where to see stars in school
23 "__ will be done ...": Lord's Prayer
24 Summer zodiac sign
25 Of the flock
26 Actress Taylor, familiarly
27 Hearty dish
29 Concealed
32 Knives' sharp sides
35 "Gone With the Wind" plantation
36 Yoko from Tokyo
37 Where to see stars in the service
41 Chinese chairman
42 Get beaten
43 "Honest!"
44 Capone and Capp
45 Voice below soprano
46 Pres. between HST and JFK
47 __ gin fizz
49 Regret
50 Unit of work
53 Where to see stars in theaters
57 Coffee, in slang
58 __ Crunch: cereal brand
59 Tolerate
60 "Um, excuse me ..."
61 Fired
62 Memoranda
63 __ avis
64 One lacking experience
65 John of tractors

DOWN
1 Jack who ate no fat
2 Garbage
3 Trivial, as a complaint
4 New __: modern spiritualist
5 Slate of errands and chores
6 Sound evoking "Gesundheit!"
7 Hemingway's "For __ the Bell Tolls"
8 Slippery
9 Launder, as a suit
10 Polynesian porch
11 Like some conservative teaching methods
12 Prejudice
13 Mighty tree
21 Pince-__ glasses
22 Attorney's field
26 Floral necklace
27 Authority
28 "That's a good point"
30 Crucifix letters
31 Bowl-shaped roof
32 Actress Thompson
33 Rotary phone part
34 Handle superficially
35 Home run jog
38 Prowling feline
39 Extremely popular
40 Enemy
45 "You've got mail" company
46 Firecracker that doesn't crack
48 Andean animal
49 Sonata movement
50 Online party request
51 One on horseback
52 Canada honkers
53 "That's funny!"
54 Like crayons
55 Abbr. on a phone's "0" button
56 Double-reed instrument
57 Cookie container

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com



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NEW LISTING

1021-M: Palm Village 4/2 DW, 2,482 total sq ft/1,716 under air, open porch, Large Family rm, fireplace, nice open kitchen. HOA includes Clubhouse, pool, lawn care, more. 55+ comm. **$80,000** MLS #208093

4002-H: BHR Lake Access completely furnished! 2,085 Total Sq ft/974 under air. Metal roof, attached carport, screened patio w/bonus rm. Concrete seawall w/ boat slip, fish cleaning area. **$130,000** MLS #208051

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

5083-M: Pioneer Estates 3/2 DW on ½ an acre with 1,652 total sq ft/1,352 under air. All appliances stay, front screen porch, split bdrm plan, plenty of cabinets for storage and more. **$58,000** MLS #207779

5030-H: Okeechobee Golf Estate. 3/2 on ½ acre. Huge kitchen, split bdrm plan. Family rm overlooks golf course. 2 car garage, golf cart storage bldg. ~~$180,000~~ **NOW $170,000** MLS #207710

5054-H: Oaks at Okeechobee 2 story 5/3 home, 3610 Total sq ft/2427 under air. Double garage, ample concrete driveway. Huge kitchen, Minutes from Lake! ~~$139,500~~ **NOW $113,900**

• **Great location!** Commercial lot .57 of an acre next to Heritage Village and Okeechobee Ford Co. **$97,000** MLS #207503 • **14+/- acres** of commercial property on the Rim Canal with lake access. **$1,500,000** MLS #207408 • **Four Seasons area** 1+/- acre NE 4th St. **$5,900** MLS #207977 • **2 Basswood lots** on NW 32nd Ave. **Each $3,400** Make Offer • **Palm Village Ranch** clean Lot-Close to the Clubhouse. 55+community. **$15,000** MLS# 207998 • **Ok Acres** 10+/-acres Fenced, pond and house pad ready for a new home! **$79,000** MLS # 207817 • **Viking** 2.5+/- acres for **$11,000** MLS # 207811

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YMS volleyball team honored at awards banquet

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Megan Hargraves and Rachel Bryan shared the MVP Award and Artha Jonassaint took home the Yearling Award from the Yearling Middle School Volleyball Awards banquet held Tuesday night in the YMS cafeteria.

Eight girls were honored as they moved on from middle school to high school and several scholar athletes also received honors at the banquet.

Coach Kellyann Campbell said she felt her first year was a complete success. She called the team a great group of girls who were great to work with.

"It was a great season overall. We had the one loss to Pemayetv Emahakv at the Brighton Reservation and that was a little downer for the girls because they wanted a perfect season, but we worked really hard and had a good season," she explained.

Next year will be a rebuilding year as the roster had only three seventh graders and five sixth graders this past year. Campbell plans to hold a clinic and camp from July 8-11 for ages 6-14 to try and get some more girls interested in the sport.

Bryan said she was very appreciative of the MVP trophy. She said the coaches did a great job with her over the past three years and she is excited about her future in volleyball.

Ariana Robshaw claimed the Labero Award for defense and leadership.

Tyra Smith won the Sportsmanship Award.

Okeechobee News/ Charles Murphy
Tory Garcia won the Setter Award.

Ariana Robshaw won the Labero Award for defense and team leadership from the YMS coaches, Kellyann Campbell and Ms. Heineman.

Tyra Smith won the Sportsmanship Award.

Stephanie Ruiz took home the Most Improved Player award.

Megan Hargraves (left) and Rachel Bryan.

Artha Jonassaint took home the Yearling Award that honors academics, athletics and character.

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Fundraiser set for a local teen

By Tammi Kelly
Okeechobee News

Hannah McLaughlin

Hannah McLaughlin isn't your normal 15 year old; she is a very giving and kind teenager that thinks of others before herself.

She has raised money for various causes in the past and even thinks of her brother and sister when she is supposed to be shopping for herself.

In 2007, when Hannah was 7 years old, she was diagnosed with Type 1 juvenile diabetes. As if that wasn't hard enough, it was Halloween night.

The doctor told her that her pancreas was in the early stages of failing.

"I kind of didn't know what diabetes was. It was scary," said Hannah.

After the diagnosis, Hannah would go into comas every four to six months that would last from three to four weeks at a time due to her blood sugars. In March of 2011, after a four-week coma, Hannah was told her pancreas had died and there were no living cells left to even do a transplant.

"I once could tell when my blood sugars were low. I would shake. I can't tell anymore," said Hannah. Hannah's doctor told her about a dog that could save her life. This dog would be able to smell when her blood sugar was too low or too high. Knowing blood sugar levels sooner could help save her internal organs.

In July of 2011, after another coma, Hannah was told her kidneys were impaired and it was only a matter of time before they would fail. At that point, she would need dialysis.

Hannah's body is now resisting insulin.

The cost of the service dog is $25,000 and the dog will give Hannah the chance that every kid should have -- to live.

"If we don't get this dog, her organs will fail," said Hannah's mom, Angela McLaughlin.

To help pay for the dog "Hope for Hannah" will hold a summer kick-off bash Saturday, June 21, at the Philippine Heritage Enrichment Complex, 5154 S.W. 16th Ave., starting at 10 a.m. There will be live entertainment with Cody Williams and Jaia, a barbecue competition with barbecue dinner available to purchase, cornhole tournaments, an archery tournament, a karaoke contest, face painting, games for kids and more.

All funds raised will go back to Hannah so she can get her dog.

Hannah has also decided she to start a non-profit organization. Hope For Hannah is a 501(C)3 organization that will help local children with life-threatening illnesses.

"I don't want kids to go through these bad situations. I want them to have a life and enjoy it," she explained.

"Hannah wants to help others more than herself. She is a very giving person," said her mom.

After the bash, the family hopes to have enough money to get the dog for Hannah. If not, the fundraising will continue with, hopefully, a barrel race.

Hope For Hannah has a Facebook page where you can learn more about the events and Hannah. For information, call: Angela at 863-801-7241; or, Krystal Avant at 863-447-3282.

Tammi's "TOP" of the Lake

The Best of Lake Okeechobee

By Tammi Kelly
Okeechobee News

• **Geechee Mon's Smoked BBQ**, 104 S.E. Sixth St., is a great place to have a wonderful fresh-cooked meal. Pit master Charles A. Harper cooks everything fresh from the grill. All of the vegetables are purchased fresh from local farm stands, and the fresh-baked bread is purchased daily. They are open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. to enjoy some really great barbecue. Don't forget to tell them Tammi sent you! Call them at 863-357-0852.

• **Pueblo Viejo**, 3415 U.S. 441 S. is a family-owned and operated restaurant. They serve steak, chicken and fish. Their fajitas are amazing. They have great margaritas and host happy hour seven days a week until 7 p.m. They have a full bar for you to enjoy any drink with your meal. At Pueblo Viejo they will make you feel like family, like you're at home. Check out the website at www.puebloviejofl.com or call them at 863-357-9641.

• **St. Lucie Battery and Tire,** 198 U.S. 98 N., carries most tire sizes and are dealers of Michelin, BF Goodrich and more. They carry tires for cars, trucks, tractors and also for RVs and even construction equipment. They offer 24/7 roadside assistance. They offer any size battery you need even for golf carts and scooters. If they don't have it, they can get it for you. Gift certificates are available at any time of the year! Check out their website at www.slbt.com or like them on Facebook! Call 863-357-2431.

If you can't take dad out this Father's Day or maybe you just want to cook something homemade that dad may like, try this great BBQ recipe!

Southern Grilled Barbecued Ribs

Ingredients: 4 pounds baby back pork ribs, 1-2/3 cup water, 1/3 cup red wine vinegar, 1 cup ketchup, 1/2 cup cider vinegar, 1/3 cup Worcestershire sauce, 1/4 cup prepared mustard, 4 tablespoons butter, 1/2 cup packed brown sugar, 1 teaspoon hot pepper sauce and 1/8 teaspoon salt.

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Place ribs in two, 10x15 inch roasting pans. Pour water and red wine vinegar into a bowl, and stir. Pour diluted vinegar over ribs and cover with foil. Bake in the preheated oven for 45 minutes. Baste the ribs with their juices halfway through cooking.

2. In a medium saucepan, mix together ketchup, water, vinegar, Worcestershire sauce, mustard, butter, brown sugar, hot pepper sauce, and salt; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer barbeque sauce for 1 hour.

3. Preheat grill for medium heat.

4. Lightly oil preheated grill. Transfer ribs from the oven to the grill, discarding cooking liquid. Grill over medium heat for 15 minutes, turning ribs once. Baste ribs generously with barbeque sauce, and grill 8 minutes. Turn ribs, baste again with barbeque sauce, and grill 8 minutes.

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