



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Celebrating Our Centennial!

Vol. 105 No. 96

Sunday, August 10, 2014

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Guide to local elections inside this edition!

OHS fall football schedule set ... Page 23

Lake Levels

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



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Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsken
Sandhill cranes are among the birds that thrive in the lower Kissimmee Basin. The SFWMD basin plan balances the water needs of wildlife, agriculture and humans.

Water usage plan approved for lower Kissimmee basin

Water managers balance water needs of agriculture, cities and wildlife

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Water demand is expected to increase by 30 million gallons per day by the year 2035 in the lower Kissimmee basin that includes parts of Okeechobee, Highlands

and Glades Counties.

Over the same time period, population is expected to increase by 23 percent or by 12,389 residents in the three counties.

Thursday the South Florida Water Management District Water Resources Committee reviewed the draft of the Lower Kissimmee basin water plan and approved it with little discussion.

Section leader Cynthia Gefvert said this basin uses the least

See BASIN — Page 5

Fleet cards cut OCSO fuel costs

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

In an effort to hold down fuel costs, the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) takes advantage of the WEX fleet card that allows deputies to buy gasoline at the pump but at a reduced price.

OCSO Major Noel Stephen explained his agency has been a part of the State of Florida WEX Fleet Card program since 2010. The card not only saves the agency money but is also more time efficient for deputies in that they no longer have to return to the county pump located at the Okeechobee County Road and Bridge Department on N.W. Second Ave. to fill up their patrol units.

"This allows the deputies to stay in their zones," said Maj. Stephen.

Even though his deputies primarily use the WEX card, they can also fuel up their cars at the county pump if need be.

OCSO records show that, on average, the sheriff's office paid \$3.3757 per gallon by using the

WEX card from June 3 to July 1. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) web site the average price for regular gas at the pump during that same time frame was \$3.591 in Florida. In the Central Atlantic portion of the U.S., the price for regular gas during that same period was \$3.753.

According to a June 2014 invoice the sheriff's office purchased 77 gallons of gas at the county pump at a price of \$3.5354 per gallon. That's a total of \$272.23 paid to the county by the sheriff's office.

The OCSO major said most of that cost is attributed to use by the Citizens On Patrol (COP) unit and the OCSO transport unit which transports prisoners.

Okeechobee County currently purchases its gasoline from Palmdale Oil on a contract price.

In July of this year the sheriff's office paid an average of \$3.2857 per gallon by using the WEX card at the pump.

See GAS — Page 5

Henry Creek Lock to close to boat traffic

The Henry Creek Navigation Lock, or G-36, on the north shore of Lake Okeechobee is scheduled to close to boat traffic beginning August 11 to install an upgraded manatee protection system.

As one of the first of 19 SF-WMD gates and locks to receive the unique system in the 1990s

to protect this endangered and iconic Florida species, it was time to replace parts at the end of their useful life.

Developed by Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University, the system uses sensors at the bottom of the

See LOCK — Page 5

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Know the signs of dehydration

Healthy adult bodies are made of anywhere between 50 and 65 percent water, while children's bodies contain even more. Our bodies eliminate fluids throughout the day via sweat or urine. What happens when these fluids aren't replaced? Dehydration.

Why hydration matters

Unlike camels, we humans have no internal storage system in our bodies to carry surplus water around with us as we work, play and exercise. Without replenishing our body's water at regular intervals throughout the day, we can't:

- Digest well;
- Regulate body temperature;
- Properly absorb and transport nutrients throughout our bodies;
- Maintain efficient organ function;
- Promote healthy skin;
- Eliminate waste.

Recognizing dehydration

Dehydration often occurs in the heat, but can also result in cooler environments, such as when you work out in a gym. Even though you're healthy, if you feel unwell with no apparent cause, the cause might be dehydration. Symptoms include:

- Thirst;
- Dryness of the mouth, nose or skin;
- Headache;
- Fainting;

- Disorientation or dizziness;
- Severe temperature changes such as hot or cold and chills;
- Nausea or vomiting;
- Sluggishness or weakness;
- Cramping.

Staying Hydrated

Unfortunately, by the time you feel thirsty, you are already well on your way to dehydration. The key to maintaining healthy fluid levels is thinking ahead.

Consume approximately eight (eight-ounce) glasses of water daily depending on your personal needs. Drink even more when especially active. Plan ahead and pack a water bottle ahead of time. Eat plenty of hydrating fruits and vegetables such as citrus, watermelon, kiwi, celery and cucumber. Minimizing caffeinated and sugary beverages is also important. Consider electrolyte-based beverages if you exercise for more than 60 minutes.

If you feel weak from dehydration, loosen clothing and move to a cool place, preferably featuring air conditioning, then seek help. If severe, call 911 immediately. Raulerson Hospital's Emergency Department is available when you need it 24/7. If you have any health questions or if you would need to find a doctor, call the free Consult-A-Nurse® service at 863-763-9228.

Okeechobee Retired Educators to meet

The Okeechobee Retired Educators will meet on Monday, **Aug. 11**, at 11 a.m. in the meeting room of Beef O'Brady's. This will be the first meeting after the summer break. Any retired school employee is invited to join us and learn about OREA and the state organization, Florida Retired Educators. We have several projects that we work on each year: Hooked on Books, where we provide books for the public school media centers; underwear and shoes provided to kids in need at the elementary schools; reading in the schools; raising money for high school scholarships through our ornament sales; and, providing money for the End the Hunger Project.



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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!

Safety

• I know there is much stress about the sheriff's office budget, but I still feel safe in this community. Despite the cuts last year to the budget and the decrease in staff, I think we are safe here. Of course, each resident has to take some responsibility for your own safety. Keep your doors locked. Don't leave ATVs, motorcycles or riding lawnmowers in view of the street. Fencing your property helps. Getting a big dog helps too.

Taxes

• As of late since budget and compliance with codes seems to be a hot topic, I have noticed the churches and religious centers in this county. I know no candidate would address this but the amount of land some of these churches are holding vs. the amount

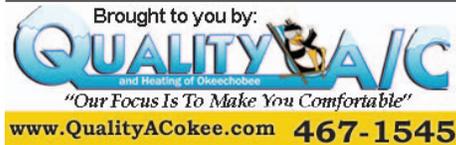
of land they actually use, definitely raises my hackles. Looking around I can see no reason why they hold so much land. In comparison, look at the movie theater. They have as many seats as a church yet they are on a smaller lot and use the entire property. Is this some kind of tax break for the business of operating a church? What's the reason for such large lots? How can a church actually control a public street making it impossible for public use? That being said, I think land holdings of churches should be reviewed and considered for taxes. Only the percentage used to worship should be considered tax exempt.

• The Crown bestowed tax relief to churches and clergy of the established official religion, as it did for other state institutions. Sometimes the official religion changed and "property employed for religious purposes by the out-of-favor denomination could be seized under the Chantries Act as property used for superstitious purposes." If only! America's progressive liberal deist and atheist founding fathers made sure America would be a secular democracy with no state religion or mandated religion of any kind.

Correction

The article headlined, "Doctor Kumar: Okeechobee's voice of hope" in the Aug. 1 edition contained some incorrect contact information. The office phone number is: 863-467-9500. Address: 1115 N. Parrott Ave. and hours of operation: Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Okeechobee Forecast



Today: Partial cloudiness early, with scattered showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. High 91F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 40%.

Tonight: A few clouds from time to time. Low 73F. Winds SW at 5 to 10 mph

Extended Forecast

Monday: Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms possible. High 93F. Winds SW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 30%.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly early. Low 74F. Winds light and variable. Chance of rain 30%.

Tuesday: Partial cloudiness early, with scattered showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. High 92F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 40%.

Tuesday Night: Scattered thunderstorms during the evening, then becoming clear overnight. Low 74F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 40%.

Letters to the editor

What is the gospel?

Calvin H. Fryar, pastor
Brighton Baptist Church

Mark 16:15—"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

1 Corinthians 15:1—"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

We are told to preach the gospel—what is the gospel? Simply said it is, "Jesus died for me." Dr. J. H. Wilson gave a very good example of the power of the gospel: I was traveling some years ago with one of the most eminent Jews of our time, the late Dr. Cappadose of Amsterdam. He said to me, "Would you like to know how I became a Christian?" "I should, very much," I replied. He said, "I was reading my Hebrew Old Testament, and I came to the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah. I had read it before, but this time my eyes seemed opened. I began to think it was the New Testament I had gotten hold of by mistake. I turned the back of it toward me to make sure it was my own Bible. As I read it again and again, I saw what I had never seen before — sin laid on another. And who could it be but the Lord Jesus? The end of that was that I became a Christian without the New Testament at all!"—Dr. J. H. Wilson in The Illustrator.

Much of what is spoken from today's pulpit and called the gospel does not line up with Paul's version of the gospel. WHAT IS THE GOSPEL according to Paul? As simple and plain as he could make it, Paul wrote: "Christ died for our sins ... he was buried, and that he rose again the third day..." In the New Testament the gospel is not how to live the Christian life—Jesus lived it two-thousand years ago. The gospel is not just teaching someone how to keep the moral law. The gospel is not teaching someone how to succeed in life—I could go on BUT—gospel preaching is the preaching of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And to make it clear as to where he stood Paul told the Corinthians, "I deter-

mined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2).

Macartney in an Illustration, wrote: "Delayed once for several hours in the town of Dijon in France, I went into the cathedral there. What I remember now about the cathedral is the finely-wrought stone pulpit, and just beneath it the figure of a recording angel, holding a tablet in one hand and a pen in the other, with face upward turned toward the pulpit, waiting to hear and record what the preacher says. "Always the angel stands below our pulpits. He is not waiting to put down things which the congregation or the pastor might like to record—in pleasure or displeasure—but whether or not the words of the preacher are true to the gospel with which he has been entrusted—Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations.

WHAT DOES THE GOSPEL DO? Paul wrote, "I declare unto you the gospel which I preached ... By which also ye are saved..." There you have it from the pen of the apostle Paul. The gospel is the means of our salvation and Satan does not like the gospel. He will hinder it every chance he gets. It must be preached often and kept in mind unless we forget and "have believed in vain," Paul advises in the text. Paul made the gospel simple in 1 Corinthians 15:1. He said, "I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures." This according to Paul is the gospel—he was talking to a church that had forgotten the gospel.

There is a song I love to hear. It thrills me every time I hear it. It is called "One Glorious Day." The chorus is the gospel that every Christian is commanded to preach and teach: Living He Loved me, dying He saved me, Buried He carried my sins far away, Rising He justified freely forever, One day He is coming, oh glorious day!

A little child, between four and five years of age, on retiring, knelt down to say her evening prayer and was heard to say, "Dear Jesus, I thank you for being punished instead of me." She had heard her mother talking of Jesus taking our place. This incident inspired the hymn, "Instead of Me." Good news from the gospel is sounding today; I haste to receive it, how can I delay? It tells me from bondage my soul may be free, Through Jesus who suffered instead of me.—words by Fanny J. Crosby.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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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.



Community Events

B.R.A.T. dance is Aug. 16

The Okeechobee B.R.A.T. Club (Building Relationships Among Teens) will host a back-to-school Teen Dance Party at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus, 610 S.W. Second Ave., Saturday, **Aug. 16**, from 7 until 10 p.m. for students ages 12-16. The cost is \$7 and includes pizza, soda and chips.

Youth soccer sign ups set

Okeechobee Parks and Recreation will host youth soccer league sign ups **Aug. 18** - 29 at the Sports Complex, 640 N.W. 27th Lane, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 :30 p.m. The fee is \$45 per player. You will need a birth certificate to register.

Photo workshop at library

A free photo editing workshop will be held at the Okeechobee County Library, 206 S.W. 16th St., on Thursday, **Aug. 21**, from 5:30 until 7 p.m. For information, call 772-708-6764.

BASIN

Continued From Page 1

amount of water of any of the basins in the South Florida Water Management District but the goal is to ensure adequate water supplies while protecting the environment.

There are six public utilities in the basin including the Okeechobee Utility Authority. Agriculture is by far the biggest user of water in the basin.

Ms. Gefvert said two workshop meetings were held in Okeechobee in the past 60 days and they have met with agriculture leaders, utilities, and the Seminole Tribe to get comments on the plan.

Five agencies, including the Florida Farm Bureau and the Florida Department of Agriculture, have offered comments of support.

In 2010, 192 million gallons of water per day was used in the basin and that is expected to increase to 222 million gallons by 2035. Ms. Gefvert admitted that sounds like a lot of water but by comparison, the Miami Utility Authority uses 300 million gallons per day by itself.

GAS

Continued From Page 1

Maj. Stephen explained his agency is billed monthly and that their fuel cost changes as the cost of gasoline fluctuates.

"The WEX card is used by the Florida Highway Patrol, as well as other state and county agencies," the major said.

In all, the WEX fleet card is used in 22 states across the nation and four federal agencies use the program.

The fleet card is accepted at 90 percent of retail fueling locations nationwide, stated the company's web site. Most major fuel merchants take part in this program, including ExxonMobil, Shell, Sunoco, BP, Amoco,

Fishing benefit planned

Skull Hill Steel Archery will host Some-thin' for Nothin', a bow and trash fishing tournament to benefit Tony Sudduth, at Okee-Tantie airboat ramp on **Aug. 23**, at 7 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person and \$10 per person for the 50/50 big fish entry. For information contact Jacob Mayfield at 561-635-7470, or by e-mail at jmayfield113@yahoo.com.

Benefit for Pilgrims slated

Okeechobee Quarters for a Cause will host their monthly auction Tuesday, **Aug. 19**, at the American Legion, 501 S.E. Second St., with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. They will support Lee and Larry Pilgrim who have both been through a lot of health issues in the past year and need funds for their medical bills. Wear boots and pearls to be entered in a special prize giveaway. For information, call Christy at 863-697-1247.

Ms. Gefvert said agriculture continues to use more water and acreage in agriculture use is expected to increase by 9,500 acres by 2035. She said 85 percent of the area's water supply is used by agriculture.

"The future water demands can be met with appropriate management and continued development of available ground water sources," she told the committee.

Public water use is expected to increase by 21 percent to 3.5 million gallons per day by 2035 and agriculture use is projected to increase by 14 percent from 162 to 185 million gallons per day. While the plan includes 6.4 million gallons per day for power plants, that projection does not include the proposed power plant in Northeast Okeechobee County.

The basin supports 52 different species of fish, 98 different species of birds and 24 species of reptiles and amphibians. The area covered is roughly south of the 65A structure and includes drainage basins like Taylor Creek, Lake Istokpoga, Lake Okeechobee, Fish Eating Creek and the Indian Prairie Canal.

The plan is due to be considered by the SFWMD Governing Board on Sept. 11.

Phillips and Marathon.

The company's web site goes on to explain that it has been available to the federal government and commercial fleet managers since 1983. WEX is also registered with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and can exempt state and local taxes on fuel purchases. It services over 1.06 million tax-exempt cards nationwide.

In essence, the program can provide the savings because fuel is purchased at the port which cuts out the middleman, pointed out Maj. Stephen.

Calls were placed to county officials Friday, Aug. 8, but no one was available as of newspaper deadline.

No change to target flows east and west from Lake Okeechobee

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District has announced it will continue the target flows it set in mid-July as it continues to manage water levels at Lake Okeechobee.

For the Caloosahatchee Estuary, the target flow remains at a 10-day average of 1,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) as measured at W.P. Franklin Lock and Dam (S-79) near Fort Myers. Local basin runoff will continue to be allowed to pass through Franklin as necessary, which could cause flows to exceed the target.

The target flow for the St. Lucie Lock and Dam (S-80) is unchanged at 0 cfs, although local basin runoff from the St. Lucie Canal (C-44) will continue to be allowed to pass through the St. Lucie Lock as has been the case since early June.

"The lake has been rising in recent days," said Lt. Col. Tom Greco, Jacksonville District Deputy Commander for South Florida. "We are working with the South Florida Water Management District to keep

lakes in the Kissimmee chain near the top of their regulation schedules. We are also seeing success in sending lake water through the southern outlets on the lake. On Wednesday (Aug 6), 900 cfs was sent to the south while no lake water was sent to the Caloosahatchee River or St. Lucie Canal."

Friday, Aug. 8, the lake stage is 14.20 feet, and has risen 0.26 feet in the past week. It is currently in the Operational Low Sub-Band of the Corps' water control plan, the 2008 Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (LORS). In the Low Sub-Band, under current conditions, LORS authorizes the Corps to discharge up to 3,000 cfs to the Caloosahatchee and up to 1,170 cfs to the St. Lucie.

"If the lake continues to rise, there is a possibility discharges will have to be increased," said Col. Greco. "We will continue to monitor conditions and make adjustments as necessary based on LORS guidance."

LOCK

Continued From Page 1

lock that prevent gates from closing when a manatee is present.

Work is scheduled to be complete and the lock reopened to boaters by Friday, August 22.

For information about the lock and manatee protection system, please contact Gary Ritter at (863) 462-5260, ext. 3017, or gritter@sfwmd.gov

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Alice (Aperkowsky) Jensen, 84

OKEECHOBEE — Alice Jensen died July 30, 2014 at the Hamrick Home.

She was born June 18, 1930 in New York. She came to Okeechobee from New York in 1965.

She was a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church and frequent donor to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. She was a wonderful mother and friend who would give her last to someone in need. She was a devoted Catholic, loved to work in the gardens and sing to the Lord.

Mrs. Jensen was preceded in death by her brother, Walter Aperkowsky.

She is survived by her sons, Lance Jensen (Robyn Preis) and Michael Jensen (Pat); two grandsons, Dakota Preis and Scott Buchanan; sister-in-law, Esther Aperkowsky.

No services will be held at this time.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the family to assist with final expenses.

Daisy A. Brown, 88

TAMPA — Daisy A. Brown passed away Thursday, August 7, 2014 at Tampa General Hospital due to Heart Failure.

She was born February 7, 1926 in Okeechobee, Fla. to the late Samuel B and Minnie (Brown) Davis and has been a resident of the area since 1947 moving here from Okeechobee, Fla.

She enjoyed traveling, spending time with family, friends and neighbors and was a good cook. She was a homemaker and of the Protestant Faith.

She was preceded in death by her Husband William E. Brown.

Survivors include her brother Samuel C. and wife Diane Davis of Okeechobee, Fla. And many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be Monday, August 11, 2014 at 1:00PM until service time at 2:00 p.m. at the Marion Nelson Funeral Home in Frostproof with the Rev. Wrynn Collins Officiating. Interment will be at Silver Hill Cemetery

Marion Nelson Funeral Home of Frostproof handling arrangements.

Bernice Elizabeth

Banks Hayes, 90

OKEECHOBEE — Bernice Elizabeth Banks Hayes passed away on August 7, 2014. She was born January 19, 1924 in Live Oak, Florida to Martin Ira and Mary Ada Banks.

She came to Okeechobee from Pompano Beach in 1959, and was an active member of First Baptist Church of Okeechobee. A bookkeeper by trade, Mrs. Hayes was Finance Officer for the Okeechobee County School system for many years before joining her husband in their retail store, Garden, Ranch & Pet Supply.

Mrs. Hayes was preceded in death by two half-sisters, Mayebell Philyaw and Bonnie Sanders; two half-brothers, Allison Banks and Charles V. Knight; three brothers, Haywood, Leonard and Wilton Banks.

She is survived by her husband of more than seventy years, Vergil L. Hayes; son, Ron Hayes (Jacque E.) all of Okeechobee; daughter, Janice Andrews (Ron) of Alachua; grandson, Aaron Andrews (Amanda); granddaughter, Blair Andrews Poole (Shawn); and four great grandchildren.

Visitation will be at First Baptist Church of Okeechobee on Monday, August 11, 2014 from 1 p.m. until funeral services at 2 p.m. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

The family requests in lieu of flowers, friends may write a note about a memory of Bernice that can be provided to her children and grandchildren to let them know what she meant to others. They may be placed in a basket which will be placed at the visitation and funeral service.

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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VFW serving breakfast

Buckhead Ridge VFW Post 9528, 29012 E. S.R. 78, announces its activities are open to the public this week. Sunday, **Aug. 10**, breakfast is from 8:30 until 11 a.m. plus \$1 bloody marys, screwdrivers and drafts with five-card bingo at 5 p.m. Dinner on Wednesday, Aug. 13, is from 5 until 7 p.m. for a \$6 donation. Thursday, Aug. 14, features bingo and food at 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 15, dinner features pork loin, fish and shrimp for a \$7-\$8 donation plus live music from 6 until 11 p.m. All proceeds benefit veterans programs and their families. Call 843-467-2882.

Legion offers Sunday bingo

American Legion 64, 501 S.E. Second St., will host Sunday night bingo on **Aug. 10** at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. in the bingo area. Payoffs will be determined by player attendance. All proceeds will benefit the American Legion veterans' programs. The event is open to the public.

Firefighters collect supplies

Okeechobee Firefighters Union Local 2918 will collect back-to-school supplies at Okeechobee Walmart on Sunday, **Aug. 10**. All supplies will be given to My Aunt's House (501c3) for distribution to local foster and needy children. For information, call Matt Vinson 863-697-1205.

Support group to meet

A stroke support group will meet on Wednesday, **Aug. 13**, at 6 p.m. at the Heritage Assisted living Facility, 608 N.E. Second Ave. For information, call 863-763-7773 or 863-634-8412.

Political forum is planned

An Okeechobee political forum will be held Wednesday, **Aug. 13**, in the Osceola Middle School Gymnasium, 825 S.W. 28th St., from 5:45 until 9 p.m. Candidates from the following races are invited: U.S. Representative – District 17, Commissioner of Agriculture, Circuit Judge – Circuit 19, City Council, School Board – District 1, County Commission – Districts 2 & 4. Concessions will be available and those sales will benefit local students.

Benefit planned for Levi Boney

A barbecue chicken dinner benefit will be held for Levi Boney on Friday, **Aug. 15**, from 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Okeechobee Church of God, 301 N.E. Fourth Ave. Levi has Scheuermann's Kyphosis disease and is under going spinal fusion surgery. They are raising money to help with medical bills. Tickets are available at Nurse On Call and Tin Fish Restaurant. For information, call Shelley Maggard at 863-697-0193.

Town hall meeting scheduled

A town hall meeting with Commissioner Bryant Culpepper will be held Friday, **Aug. 15**, at 7 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Civic Center, 1750 U.S. 98 N.

Mission plans school drive

Big Lake Missions Outreach is currently sponsoring their annual school supplies drive for needy families. We will accept donations up until **Aug. 15**. Most all school supplies are needed. No trapper keepers. For information and drop-off locations call 863-763-5725 or 863-610-1815.

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Panthers sometimes prey on cattle

By Mickie Anderson
UF/IFAS

GAINESVILLE — A two-year panther study at two southwest Florida cattle ranches shows that the endangered cats attack and kill calves, but how often that happens

can vary greatly by location and landscape. Caitlin Jacobs, a University of Florida master's student in wildlife ecology and conservation, conducted the study, in which radio-transmitter tags were put on the ears of 409 calves at two ranches, both near Immokalee.

The Florida panther nearly died out, with an estimated population thinning to just 20 to 25 panthers by 1995, with conservation efforts helping the cat's numbers grow to an estimated 100 to 160 by 2012.

But the panthers' comeback has not always been helpful to cattle ranchers.

One of the ranches Ms. Jacobs studied lost 10 calves, or 5 percent of the herd each year, to preying panthers, while the other lost only one, or half a percent of that herd, during the same time span. Both ranches also lost calves to other causes, including eight deaths at one ranch and five at the other not attributed to predators.

Overall, panther attacks caused the most deaths, although panthers weren't the only predator for calves to contend with. Each ranch also lost at least one ear-tagged calf to a bear attack during the two-year study, while some untagged calves were killed by coyotes and vultures.

The ranches' physical geography, including open spaces and the proximity of wooded areas in which the cats can hide and stalk, likely have much to do with the different rates, she said. But for the panthers to continue their comeback, they rely greatly on the mixed landscape found on ranches, which includes forests, wetlands, prairies and pastures.

Ms. Jacobs said she hopes her research helps lead to fruitful policy discussion between state conservation officials and ranchers, perhaps to programs that might pay ranchers to maintain key panther habitat, rather than as compensation for difficult-to-track individual calf losses.

"The ranching landscape is important for panthers. Land that's used for housing or row crops or citrus groves doesn't help them the same way; they need those natural areas," she said. The research was often gory, with Ms. Jacobs, multi-county UF/IFAS livestock Extension agent Lindsey Wiggins and the ranchers themselves evaluating scenes and playing sleuth to determine which predator was to blame: panthers, coyotes, bears or even vultures.

The study was funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Defenders of Wildlife and supported by JB Ranch and Immokalee Ranch, where Jacobs did her research.

Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

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

COWS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
800-1000	95.00	- 134.00	107.72
1000-1200	100.00	- 134.00	112.24
1200-1400	107.00	- 128.00	115.50
1400-1600	106.00	- 124.00	114.36

BULLS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
1200-1400	114.00	- 129.00	121.50
1400-1600	107.00	- 142.00	126.40
1600-1800	128.00	- 143.00	134.20
1800-2000	125.00	- 125.00	125.00

#1 STEERS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
150-250	420.00	- 470.00	445.12
250-300	385.00	- 425.00	401.36
300-350	375.00	- 400.00	388.25
350-400	310.00	- 375.00	328.20
400-450	275.00	- 325.00	286.07
450-500	252.00	- 285.00	259.79
500-550	237.50	- 254.00	241.83
550-600	230.00	- 243.00	234.10
600-650	223.00	- 228.00	224.75
650-700	224.00	- 228.00	225.86

#1 HEIFERS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
150-250	330.00	- 375.00	343.44
250-300	300.00	- 365.00	321.33
300-350	275.00	- 325.00	291.36
350-400	257.50	- 275.00	264.62
400-450	247.50	- 280.00	254.61
450-500	240.00	- 265.00	247.33
500-550	232.00	- 258.00	237.89
550-600	228.00	- 265.00	239.55
600-650	220.00	- 294.00	243.50

	MONDAY	TUESDAY
CLFS	444	745
COWS	174	331
STRS	18	42
HFRS	11	21
BULLS	12	20
YRLINGS	132	61
MIX	0	0
TOTAL	791	1220

#1 1/2 - #2 STRS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
150-250	250.00	- 440.00	385.98
250-300	320.00	- 385.00	356.82
300-350	295.00	- 375.00	332.88
350-400	270.00	- 310.00	292.40
400-450	245.00	- 270.00	260.92
450-500	230.00	- 250.00	242.66
500-550	224.00	- 237.50	230.26
550-600	218.00	- 230.00	223.94
600-650	216.00	- 222.00	219.44
650-700	188.00	- 224.00	209.50

#1 1/2 - #2 HFRS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
150-250	250.00	- 340.00	300.63
250-300	270.00	- 300.00	281.58
300-350	250.00	- 275.00	264.55
350-400	230.00	- 255.00	243.95
400-450	227.50	- 247.50	238.39
450-500	220.00	- 240.00	229.49
500-550	206.00	- 232.00	221.27
550-600	208.00	- 228.00	219.80
600-650	193.00	- 220.00	208.38

Slaughter cows and bulls sold really good this week—higher by several dollars! Short supply with good demand! Same thing goes for calf prices, Higher across the board! These high prices are making everyone a little nervous, but it's strictly supply and demand! All indications are that we are in for a few good years. The downside is it's gonna' take a lot of money to replace old cows and I imagine the Bull Sales this Fall are going to be considerably higher! But, we need to enjoy it while it lasts ... it's been a long time coming!

Lightsey Cattle Co, Lake Wales, topped the calf market with a high of \$4.70 bought by B & M Cattle. Seminole Tribe, Okeechobee, and Rio Ranch, Okeechobee, topped the Slaughter Cow Market with a high of \$1.28 bought by Florida Beef. October Special Sales: Oct 3: Bred Heifer & Cow Sale; Oct 10: "44 Farms" Angus Bull Sale; Oct 17: "Little Creek Farms" Brangus Bull Sale plus 50 head (Registered & Commercial) Brangus Heifers

Todd

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Fri. 7:00 & 9:00. Sat., Sun. Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00. Mon. 3:00 & 7:00

II: "GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY"
Fri. 7:00 & 9:10. Sat., Sun., Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:10. Mon. 3:00 & 7:00

III: "TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES"
Fri. 7:00 & 9:00. Sat., Sun. Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00. Mon. 3:00 & 7:00

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Local man charged in home break-in

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man accused of burglarizing a local home and stealing several televisions is being held on bond in the Okeechobee County Jail.

Arrested Friday, Aug. 8, was Jose Ruben Nunez III, of a S.W. 11th St., on felony charges of grand theft, burglary of an unoccupied dwelling, criminal mischief and use of another person's identification without

consent. He is being held on a total bond of \$52,500.

Detective M.D. Faulkner, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated in his arrest report Nunez, 29, was accused of entering a home and stealing five flat screen televisions while the homeowner was out of town. Those TVs had a combined value of \$2,150, added the report.

A witness reportedly told the detective they saw a vehicle back into the driveway

at the home. A man got out of the gold sports utility vehicle and walked around the side of the house. That man, added the witness, was reportedly out of the SUV for 30 minutes to an hour.

Through the course of his probe, Detective Faulkner learned the intruder apparently gained entry into the home by breaking out a window and that one of the TVs was supposedly sold to a man in Buckhead Ridge.

According to the detective's report, damage to a side door, side window and backdoor was estimated to be around \$1,000.

The detective's investigation into this break-in is continuing.



Jose Nunez

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).

- Gilberto Orozco, 21, N.E. 70th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 7 by Deputy John Ashby on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the misdemeanor of violation of probation - driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$2,500.

- Kendrick Mario Hilton, 18, N. State Road 7, Plantation, was arrested Aug. 7 by Deputy Corporal Chris Hans on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felony

of battery on detention/commitment staff. His bond was set at \$5,000.

- Dwan Sharrod Marshall Jr., 17, N.W. 11th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 7 by Deputy Cpl. Chris Hans on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felonies of possession of a firearm or ammunition by a convicted felon and carrying a concealed firearm. He was also charged with the misdemeanor of resisting a law enforcement officer without violence. His bond was set at \$81,500.

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.

Do Not Call tops list of consumer complaints

Commissioner of Agriculture Adam H. Putnam announced Aug. 5 that the top three complaints received in July 2014 at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services were regarding violators of the statewide Do Not Call List, fuel and cable. The agency received 3,956 complaints in July. In addition, there were 37,461 calls, 811 live online chats and 400 emails requesting consumer assistance and information. The top three calls to the agency's 1-800-HELP-FLA hotline requesting information or assistance were related to cable companies, the solicitation of contributions from charities and the Do Not Call list.

In the past month, the department has responded to many consumer concerns and taken action against several individuals or businesses operating outside of Florida law. During the month of July, the agency:

- Initiated 273 investigations;
- Arrested 6 individuals;
- Recovered \$523,317 on behalf of Florida consumers;
- Registered 7,126 businesses;
- Added 19,913 telephone numbers to Florida's Do Not Call List. Currently, there are more than 695,000 numbers on the list.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is the state's clearinghouse for consumer complaints, protection and information. The call center is staffed with trained analysts who can respond to questions about programs and regulations under the department's purview, provide information on a wide variety of topics or direct callers to the appropriate government agency.

Consumers who believe fraud has taken place can contact the department's consumer protection and information hotline at 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352).

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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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Primary Election Day VOTER'S GUIDE

Features: Political Forum information ▪ Candidates Q&A ▪ Sample Ballot ▪ *Much, Much More*

Supplement to the Okeechobee News ▪ August 10, 2014

Okeechobee primary elections important

Public invited to attend political forums this week

Okeechobee voters will go to the polls this month to elect a county commissioner in district 1 and a school board member, as well as choose the Republican party representative for the county commission district 4 race.

Early voting for the primary begins Saturday, Aug. 16, and ends Saturday, Aug. 23, with voting during that period from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Supervisor of Elections Office in the Historic Okeechobee County Courthouse.

The primary election will be held Tuesday, Aug. 26.

In the county commission district 2 race, incumbent Bryant Culpepper is challenged

by Norbert L. "Bobby" Bennett. Both are Republicans.

In the district 4 race, incumbent Joey A. Hoover (REP) is challenged by Terry Wayne Burroughs (REP). The winner of the Republican primary will face Democrat Thomas "Tommy" Clay in the Nov. 4 general election.

In the school board district 1 race, incumbent Joe Arnold is challenged by Cheryl Kirtton. The school board district 3 and 5 races only had one candidate each, and so Dixie Ball will represent district 3 and Jill Clericuzio will represent district 5. Their names will not be on the ballot.

School board elections are nonpartisan. City of Okeechobee 2014 elections will include three city council members and the city clerk. These positions are currently held by council members Devin Maxwell, Dowling R. Watford Jr., and Clayton Williams;

and, City Clerk Lane Gamiotea.

Qualified city residents may pre-file to become a candidate until Aug. 18, 2014, or file during Qualifying Week from noon, Aug. 18 through noon, Aug. 22, 2014. For more information, contact the Office of the City Clerk for specific information at 863-763-3372, extension 215, or stop by city hall to pick up a candidate handbook. The city races will be decided in the Nov. 4 general election.

Two political forums are planned this week.

On Wednesday, Aug. 13, a forum will be held in the Osceola Middle School Gymnasium, 825 S.W. 28th St., from 5:45 to 9 p.m. Candidates for U.S. Representative—District 17, Commissioner of Agriculture, Circuit Judge—Circuit 19, Okeechobee City Council, Okeechobee School Board District 1, and Okeechobee County Commission Districts

2 and 4 have been invited to participate. The forum is co-hosted by the Economic Council of Okeechobee, the Okeechobee Area Agri-Council, the Okeechobee Farm Bureau, the Okeechobee Republican Party, the Okeechobee Democratic Party and the American Business Women's Association—Women of Tomorrow Chapter.

On Thursday, Aug. 14, the Okeechobee Fraternal Order of Police will host a "Meet Your Okeechobee County Board of Commissioner Candidates" night at the Okeechobee County Civic Center from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Invited speakers include Bobby Bennett, Terry Burroughs, Tommy Clay, Bryant Culpepper and Joey Hoover. The event will be moderated and the audience will have an opportunity to ask questions.

For a sample ballot, see page 13.

Okeechobee County polling places

PRECINCT	WHERE TO VOTE
1	Abiding Hope Worship Center, 4550 Hwy 441 N
2	Basinger Community Center, 20350 Hwy 98 N
3	Oakview Baptist Church, 677 SW 32nd St.
4	Okeechobee Civic Center, 1750 Hwy 98 N
5	Gracious RV Park, 6500 Hwy 441 SE
6	Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 901 SW 6th St.
7	Hampton Inn, 1200 Hwy 70 E.
8	KOA, 4276 Hwy 441 S
9	New Testament Baptist Church, 535 NE 28th Ave.
10	Cornerstone Baptist Church, 18387 Hwy 441 N.
11	Palm Village Ranch Clubhouse, 1200 SW 44th Blvd.

For more information regarding voting precincts, go online to www.vote.okeechobee.com or call the Okeechobee County Supervisor of Elections Office at 863-763-4014.

IMPORTANT ELECTION INFORMATION

Please take a few minutes to review this information. If you have questions, please call the Elections Office (863-763-4014), email us at Elections@VoteOkeechobee.com or use the office website at www.VoteOkeechobee.com.

THREE CHOICES FOR VOTING

VOTE BY MAIL (Absentee)	EARLY VOTING	PRECINCT VOTING
Absentee Voting	Early Voting Dates	Election Day
WOULD YOU LIKE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?	BEGINS: Saturday, August 16 th <i>INCLUDES SUNDAY</i> ENDS: Saturday, August 23 rd	AUGUST 26, 2014 ONLY 7:00am to 7:00pm
A request for an absentee ballot can be made in person, by mail, by telephone, or through our website.	8:30am to 4:30pm Located at	To verify your polling place, you may call the Elections Office, email the office or use the office website
Absentee ballots must be returned by mail or hand delivered to the Elections Office by 7:00pm on Election Day.	Historic Courthouse Elections Office 304 NW 2 nd Street	

UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST RACE

Everyone will have a universal primary contest race on their ballot. ALL VOTERS REGARDLESS OF PARTY AFFILIATION CAN VOTE IN THIS RACE:

Board of County Commissioner District 2

The winner of this race will be elected on August 26th.

AT-LARGE VOTING

Board of County Commissioners and School Board Members are elected at-large. A voter may vote for either race no matter what district they live in. The winner of the **School Board District 1** race will be elected on August 26th.

VERY IMPORTANT

TO AVOID DELAYS WHEN VOTING: If you have moved or had a name change since you last voted, or if you are unsure if you changed your address or name, contact the Elections Office. To update your signature or make a name change, please complete a voter registration application and mail or bring the completed application to the office. Thank you, Diane Hagan, Supervisor of Elections

Kirton challenges Arnold for school board seat

Three Okeechobee County School Board seats were up for re-election this year, but two races were settled without an election.

District 3 incumbent Gay Carlton and District 5 incumbent David Williams did not seek re-election. Both had been in office since 1994. In each of those races, only one candidate qualified to run. So the District 3 seat goes to Dixie Ball and the District 5 seat goes to Jill Clericuzio Holcomb.

In the Okeechobee County School Board District 1 race, incumbent Joe Arnold is challenged by Cheryl Kirton.

Joe Arnold, 39, has lived in Okeechobee County for 23 years. Mr. Arnold is an Okeechobee High School graduate. He attended Indian River State College, earning an associate's degree, and later received a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida, with a major in microbiology and a minor in chemistry. He has worked for Indian River State College for the past 17 years. Before his election to the Okeechobee County School Board in



Joe Arnold

2002, he also worked for the Okeechobee County School system as a chemistry and physics teacher.

Cheryl Kirton, 49, has lived in Okeechobee County since 1994. She earned a BS in Physical Therapy from Florida A&M, graduating in 1987, and Masters in Health Services Administration from Nova University in 1991. She served as Director of Rehabilitation at Jupiter Medical Center from 1990-1994 and has been the owner of Physical Therapy of Okeechobee since 1994.



Cheryl Kirton

QUESTION: *In recent years, negotiations between the teachers' union and the school district have been long and difficult, barely concluding before it was time to start negotiating for the next year. Do you have any ideas to speed up the negotiation process?*

ARNOLD: This was true for a number of years; however, I feel that last year was much smoother as we settled before Christmas break. We have moved from a hired negotiator to having an assistant superintendent ne-

gotiate on behalf of the board. Based on the meetings that we have had so far this year, I am hopeful that the trend will continue. The union and the board have worked hard to improve negotiations. Part of the difficulty for both sides is trying to find a balance for what the legislature has forced upon us such as RTT and merit pay.

KIRTON: The long tedious negotiations process is exhausting for all involved. When frustration levels rise, morale goes down. I believe that we need to educate all parties involved in the negotiations process through a workshop. This would create a better understanding of where the funding is coming from and where it is going. Generating a projected timeline with realistic goals would also be an asset to the negotiations and possibly expedite the process. With a mutual understanding between the school district and union, perhaps a negotiation doesn't have to be as laborious and will restore camaraderie.

QUESTION: *What is your opinion of the current school tax rate? Too high? Too low? Why?*

ARNOLD: For the past three years the school district has lowered the millage rate. This year's millage rate is a proposed decrease as well. We have been going through declining enrollment for a number of years. With fewer students each year, we fund fewer positions. On the other hand, there are always needs. We continue to improve infrastructure for technology. That is a never ending battle. As soon as we purchase new equipment for technology, it is not long before something better is available. The balance is improving student achievement, giving our employees a fair wage, and not overburdening the taxpayer.

KIRTON: As a conservative I don't feel we need to increase the tax rate. There is money and funding in other areas that we need to seek out. I don't want to see an increase in our already struggling community with a higher tax rate.

QUESTION: *What programs that are not currently offered would you like to see added to the Okeechobee County schools?*

ARNOLD: I would like to open a Flex lab at the high school. This would give students the opportunity to learn the curriculum in a technology-rich setting. The online and on-

site curriculum would include Virtual School, AP, and dual enrollment courses. The lab would be used for core curriculum but also for advanced classes and credit retrieval. Students involved in the Flex lab would learn part of the day in a traditional manner and part of the day with technology. They can accelerate at their own pace. I would also like to see more industry certification for vocational programs.

KIRTON: I would like to see us expand more programs into the middle and high school. In middle school, implement an intensive summer reading program for at-risk students. I would also like to see us apply a program modeled after AVID for all students. All populations would benefit from a goal-oriented approach. Not all students are college bound, therefore, at the High School level more technical and vocational programs would be beneficial. These programs place more students directly into the workforce, certified and ready.

QUESTION: *Do you think the new "merit pay" system is working well? If not, how would you propose to change or modify it?*

ARNOLD: This is the first year that we have fully implemented merit pay as the state requires. This was one of the more difficult pieces for us to find common ground with the union on. Ultimately, it is working as the legislature requires. It is not well liked, and it is difficult to give a fair and accurate evaluation for the purpose of merit pay, especially at the lower grade levels.

KIRTON: Supporters of performance pay believe it will result in better qualified teachers. Although teachers need to be held accountable, heavily weighing merit pay based on student performance, generates competition and animosity between teachers. Consequently, there are many factors that may impact a student's score such as the effectiveness of previous instruction, support from the home environment, and the level of anxiety the child may feel the day of the test. We need to review what constitutes an exemplary or effective teacher and structure an incentive program that challenges teachers' performance and reward them accordingly.

QUESTION: *What do you think is the biggest challenge currently faced by the school system and how would you propose to solve it?*

ARNOLD: I believe that the biggest challenge we face is poverty. Our free and reduced lunch rates are increasing at an alarming rate. Okeechobee County is ranked fifth in Florida for child hunger. When poor students come to us, they are often hungry, have a smaller vocabulary, and have greater academic needs. We are going to need help from everyone in order to help these students before they show up in kindergarten. Our teachers and our students are working hard and making great improvements. If every child were reading on grade level by grade 3, we would be extremely successful.

KIRTON: There are many challenges faced by the schools today, yet one that has continued to be problematic is the drug epidemic in our community and schools. Drug use at home and outside of school result in poor academic performance, truancy, and behavioral issues which could lead to an increased dropout rate. We need to expand on focus groups, and provide resources necessary for them to deal with this issue. As a united front, I believe we can strive for greater expectations, with consequences that place demand on accountability for our future generation.

QUESTION: *Some elementary school children have been required to attend school for an extra hour due to low reading scores. How would you address this problem?*

ARNOLD: This is a result of a state law that required the extra hour for the lowest 100 schools last year, and the lowest 300 elementary schools this year. We solve the problem by having students read on or above grade level as early as possible. I feel that we need to reach out to the parents and try to team up with them in order to encourage students to start reading well beyond the first day of kindergarten. It is imperative that students come to us prepared for the vigor that the state expects them to endure.

KIRTON: This extra hour has been mandated by the state. I don't think that we have the option to challenge or overrule this. At this time it has proven to be effective and the children responded by improving the overall grade/score of the school. I respect the parents concerns for their child's prolonged school day, but we should look at this as an opportunity to improve the children's reading skills. This learning experience will hopefully prevent us from having to implement the extended days in the future.

Early Vote

August
16 - 23

8:30am to
4:30pm

Put children first,
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our future.

- ◆ Experience
- ◆ Integrity
- ◆ Character

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- LOCAL RESIDENT SINCE 1997
- MARRIED FATHER OF THREE
- BORN IN THE USA
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Three compete in county district 4 race

There will be both a primary and a general election for the Okeechobee County Commission District 4 seat.



Joey Hoover

Incumbent Joey A. Hoover will face Terry Wayne Burroughs in the Republican primary.

The winner of that race will face Democrat Thomas "Tommy" Clay in the general election.

Joey Hoover, 53, has lived in Okeechobee since his family moved here in 1965. He is a 1979 graduate of Okeechobee High School and attended Indian River State College before transferring to the University of Central Florida. He graduated from UCF in 1985 with majors in economics and finance. He owns and operates Classic Asphalt Sealing and Striping Inc. He was elected to the Okeechobee County Commission in 2010.

of Okeechobee High School and attended Indian River State College before transferring to the University of Central Florida. He graduated from UCF in 1985 with majors in economics and finance. He owns and operates Classic Asphalt Sealing and Striping Inc. He was elected to the Okeechobee County Commission in 2010.



Terry Burroughs

Terry Burroughs, 63, lived in Okeechobee County from 1956 to 1969 and then returned to Okeechobee in 2003. His education included high school and technical and business school training during his 34 career in the telecommunications industry. He retired as an executive director in the telecommunications industry in 2003.

Tommy Clay, 53, has lived in Okeechobee County for 50 years and went to school here. He said he started out as a kid working for the Walpole family and the Hazellief family, and spent 24 years with Walpole Inc., with 20 years as the manager for the Okeechobee terminal, leaving in April 2013. "Now I day work and enjoy the outdoors," he explained. He has served on the Okeechobee Utility Authority Board for over three years.



Tommy Clay

Tommy Clay, 53, has lived in Okeechobee County for 50 years and went to school here. He said he started out as a kid working for the Walpole family and the Hazellief family, and spent 24 years with Walpole Inc., with 20 years as the manager for the Okeechobee terminal, leaving in April 2013. "Now I day work and enjoy the outdoors," he explained. He has served on the Okeechobee Utility Authority Board for over three years.

The Okeechobee News invited readers to submit questions for the candidates. Each candidate was asked to answer the questions in 100 words or less.

QUESTION: What are your views on the \$14.8 million budget proposed by the sheriff for law enforcement, the jail and court security? If you favor funding it at this level, where will the money come from? Even if the sheriff receives 100 percent of the property taxes, at 10 mills (the maximum allowed by state statute), property tax revenue will fall \$1.5 million short of the amount the sheriff seeks.

HOOVER: As I have said before, it doesn't matter if it is the sheriff's budget or any other office or department. You cannot spend more than you can pay for. I wouldn't advocate an unbalanced budget in my home or my business, and I would not propose anything less for the taxpayers of Okeechobee County. It is an unsustainable proposition when costs exceed revenues. I believe my responsibility as a commissioner is to vote for responsible actions, not just for the

short term but to ensure that whenever I am no longer in office I have not left my successors with a debt they will have to demand from the current and future taxpayers.

BURROUGHS: I am in favor of a well-equipped and equitably compensated law enforcement agency. However, we are at a serious crossroads with the future of our community. Over the past few years, our county leaders have done very little to promote our community to attract new industry and given our tax base continues to decrease puts our community in a very precarious position. Given this fact, the sheriff's budget now consumes 36 percent of the overall budget (minus the reserves). Additionally, as I sat through the recent county budget proceedings, I was exposed to a county budget laden with additional dollars in various line items that year over year was never utilized and was proposed this year without a usage plan. The simple solution is all government entities must work within the current amount of budget available. I would propose a review of each staffing plan both in the administration as well as those of the constitutional officers to identify the basic needs required to provide services to our community and match the personnel to ensure those needs are met.

CLAY: I think you have to follow what the consultants showed the commission and staff a couple of months back, which is to do the MSTU tax for the county to fund law enforcement, reduce the millage rate and fund the jail and courthouse out of the general fund. Okeechobee has 10 deputies per shift but with court, training, vacation and sick days, you will have 7 or 8 per shift to cover 750 square miles and protect 40,000 citizens in the summer and 60,000 in the winter and if 3 percent of your population is criminals, that is 1,200 in the summer. (Think about it.)

QUESTION: What would you do to get the Okee-Tantie campground repaired and reopened?

HOOVER: Okee-Tantie can be a huge asset to the citizens of our county and our visitors as a recreational and cultural venue. As we all know, the park received extensive damage from the hurricanes years ago. Unfortunately due to higher priority demands for limited revenues, the funds have not been readily available to get the facilities back up to 100 percent. I definitely believe in the redevelopment of the park including designing the camp sites to handle the larger RVs and campers visitors are looking for today. At the commission meeting on July 24 the board directed staff to prepare a financial plan to see if it is economically feasible to start a phased-in approach to get some of the campsites open for rental. The water, sewer and road system will require a large investment of the taxpayers' money quite possibly in excess of a million dollars. I have publicly said I will support such an investment as long as the revenues can cover the costs. We cannot afford any more financial liabilities at this time. From the initial figures we are looking at it may be 10 years or more before rental fees are sufficient to pay off the investment depending on the length of amortization of the funding source. I will

continue to pursue the redevelopment of the park if the financial feasibility report shows the viability of the operation to pay its own way. Staff has already applied for several recreational grants which may also be used for some of the desired improvements. At this time we are still waiting on a determination on those applications. From the public conversations I think all the board members are in favor of moving ahead with this project if financially possible.

BURROUGHS: I am not in favor of using taxpayer money to repair the grounds with the county managing the grounds. If this had an option, why did we not take advantage of this during the time when revenues were at their highest? But now staff is suggesting spending \$1 million to do what? They have not developed a business case on how to sustain the viability of the project nor what the actual costs would be, in addition not to mention the lack of a market plan. I am in favor of a public/private partnership where the county can enter into an agreement with an individual(s) to first understand what would be built over what period of time to accommodate the needs of the community and the management process required to ensure profitability. The partnership would define the parameters of the amount of investment and how the investor would receive a return on investment while providing a positive service to the community. Naturally, prior to entering into any agreement due diligence would be required of the investor to ensure financial stability and experience of said investor.

CLAY: I would like to see the store rented out and the B section of the park opened. It seems to be the part that needs the least amount of repairs. I would ask the OUA to look at the water and sewer lines again and see if they could do the repairs at cost. I would also look into how the state uses volunteers to do most of work in their parks where their pay is free campsites.

QUESTION: What are your views on the proposed FPL franchise fee?

HOOVER: FPL franchise fee is a option the commission has discussed and investigated for several years. This concept is nothing new to the community. Property owners with an FPL power meter in the Okeechobee City limits have been paying this fee for many years. Due to various exemptions close to half of the property owners outside of the city limits pay no property taxes to the county. The utility franchise fee would apply to every property owner with FPL electric service. This would allow all those residents the ability to contribute to the operations and services they receive from the general fund including public safety. If the franchise fee is enacted, I would propose a corresponding reduction in ad valorem taxes as I advocated for prior to the TRIM Notice meeting at which the majority of the board voted for an advertised 10 mill property tax rate. I cast my vote against the 10 mill motion because I believe we may be able to lower the

See DISTRICT 4 — Page 13

Re-Elect **Bryant** County Commission District 2

Culpepper

"The People's Commissioner"

HE GETS THINGS DONE!



My wife Donna and I have been married for 45 years. We have two beautiful children, son Teddy and daughter Angela, along with our two grandchildren, Chancey and Makayla, who are students in the Okeechobee County school system. My family are members of More 2 Life Church.

My mission as your County Commissioner has been and will continue to be improving the quality of life of every family in Okeechobee, as well as creating new jobs and bringing back economic prosperity.

I have been honored to receive the endorsement of Sheriff and Mrs. Paul May and will strive to work with the Sheriff to create a safe County for our families.

Certifications and Community Boards

- State Certified County Commissioner
- Okeechobee County Executive Roundtable
- Florida Association of Counties
- Alliance of Children Services Council
- Chairman of Transportation for Disadvantaged
- Member of VFW 10539 Okeechobee Auxiliary
- Board Member of Treasure Coast Community Action Agency
- Member of Vietnam Veterans Auxiliary of Okeechobee

Awards

- VFW Firefighter of the year for a life saving attempt
- Gubernatorial appointment to Florida District 9 Human Rights Advocacy Committee
- Gubernatorial appointment to Florida Building Codes & Standards Board



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Political Advertisement paid for and approved by Bryant Culpepper Campaign Fund REP.

DISTRICT 4

Continued From Page 12

tax burden on those property owners who have been paying the largest portion of the tax bill for years. By increasing property taxes to 10 mills on the same property owners who already paying their share, we ignore the fundamental need to get all citizens involved with financing the local services we all require. The franchise fee may not be the single answer to our financial concerns but along with continued reductions in spending I believe it is in our best interest to explore all the options available. It's not just an issue for Okeechobee County but a national concern as well. It is imperative that we as a community and a nation get more than 50

percent of the citizens contributing. It is not difficult for anyone to come to the conclusion that when a society has more people taking from the system than are paying into the system, it will eventually collapse just as any Ponzi scheme.

BURROUGHS: I am not in favor of implementing any additional taxes on the citizens of this county that currently pay taxes. There is the thought this tax would capture additional taxes from individuals that do not pay taxes, but that position has not been clarified or demonstrated in actual numbers. Over the past few budget cycles, the commission has been focused on cutting the budget with little or no emphasis on how to develop more revenue by seeking ways to attract industry into our community versus that of additional taxation.

CLAY: The dairy industry in Okeechobee county probably spends \$2.5 to \$3 million a year on electricity. I do not see how you can add 5.9 percent to their bill. They are producers, not retailers. They have no control over what they sell their milk for. Franchise fee would not help you attract new industry to our community.

QUESTION: *The "ARC" Rehab, lost their lease after they lost their Medicaid funding, but they are still running the thrift store on county property. What should be done about this?*

HOOVER: The ARC has been a beneficial fixture in this community for many years. Unfortunately the organization is involved in some financial and legal issues at this time. As a county commissioner, I am a represen-

tative of the county residents. The county is involved as the landlord in the current legal proceedings. I believe it would be inappropriate for me to comment at this time other than to say I hope this issue may be solved expediently in order that the citizens in need of this type of help may be served appropriately.

BURROUGHS: Since I am not totally familiar with this issue, I would have to gather more information about the current status before stating a position on how to resolve the problem indicated in the question.

CLAY: I do not have a problem with the store as long as it is benefiting the ARC clients.

Editor's note: For more candidate questions and answers, see future editions of the Okeechobee News.

SAMPLE BALLOT

PRIMARY ELECTION • OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA • AUGUST 26, 2014

Official Republican Sample Ballot

GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (Vote for One)

- Yinka Abosede Adeshina REP
Not Yet Determined
- Elizabeth Cuevas-Neunder REP
Not Yet Determined
- Rick Scott REP
Not Yet Determined

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 2 UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST (Vote for One)

- Bobby L. Bennett REP
- Bryant Culpepper REP

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 4 (Vote for One)

- Terry Burroughs REP
- Joey Hoover REP

CIRCUIT JUDGE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, GROUP 4 (Vote for One)

- Michael C. Heisey
- Steven Ziskinder

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 1 (Vote for One)

- Joe Arnold
- Cheryl Kirton

Official Democratic Sample Ballot

GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (Vote for One)

- Charlie Crist DEM
Not Yet Determined
- Nan H. Rich DEM
Not Yet Determined

ATTORNEY GENERAL (Vote for One)

- George Sheldon DEM
- Perry E. Thurston DEM

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 2 UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST (Vote for One)

- Bobby L. Bennett REP
- Bryant Culpepper REP

CIRCUIT JUDGE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, GROUP 4 (Vote for One)

- Michael C. Heisey
- Steven Ziskinder

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 1 (Vote for One)

- Joe Arnold
- Cheryl Kirton

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT THE ELECTIONS OFFICE:

304 NW 2nd St, Rm 144
Okeechobee, FL 34972

Phone: (863) 763-4014
Fax: (863) 763-0152

Web: www.voteokeechobee.com

Thank you, Diane Hagan,
Supervisor of Elections

Official Nonpartisan Sample Ballot

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 2 UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST (Vote for One)

- Bobby L. Bennett REP
- Bryant Culpepper REP

CIRCUIT JUDGE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, GROUP 4 (Vote for One)

- Michael C. Heisey
- Steven Ziskinder

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 1 (Vote for One)

- Joe Arnold
- Cheryl Kirton

PRECINCT NUMBER	PRECINCT LOCATION
01	Abiding Hope Worship Ctr. 4550 Hwy 441 N
02	Basinger Comm. Center 20350 Hwy 98 N
03	Oakview Baptist Church 677 SW 32 nd Street
04	Okeechobee Civic Center 1750 Hwy 98 N
05	Gracious RV Park 6500 Hwy 441 SE
06	NEW LOCATION Sacred Heart Catholic Church 901 SW 6th Street
07	Hampton Inn 1200 Hwy 70 E
08	KOA 4276 Hwy 441 S
09	New Testament Baptist Church 535 NE 28 th Avenue
10	Cornerstone Baptist 18387 Hwy 441 N
11	Palm Village Ranch Clubhse 1200 SW 44th Blvd

Please vote on August 26, 2014

We are offering three choices for how and when you take advantage of your "Right" to vote.

The "Responsibility" is now in your hands — the "Choice" is yours!

ELECTION DAY

**POLLS OPEN
7:00 AM - 7:00 PM**

To verify your polling place, you may call the Elections Office, email the office or use the office website.

EARLY VOTING DAYS: Includes Sunday Voting

Begins: Saturday, August 16th
Ends: Saturday, August 23rd
8:30am to 4:30pm

Located at

**Historic Courthouse
Elections Office
304 NW 2nd Street**

VOTE BY MAIL Absentee Voting

Any registered voter may vote by mail.

WOULD YOU LIKE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?

A request for an absentee ballot can be made in person, by mail, by telephone, or through our website.

Absentee ballots must be returned by mail or hand delivered to the Elections Office at 7:00pm on Election Day.

VERY IMPORTANT!

If you have moved or had a name change since you last voted, or if you are unsure if you changed your address or name, contact the Elections Office.

Bennett challenges Culpepper for district 2 seat

The Okeechobee County Commission District 2 seat will be settled in the primary election. Because there are no Democratic candidates in the race, the Republican primary between incumbent Bryant H. Culpepper and challenger Norbert L. "Bobby" Bennett will be an open primary, with all Okeechobee County voters eligible to participate.

Bryant Culpepper, 65, has lived in Okeechobee County for 11 years. He is a 1968 graduate of Palm Beach High School and graduated from fire school in 1973. He has attended many political seminars.



Bryant Culpepper

He was in the U.S. Navy Reserves from 1967-1973, and served two years in Naples, Italy at Naval Air Facility, Capodichino, Italy. He served as base commander's aide and handled all registered mail for the Sixth Fleet. He was an EMT/firefighter for the Town of Palm Beach from 1973 to 1994. He started the first mobile auto and truck repair business in Palm Beach County. He was with Air-A-Medics from 2007 to 2013. Mr. Culpepper served on the Loxahatchee Water Control District, serving two years as chairman. He was appointed by Governor Bob Martinez to the Building Codes and Standards Board. He was elected to the Okeechobee County Commission in 2010.

Bobby Bennett, 63, has lived in Okeechobee County for the past 49 years. He is a graduate of Okeechobee High School, Class of 1969. After high school, Mr. Bennett worked for Wherrell Auto Parts, Inc. before entering military service with the United States Army in 1971. Returning from the Army in 1973, he resumed employment with Wherrell Auto Parts, and worked there until 2004. From 2004-2013, he worked for Carquest. In 2013, he went to work for Gilbert Ford, Inc.



Bobby Bennett

The Okeechobee News invited readers to submit questions for the candidates. Each candidate was asked to answer the questions in 100 words or less.

QUESTION: What are your views on the \$14.8 million budget proposed by the sheriff for law enforcement, the jail and court security? If you favor funding it at this level, where will the money come from? Even if the sheriff receives 100 percent of the property taxes, at 10 mills (the maximum allowed by state statute), property tax revenue will fall \$1.5 million short of the amount the sheriff seeks.

CULPEPPER: My background is not in law enforcement, but I will say that if we can't provide a safe environment for our residents and prospective businesses we will

never be able to attract anyone to Okeechobee. None of us want to admit it, but we live in a very violent society and we must protect our residents and property. We do not have to raise taxes this year, we only have to transfer some reserve dollars to fund the sheriff for this fiscal year to allow the board ample time to come up with some revenue generating projects and allow the sheriff time to allow retirement of upper staff and find some additional areas that may be reduced. We will not gain anything by suing the sheriff to force him to operate the jail. What we will do is pay \$500 an hour between the sheriff's attorney and the board's attorney and it will not solve the problem.

BENNETT: We can't spend money we don't have. The sheriff's budget request was more than the taxpayers could afford regardless how high the board could (legally) raise property taxes. The sheriff is responsible for his budget, and it's not the BOCC's job to tell him how to spend his budget. The sheriff has to do everything in his power to operate within the financial limits of the county's tax revenues. Going to the reserve fund is a temporary solution to a long-term problem and we will be back at this standstill next year without the reserve fund to balance the budget.

QUESTION: What would you do to get the Okee-Tantie campground repaired and reopened?

CULPEPPER: I would like to see a

voter referendum to see if the residents of Okeechobee would like to support a bond to fix Okee-Tantie or do it one section at a time. I believe a project of this magnitude should go before the voters as has not been done in the past. Projects such as the Agricivic Center, Judicial Center, Emergency Operations Center and Historic Courthouse were never voted on by the people. It is their tax dollars being spent and they should have a voice. Okee-Tantie is the one project that is capable of producing positive revenue that can help the county out this economic mess. It would be managed by a contracted staff and run like the work-camper similar to KOA. The county would have a lease and a profit sharing component to avoid what happened when the Bridges Family ran the park.

BENNETT: I like what Donnie Oden proposed: Start with getting Area B ready for camp sites and bring the facilities back in operation for the most "bang for our buck." Okee-Tantie may never generate a profit, but enhancing quality of life for our residents is not measured in dollars. It really comes down to what we as a community are willing to pay for and how much we all can do to support it. I would definitely support investing in Okee-Tantie. The community has to show up and support it too. "If you build it, they will come" - Field of Dreams.

SeeDISTRICT 2 — Page16

PLEASE
VOTE

Tommy Clay

Democrat

for County Commissioner District 4

- Married to my childhood sweetheart
- Two children, Josh and Katie. One beautiful granddaughter.

Goals are Simple:

- Safe, clean & healthy community
- Help develop sustainable growth, so our children and grandchildren can thrive here.

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CHERYL KIRTON

School Board

For District 1

VOTE August 26th

- ✓ Resident of Okeechobee since 1994
- ✓ Wife, and Mother of two children in the Okeechobee school system
- ✓ Business owner of Physical Therapy of Okeechobee for 20 years
- ✓ Board of Trustee Indian River State College 1999-2012
- ✓ Adjunct Instructor Palm Beach Community College 1992-1993
- ✓ Bachelors Degree in Physical Therapy from Florida A&M 1987
- ✓ Masters Degree in Health Services Administration from Nova University 1991

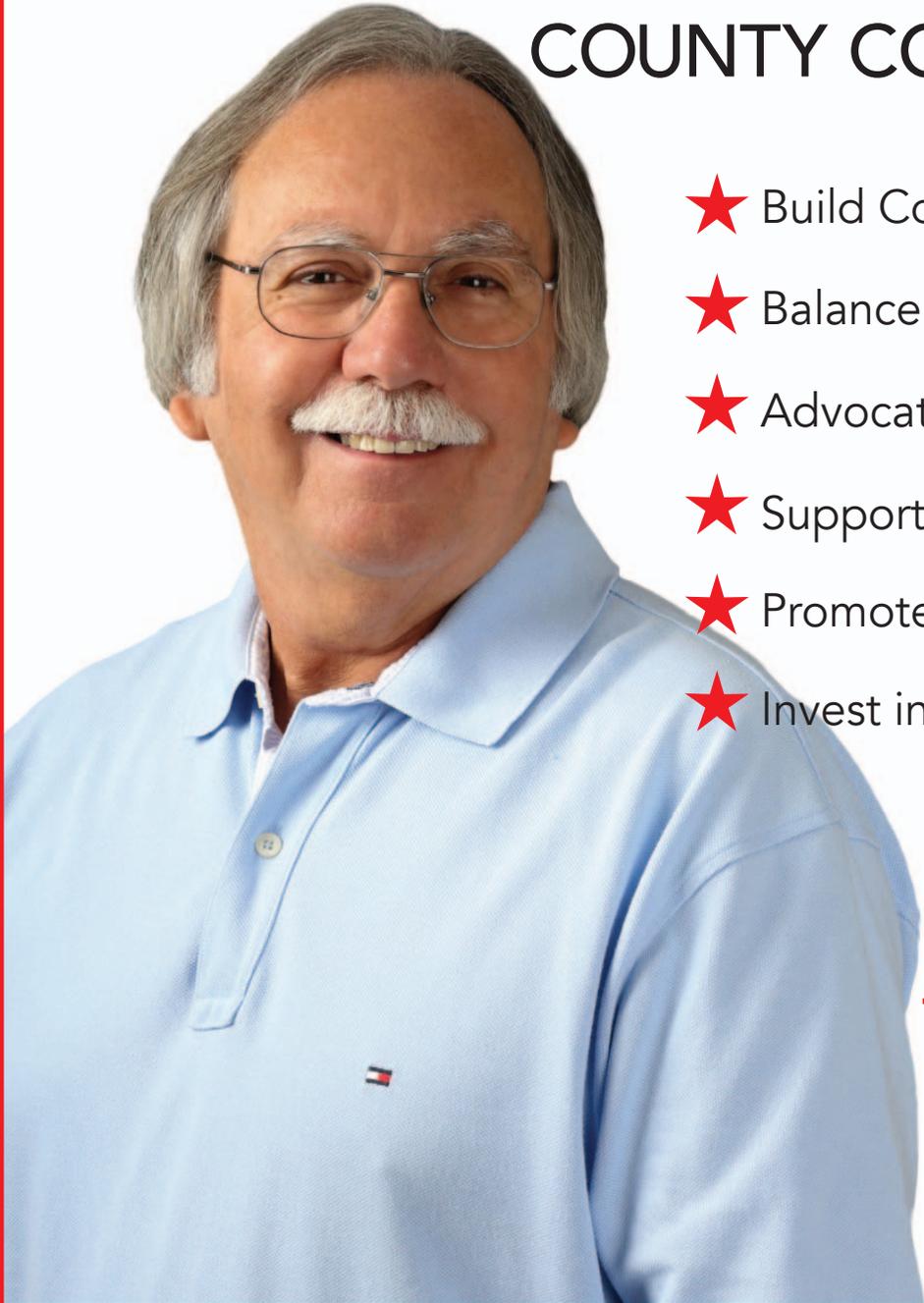
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COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2



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- ★ Balance Fiscal Responsibility w/ Community Needs
- ★ Advocate Economic Development
- ★ Support Local Business
- ★ Promote Tourism
- ★ Invest in Okee-Tantie & Quality of Life

***Vote for me
to work for you!***

On August 26, **ALL** registered voters can...

VOTE FOR COACH



DISTRICT 2

Continued From Page 14

QUESTION: What are your views on the proposed FPL franchise fee?

CULPEPPER: I am not a proponent of any new taxes and fees. If the situation becomes apparent that we have to create the revenue to sustain our current obligations, we could pass a franchise fee that all residents whether they are served by FPL or Glades Power would be included. We already know that the city is exempt as they have already been paying this fee. Unlike the current ad valorem tax which exempts the first \$50,000, all users of electricity would share this cost. I believe there has to be a mechanism in place that does not continue to affect the homeowners whose values are in excess of \$50,000. The down side is that the county would be unable to cap the fee and the larger commercial users would be affected at a much higher rate. This FPL fee should only be used as a last resort when all other efforts are exhausted.

BENNETT: Now is not the time to increase taxes or fees, but at whatever time the citizens decided we need any new revenue streams, I prefer those that would spread the burden among as many people as possible. I am concerned that our community's unemployment rate is still above the national average, and I am not in favor of increasing taxes or imposing additional fees at this time.

QUESTION: What measures will you advocate and fight for, to entice new busi-

nesses, visitors, and residents to Okeechobee County?

CULPEPPER: First and foremost, place a moratorium on Impact Fees. It is very hard when most other counties have suspended impact fees and we still have them. The city and school board have suspended impact fees but the other members of the board will not. It is amazing that the board offered to pay the impact fees to entice FPL to choose Okeechobee to build its new gas turbine regional power plant as well as tax abatements. Gee, maybe they are finally starting to listen. I can only hope. Planning and Zoning must strive to be user friendly by projecting the image that "WE WANT YOU HERE." If we do that successfully they will come. Okeechobee has a lot to offer, we only need to properly market ourselves.

BENNETT: As residents we all need to support the businesses that are already here. I have been employed by local business for most of my life and I am grateful that Okeechobee has supported those businesses. I raised my family working for local businesses and I ask all residents to shop local first.

As a member of the BOCC, I would do my best to keep taxes low and ordinances reasonable to encourage businesses to invest here. A working comprehensive plan would be a useful tool for managing the economic growth we expect with the 2016 completion of State Road 70 expansion.

QUESTION: What would you do about the drainage (or lack of drainage) throughout the county?

CULPEPPER: Just what we have been

doing since Tropical Storm Isaac. The road department has cleaned more than sixteen miles of main canal in the last two years and replaced many culverts in neighborhood swales. The board is trying to play catch-up for the neglect of canal reclamation over the last 20 to 30 years. The current board is trying to be proactive in addressing these serious drainage issues. But, due to shrinking property values and budget constraints, road and bridge is currently working at 50 percent of the manpower we had approximately 10 years ago. The current board has made a commitment to put all available resources toward a permanent resolution to these drainage issues.

BENNETT: The drainage situation is not new to us and there is no quick fix. There are short-term and long-term fixes on the books as well as general maintenance, all of which are restricted by funding. Mr. Threewits is fully aware that many of the 12,000 county culverts are in need of repair or replacement. This issue is not being ignored. It is HUGE and it is EXPENSIVE. No matter who is elected, the drainage will continue to be addressed and funded as much as possible.

QUESTION: Whose responsibility is it to keep the ditches cleaned out and to mow grass on county right-of-way?

CULPEPPER: The county, and we are working to do that. The road department is doing a super human job considering the size of their reduced staff.

BENNETT: The county is responsible for cleaning and mowing the grass on the right-of-way, all 360 miles of it, according to the road department web page. Most residents

maintain ditches when their property is next to county road side. If your area has been neglected, call me and I will find out from Jim Threewits when the Road Department is going to get to your area. Can you imagine if we had all five commissioners directing the Road Department where to mow?

QUESTION: Do you have any great ideas, like ankle bracelets (home incarceration) that not only save the county money but also potentially create jobs here in Okeechobee?

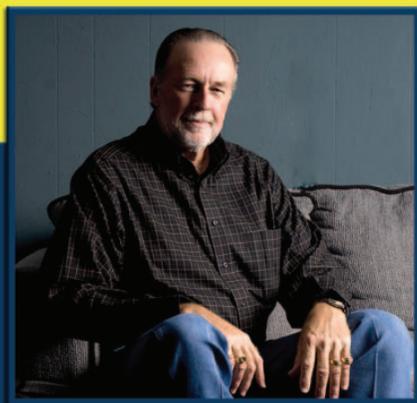
CULPEPPER: Ankle bracelets sound like a great idea in concept. But when you do the research with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, you will see the incredible number of crimes committed by people awaiting trial. If you could guarantee that only people with the most minor crimes could qualify that would be great, but reality is as the jails become more crowded the judges are forced to allow more serious offenders to apply for the program. I don't want to put the people at risk just to save \$30,000 or \$40,000.

BENNETT: Planning saves money. It's like going to the supermarket and knowing what it is you need. You'll probably spend less and waste less than if you just wander down the aisle grabbing what gets your attention. We should have a comprehensive plan the BOCC actually uses for managing current and future needs. I believe that would save money and help create an environment that supports economic growth. We all want the budget to be balanced and jobs but like the old saying goes, a goal without a plan is just a wish. We need a plan.

Elect ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TERRY BURROUGHS ★

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FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4 - REPUBLICAN

Together we can bring positive change to Okeechobee County through shared conversation and common values for all.

Secure Good Jobs for Our Families | Focus on Smart Managed Growth
Business Friendly Government | Common Sense Approach to Problems

Pol. Adv. Paid for & Approved by Terry Burroughs, REP. for Okeechobee County Commission, District 4

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· Absolutely FREE!
· Post your ads in our papers for as little as \$8 each
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click on classifieds

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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Employment Full Time

Washington County School Program At Okeechobee Youth Development Center ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCY
Social Science Teacher (Grades 6-12)
(This school is located in a Department of Juvenile Justice Facility)
Position requirements are detailed at website:
Go to <http://www.wcsdschools.com>
Go to Human Resources and Employment click on Job Announcements
Create an account with a username and password, unless you have already completed this process.
Complete your application for a CERTIFIED POSITION and attach a resume, etc.
Then, you **MUST APPLY** for this position.
APPLICATION DEADLINE: Aug. 13th, 2014 (midnight)
"Reasonable accommodations are made for applicants as well as employee" "Pre-employment, reasonable suspicion, random (fitness for duty) and follow-up drug testing will be implemented as per the School Board's "Drug Free Workplace Policy"
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Exc. customer-svc., mgmt. & sales skills needed. A terrific career opportunity w/ the Heartland's premier automotive dealer group. Salary, commission & many, many bonuses avail.! Benefits incl. 401K, free gym membership, avail. medical/dental/vision ins. & much more! Clean driving record a must. Pls. forward resumé & cover letter to James.lizotte@alanjay.com. EOE / DFWP.

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

Employment Full Time

DRIVERS - New equipment, Great benefits, Safety bonus plans! Dedicated Flatbed with PODS (No tarps or chains & make your own appts.) and Van with Georgia Pacific. CDL-A/2 yrs TT exp. req. Call 855-205-6361.

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

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MAGNOLIA PACKING INC,
a fresh vegetable packing house, is looking for a
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
with three (plus) years produce experience. Must be bi-lingual and be willing to work long hours during the season.

Email your resume to **royboy01@bellsouth.net**

CLASS A -CDL DRIVER must have DOT medical, drug free & clean driving history. 2.5 yrs. tanker endorsement. Call 863.467-9800. M-F 9:00 to 4:00.

The classifieds are the most successful salesperson in town.

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J.W. Cheatham, LLC has a local job starting soon and will be taking applications for all positions:
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Apply in person or call 561-471-4100 ext 239
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7396 Westport Place West Palm Beach 33413
Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.
Drug Free, EEO, E-Verify

Employment Full Time

Employment Full Time

NOW HIRING
Premier RV resort in Okeechobee is accepting applications for the following full time positions:
-Maintenance Manager
-Front Office/Reservations Manager
-Activities Director
Great energy and positive attitude required. Experience in a hospitality environment is a plus.
Please send resumes and all inquiries to info@silverpalmsrv.com
Please no phone calls.

It's never too late to find the perfect gift. Look for it in the classifieds.

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

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

Employment Part Time

GIRL FRIDAY - for Parrot Farm. Sun. & Mon. Exp. req'd. Background Check 863-824-0015

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

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NOTICE

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

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

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Employment Agencies

Busy Lawn Service. Seeking Reliable, Self-Motivated Individuals. Valid Florida Drivers License Required. Drug Free Work Place! Serious Inquiries Only! Contact @ cleancutgrass863@yahoo.com or fax resume to 863-763-1602.

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ANTIQUES- 50% OFF THROUGH AUGUST 1214 SW 2ND AVE (BEHIND DAIRY QUEEN) TUES-SAT 10-4, 634-1552 OR 532-9138

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

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NW OKEE: 2 BR 1.5 BA, 2 BR, 1 BA. \$650, \$700. 1st, last & \$500 security. Shown only 1 1 a m - 6 p m 561-346-1642.

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The classified ads

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OKEE - For Rent, 1000 sq. ft. 2020 S. Parrot Ave., Ste. 104. \$900/mo. Call 863-634-6386.

Houses - Rent

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3BD/1BA ON 1 ACRE IN DIXIE RANCH ACRES. 1ST, LAST & SECURITY \$850.00 MONTHLY. NO PETS CALL 863-634-2820

CITY LIMITS, 3/1 CBS CENTRAL A/C AND HEAT, CARPORT, NICE CORNER LOT. \$800/MO. LAST AND SECURITY CALL 863-634-8942 FOR INFORMATION.

OKEE - ADORABLE In Town, 2BR, 1BA, W/D Hook up, Lawn Service. Non Smoking. Sm pet okay. \$800 mo. 1st, last & \$500 sec. (941)504-3954

OKEE/In town, 2br./2ba. Laundry rm with W/D, Screened porch. Lawn service. Sm. pet OK. Non Smkg. \$800 mo. 1st, last & \$500 security. 941-504-3954

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Real Estate Wanted

WILL PAY CASH FOR 5 OR 10 ACRE TRACTS OF LAND. MUST BE ZONED FOR MOBILE HOME. MUST BE A BARGAIN CALL 863-763-6358

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Mobile Home Rent

BUCKHEAD RIDGE 3bd./2ba Dble Wide. \$600 mo. plus sec. No pets. Call 863-763-4031

FORT DRUM - 5 acres, small pond creek, 2BR, 2BA Trailer, \$1,600 down 1st, last + deposit. \$650 monthly (772) 464-9226

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Autos Wanted

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

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Public Notices

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No. 472014CP000132CPAXMX

IN RE: ESTATE OF **ROBERT NORTH CARTIER** Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of **Robert North Cartier**, deceased, whose date of death was **May 29, 2014**, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 Northwest 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is August 10, 2014.

Personal Representative: Cheryl Lynn Alliger
13801 U.S. Highway 441 SE, Lot 113 Okeechobee, Florida 34974
Attorney for Personal Representative: Rachel G. Zetouni Attorney FBN 669946 Florida Box Number: 741701 The Karp Law Firm, PA, 2875 PGA Boulevard, Suite 100 Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410 Telephone: (561) 625-1100 Fax: (561) 625-0060 E-Mail: kif@karplaw.com Secondary E-Mail: aharris@karplaw.com 466717 ON 8/10,17/2014

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 California/Arizona border reservoir
 - 11 Has yet to settle
 - 15 "Let a new chapter begin"
 - 16 Salinger's "___ Stories"
 - 17 Yellow sticky, often
 - 18 With 3-Down, Wingey Wallace's comic strip girlfriend
 - 19 ___'acte
 - 20 Pkg. measures
 - 21 Wife of Jacob
 - 23 Ominous time
 - 25 Smiley creator
 - 26 Treated with malice
 - 29 57501 preceder, on envelopes
 - 30 Place
 - 31 ___ ball
 - 32 A little freedom?
 - 33 Lea grazers
 - 34 Star of the 1931 film "M"
 - 35 Film
 - 36 Yet, poetically
 - 37 Toon lead singer in a leopard-print leotard
 - 38 Outlook
 - 39 Building and grounds
 - 41 Comprehend
 - 42 Post-reaping sights
 - 43 Japanese sandal
 - 44 Bunches
 - 45 Thrice, in Rx's
 - 46 Egyptian Christian
 - 50 Nonexistent
 - 51 Blew up
 - 54 "Gotcha"
 - 55 Liven up
 - 56 Experiment
 - 57 Number that's physically impossible to write out in standard form
- DOWN**
- 1 ___ drive
 - 2 "The company for women" company
 - 3 See 18-Across
 - 4 Honored retiree
 - 5 Selling fast
 - 6 Swore
 - 7 Sleeveless garments
 - 8 Summer quaffs
 - 9 Nuevo ___: Peruvian currency
 - 10 Remove restrictions from
 - 11 Like many a garage
 - 12 Enthusiastically
 - 13 Signs, as an agreement
 - 14 Type of headlight
 - 22 Start to bat?
 - 24 ___ Arc, Arkansas
 - 25 Petrol purchase
 - 26 Weighs options
 - 27 Dominant team
 - 28 Winter soil phenomena
 - 29 Trojan War figure
 - 31 Law recipient
 - 34 Takes a bath
 - 35 It merged with Travelers in 1998
 - 37 Tease, in slang
 - 38 Irreg. spelling
 - 40 Xylophonist's tool
 - 41 Antecede
 - 43 1983 Woody Allen title role
 - 45 TV watcher's convenience
 - 47 Like zero
 - 48 Best of the Beatles
 - 49 Big natural history museum attraction
 - 52 Bride in 1969 news
 - 53 N.Z. currency

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com

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By Barry C. Silk
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SUDOKU

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

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!

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!

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

ANSWER:

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Very nice well-maintained 3/2 CBS Waterfront Home with Cypress Wood in Living Room and Dining Room. One car garage. CBS shed in back of garage. Screened in Fish Cleaning Station. GENERATOR wired in. Office behind garage. New master bedroom handicap friendly. New tile in kitchen and hallway. HOMES ONLY SECTION. Metal Roof - 2004: sprinkler system, new seawall in 2009. MLS 206645. **\$188,900.**

Anderson REALTY CO.
Vicki Anderson
Lic. RE Broker
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For more Information



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

NEW LISTING  3004-M: Lake Access! Treasure Island move in ready 3/2 with 2,624 Total Sq Ft/1,718 under air. Split plan, lg eat in kitchen with island, metal roof, screened pool and much more. \$179,000 MLS #208321	NEW LISTING  3005-M: Treasure Island 3/2 with 1,512 Total Sq Ft., Split plan, fireplace, beautiful tile countertops, pantry, Garden Tub, fenced back yard and much more to offer. \$79,000 MLS #208322
NEW LISTING  4009-M: Buckhead Ridge 2 bedroom, 2 bath with large addition, dining area, awnings. Completely fenced. Make Offer! \$25,000 MLS # 208296	NEW LISTING  5063-M: Viking Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath with 2,192 total sq ft/1,465 under air on 2.5+/-acres. Breakfast Bar, Skylights, shed, fenced and cross fenced. Make Offer! \$70,000 MLS # 208303
NEW LISTING  5088-M: Spot In The Sun 2 br, 1 ba mobile with 1,929 total sq ft/1,304 under air on a beautiful fenced acre. Great location for East coast commuters. Make Offer! \$29,900 MLS # 208294	NEW LISTING  8006-A: 200+/-acres on Dark Hammock Rd. Mostly improved pasture, large hammock. Fenced & crossed fenced, water supply for livestock. Call for more info. \$740,000 MLS #208257

• Pine Ridge Park buildable lot partial fenced. **\$5,900** MLS # 207132 • 319+/-acres on Hwy 441 N **\$4,000,000** • Conners Gables buildable Lot (SE 39th Terr) **\$6,000** MLS #208198 • 14+/- acres of commercial property on the Rim Canal with lake access. **\$1,500,000** MLS #207408 • Blue Heron Nice lot on the cul-de-sac. MLS # 207053 • 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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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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UF/IFAS study shows flavor trumps health for blueberry buying

By Brad Buck
UF/IFAS

GAINESVILLE — Taste trumps health benefits for blueberry buyers, sending a strong message that fruit consumers value flavor most, new University of Florida research shows.

About 61 percent of blueberry consumers buy the fruit for its flavor, while 39 percent do so for psychological reasons, according to two national online surveys. By “psychological,” researchers mean those consumers may buy blueberries because they believe the fruit, which contains antioxidants, provides health benefits.

UF horticultural sciences assistant professor Jim Olmstead will use the data as he breeds new types of blueberries. Olmstead

uses traditional breeding methods to create blueberry cultivars that have traits consumers want.

“What we’re trying to determine is: What is the consumer’s perception of the ideal blueberry? What should it look, taste and feel like?” said Mr. Olmstead, a faculty member with UF’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

A company called Panel Direct Online recruited survey takers, using an online questionnaire to ensure participants bought blueberries in the 12 months before the survey and that they were evenly split between men and women.

Three hundred and six people answered the first survey, conducted in 2011. In 2013, the researchers surveyed another 300 blue-

berry buyers. Respondents in both surveys answered the same questions about six blueberry traits: firmness, texture, size, color, flavor and human nutrition. Researchers then divided traits into six more categories, so respondents revealed their preferences about 36 different blueberry traits.

Consumers valued such factors as “so sweet ... no sugar added” and “bold and intense blueberry flavor” the highest. Also high on their list were “full of juice” and “full of antioxidants.”

Mr. Olmstead said his ongoing research includes improving blueberry texture, but survey respondents did not rate texture high on their list of preferred traits.

Using a nine-point scale, respondents were asked to rate their blueberry experienc-

es, both good and bad. Respondents were tested on what scientists call psychophysics, or how your brain reacts to stimuli such as taste, smell and texture.

The survey used metrics designed by Howard Moskowitz, a psychophysicist who has helped companies, including Ragu, enhance flavors to meet consumer demand.

Florida blueberries generate \$66 million annually, according to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Native to North America, blueberries are now grown in South America, Europe, Asia and Australia. Recent surveys by online grocer FreshDirect showed only 48 percent of U.S. consumers bought blueberries in the past year, compared with 88 percent who bought the top-selling fruit, bananas.

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Tammi's "TOP" of the Lake

The Best of Lake Okeechobee



By Tammi Kelly
Okeechobee News

• **OK Corral Gun Club**, 9449 N.E. 48th St., is Okeechobee's family oriented outdoor shooting, recreational and events destination with something for everyone. Guests can enjoy a variety of shooting venues including: two championship sporting clay courses and 5-stand stations; wobble/trap sports deck; 10-bay competition park; cover pistol and rifle ranges and a world class cowboy action shooting town. You won't leave hungry either after a stop at their High Noon Café where delicious meals combined with southern hospitality will bring you back again and again. Be sure to visit their "Mercantile Store" for shooting accessories and apparel or rent a golf cart and cruise their 300 acres of beautiful countryside with an "old mining town" and "town hall" currently under construction that will feature 12 rental cabins alongside their RV Park. It's so picturesque that you'll want to bring your friends. The OK Corral offers 12,000 square feet of event space in their Crystal Saloon, ranch house and livery stable. The venue is perfect for weddings, corporate events and private parties. This is definitely a place you will want to stop by and see! It is open 7 days a week and serves lunch daily. Check them out on Facebook and Twitter! Learn more at their website, okcorralgunclub.com or give them a call at 863-357-2226 and don't forget to tell them that Tammi sent you!

• **Serenity Coffee Shop**, 601 S.W. Park St., is more than just a coffee shop. More than a third of the menu is non-coffee items. They have blended cremes, which is kind of like a milkshake in all different flavors. They also have 100 percent crushed fruit smoothies. Their Cowboy Cookies won the Okeechobee County Fair Best in Show Award. Their coffee is an original blend of three different beans which are roasted together and then blended to make a extremely special coffee that is out of this world! In the mornings, they have breakfast items, fresh and homemade, until they run out. Be sure and check them out on Facebook or give them a call at 863-824-2287.

• **Quality A/C and Heating of Okeechobee**, 5351 S.W. 16th Ave., has

technicians on call seven days a week to make sure no customer will go without air conditioning or heat. If it is the middle of summer on a Sunday and it's 105 degrees outside and your unit just broke, call Quality A/C. They will be there in no time and they will do whatever it takes to keep you cool and comfortable. They service all types of A/C units, commercial and residential, give estimates on service and do installations. They do same-day repair and same-day service and have been keeping costumers cool for 30 years. You can contact them at 863-467-1545.

How about something different to serve as a before-dinner snack or at a party?

Indonesian Satay

Ingredients: 3 tablespoons soy sauce, 3 tablespoons tomato sauce, 1 tablespoon peanut oil, 2 cloves garlic, peeled and minced, 1 pinch ground black pepper, 1 pinch ground cumin, 6 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves - cubed, 1 tablespoon vegetable oil, 1/4 cup minced onion, 1 clove garlic peeled and minced, 1 cup water, 1/2 cup chunky peanut butter, 2 tablespoons soy sauce, 2 tablespoons white sugar, 1 tablespoon lemon juice and skewers.

Directions:

1. In a bowl, mix soy sauce, tomato sauce, peanut oil, garlic, black pepper, and cumin. Place chicken into the mixture, and stir to coat. Cover, and marinate in the refrigerator for at least 15 minutes, but not overnight. This will make the meat too dark.

2. Preheat the grill for high heat.

3. Heat vegetable oil in a saucepan over medium heat, and saute onion and garlic until lightly browned. Mix in water, peanut butter, soy sauce, and sugar. Cook and stir until well blended. Remove from heat, mix in lemon juice, and set aside.

4. Lightly oil the grill grate. Thread chicken onto skewers, and discard marinade. Grill skewers about 5 minutes per side, until chicken juices run clear. Serve with the peanut sauce.

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OHS Shockwaves end season in fourth place

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee Shockwaves took fourth place in the large division of both the girls and boys teams at the South Florida Recreational Summer League championships held July 26 and 27 in Sebastian.

The Deerfield Beach Dolphins won the girls division and the boys division this year.

The Boca Mantas took second and the Palm Beach Gardens Makos third place in each division.

In the girls, 8 and under division, the Shockwaves took fourth place in the 100-yard medley behind Ellie Gayford, Isabella Lagos, Emily Johnson and Mamie McCoy.

In the girls 9 and 10, 200-yard medley, the Shockwaves claimed sixth place behind Alexis Lusk, Rylann Maxwell, Vanessa Johnson and Cuyler Maxwell.

In the girls, ages 11-12, 200-yard medley, Okeechobee finished sixth behind the efforts of Gracie Gamiotea, Jolene Sutton, Kimberlee Marquis, and Amy Trent.

The Shockwaves girls relay team in the 18 and under division took fifth place in the 200-yard medley race.

Team members include April Hogenkamp, Savannah Goggans, Morgan Bolan and Tisha Lara.

Other highlights included Gayford's third place finish in both the girls 25-yard free and 25-yard fly and her victory in the 100-yard IM, ages 7-8, Zack Gayford's victory in the 100 IM, his second-place finish in the boys 50-yard free, ages 9-10, and fourth place in the 50-yard fly and Zachary Jackson's fourth place finish in the 50-yard free for boys, ages 13 and 14.

Daniel Ryan managed a third-place finish in the boys 50-yard free for swimmers 15-18. Ryan also finished third in the 50-yard breast stroke.

David Busbin took sixth in the boy's 25-yard fly race for ages 6 and under.

Savannah McCoy took second place in the girls 25-yard fly in the under 6 division.

Layla Gaucin finished fifth in the girls ages 11-12, 50-yard fly. The girls 8 and under relay team also took third place in the 100-yard free relay.

Several other swimmers finished in the top 10 at the championships.

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Brahman grid schedule released

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

After a 1-9 season in 2013, it appears the Brahman face another formidable schedule of opponents in 2014.

The season opens with an exhibition kickoff classic at Brahman Stadium next Friday, Aug. 22, against Lake Placid. The Green Dragons have a new coach this year in Jason Robinson and are coming off a two-win season.

The regular season kicks off Friday, Aug. 29, at home against the Glades Day Gators led by second-year coach Eric Pitts. The Gators went 8-4 last year and were eliminated the regional playoffs by eventual 2A State Champion Champagnat Catholic.

The Brahman's first road test comes on Friday, Sept. 5, when they visit long-time rival, the Sebring Blue Streak coached by Scott LaVaar. Sebring went 6-4 last year but return 12 starters from last season led by Luke Ancrum and Ladante Harris. Their Junior Varsity team also went unbeaten last year (8-0).

On Sept. 12, Okeechobee hosts another long-time rival, Martin County. The Tigers under Chuck Kenyon stumbled to a 2-8 record last year but one of the wins came at the expense of Okeechobee.

On Sept. 19 the Brahman's open their District 14-6A play when they travel to Lawnwood Stadium to meet the Fort Pierce Westwood Panthers. Coach John Lima and the Panthers stumbled to a 1-8 record last year.

On Sept. 26, Okeechobee hosts Heritage from Palm Bay in another District game. Heritage went 12-1 last year and enjoyed their first unbeaten regular season in school history. They reached the regional finals before being defeated by Miami Central. The Panthers return seven starters led by Josh Gaines and Davonte Bartley.

After a bye week, Okeechobee hosts their homecoming celebration on Oct. 10, against Port St. Lucie. The Jaguars went 4-5 last year and return seven starters off that team.

Senior Parent night will be held on Oct. 17, when Okeechobee hosts South Fork. The Bulldogs went 5-5 last year and return 16 starters.

The Brahman's finish the season with three consecutive road games. Bayside is first on Oct. 24. They went 8-4 and reached

the playoffs last year.

Okeechobee travels to Jensen Beach on Halloween night to take on the Falcons, who finished with a 5-5 mark last year. The Falcons lost their starting quarterback Alex Ogle, who is now playing for the Boise State Broncos, along with seven veteran defenders. They return eight starters from last year.

The season ends when the Brahman's visit Clewiston on Nov. 7. Clewiston went 10-2 under Pete Walker last year and have high hopes for a deep run in the playoffs. They reached the second round before a tough loss to Cocoa, 49-35, last season.

District opponents this year include Heritage, Bayside, South Fork, Jensen Beach, Port St. Lucie and Fort Pierce Westwood.

Road Watch

Motorists are reminded to wear safety belts and drive with caution, courtesy, common sense, and patience as they travel through work zones. Remember, speeding fines are doubled in work zones. Travelers can visit www.FL511.com or dial "511" from their phone to learn about traffic conditions on major roadways across the state. Roadwork planned this week includes the following:

Okeechobee County

• **U.S. 441 (North Parrot Avenue) from 290th Trail to N.W. 344th Street:** Maintenance project: Crews will repair concrete mitered end sections. There are no planned lane closures, but use caution and watch for workers close to the road.

• **U.S. 98 from S.R. 70 to CR 68 (N.W. 160th Street):** Maintenance project: Crews will be repairing roadway shoulders. There are no planned lane closures, but use caution and watch for workers close to the road.

• **U.S. 98 from S.R. 70 to NW 9th Street:** Maintenance permit project: Crews will install gas mains along the roadway. There are no planned lane closures, but use caution and watch for workers close to the road.

• **S.R. 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.

Register for OCRA sports at Sports Complex

OCRA will hold football/cheerleader sign ups on Saturday, **Aug. 16** and Aug. 23 at the Sports Complex from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Children 5 to 12 years of age are welcome to sign up. The cost for football is \$80 and cheerleading is \$60. Bring a copy of the child's birth certificate and payment to sign up.

OCRA is also offering fall baseball/softball to boys and girls ages 5 to 13 (boys) and 5 to 14 (girls). The cost to sign up for fall ball is \$50 per child. Sign ups will be held Saturday, **Aug. 16**, and Aug. 23 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the sports complex. For information, call 863-634-0515 for football and cheerleading or for fall ball 863-234-8024.

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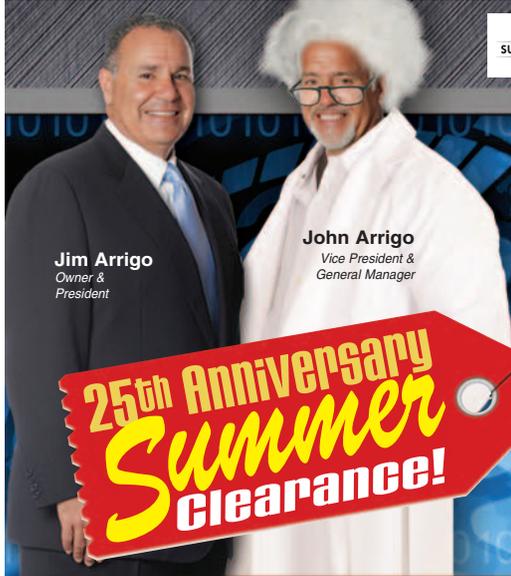
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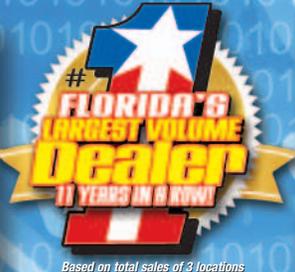
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Sat: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM • Sun: Closed



ALL OFFERS FOR WELL QUALIFIED CUSTOMERS, NOT ALL CUSTOMERS WILL QUALIFY. DEALER RETAINS ALL REBATES & INCENTIVES. ALL VEHICLES SUBJECT TO PRIOR SALE. MUST PRESENT AD AT TIME OF PURCHASE TO RECEIVE ADVERTISED OFFER. DEALER NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS OR OMISSIONS. VEHICLE ART FOR ILLUSTRATION ONLY. OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT OR VARYING MODEL MAYBE SHOWN. OFFERS NOT IN CONJUNCTION, OTHER RESTRICTIONS APPLY. PREVIOUS SALES EXCLUDED. VEHICLE STOCK QUANTITIES VARY DAILY. RANKINGS BASED ON REGISTERED SALES FOR CHRYSLER CORP. *PRICES PLUS TAX, TAG, \$599.95 DEALER FEES, TITLE **WE WILL BEAT ANY LOCAL, VALID, PRINTED ADVERTISEMENT FROM ANOTHER AUTHORIZED DODGE CHRYSLER JEEP RAM DEALER WITHIN THE SE BUSINESS CENTER ZONE ON ANY NEW IDENTICALLY EQUIPPED IN STOCK VEHICLE. CUSTOMER MUST PRESENT COMPETITORS AD AT TIME OF PURCHASE AND SUPPLY ACCURATE VIN NUMBER. COMPETITORS AD MUST BE DATED SAME DAY AS THE CUSTOMERS PURCHASE. IF WE BEAT THE COMPETITORS PRICE, YOU MUST BUY THE VEHICLE FROM ARRIGO. DEALER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO PURCHASE THE VEHICLE FROM THE OTHER DEALER. PLUS TAX, TAG, TITLE & \$599 DEALER FEES, INCLUDING FACTORY, DEALER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES. \$30% OFF VEHICLE - 2014 CHRYSLER 200-MSRP \$26,690-SALE PRICE \$17,999. TERMS, CONDITIONS AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS APPLY. SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS. ALL VEHICLES SUBJECT TO PRIOR SALE. SALES AND PRICING EXPIRE DATE OF PUBLICATION.