Hunting trip is dream come true for WWII veteran

Special to the Okeechobee News

On Thursday, Dec. 12, local World War II veteran Lemoyne C. Ezell was honored by Sportsman’s Foundation for Military Families with a hunting trip on a private hunting preserve.

The private hunting preserve is operated by Okeechobee Outfitters and is on the Brighton Reservation. Mr. Ezell was personally escorted on his hunt by Danny SantAngelo owner of Okeechobee Outfitters.

Hunting trip is dream come true

Armed with the same kind of gun he used in his military service, Lemoyne C. Ezell, 84, shot a buck on Danny and Carla SantAngelo’s Hunting Preserve.

Ringing the bells

Helping the Salvation Army raise money at Christmas time is tiring. Just ask Windi Smith, who spent three days last week in front of Walmart with her children. Little Rhya wore herself out and fell asleep in her mom’s lap. Ms. Smith said she and her family will ring the bells again on Christmas Eve.

Benefit barbecue helps injured deputy

By Eric Kopp

Members of the Okeechobee County Sheriff’s Office (OCSO) and volunteers were busy Friday morning cooking and delivering meals as a fundraising effort for an injured deputy.

OCSO Major Noel Stephen said there were about 50 volunteers all working together to help OCSO Deputy Joseph Gracie, who remains hospitalized with injuries he received in a Dec. 1 car accident.

“We’ve got six grills going and 16 people cooking,” said the major.

When all was said and done, Maj. Stephen said the event raised a total of $10,500 for the deputy and his family. The money was to be given to the family later Friday afternoon, added the major.

Maj. Stephen went on to say about 800 meals were prepared, and that 600 meals were sold prior to the Dec. 20 benefit. Volunteers.
Today: Partly cloudy skies. High 74°F. Winds NNE at 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight: Some clouds with the possibility of some scattered showers after midnight. Low 53°F. Winds light and variable. Chance of rain 30%.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Scattered showers in the morning followed by more numerous showers in the afternoon. High 76°F. Winds light and variable. Chance of rain 40%.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy. Low around 55°F. Winds NNW at 5 to 10 mph.

Tuesday: Generally sunny. High near 75°F. Winds NNE at 5 to 10 mph.

Tuesday Night: A few clouds from time to time. Low 54°F. Winds light and variable.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny skies. High 76°F. Winds light and variable.

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EES Teacher of the year

Everglades Elementary School has chosen Theresa Forde, a fifth grade teacher, as the 2013-14 Teacher of the Year. Congratulations, Theresa, and thank you for all you do! Left to right are Leslie Lundy, principal, and Theresa Forde.

Okeechobee News
December 22, 2013

PHYSICAL THERAPY-CONNECTION

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Reflections from the Pulpit

Christmas Faith

by Loy Mershimer, pastor
Okeechobee Presbyterian Church

A young boy named Paul struggled with faith. A pastor’s son growing up in the Depression, he watched his father and mother strive for daily bread. The Depression days were not easy, and especially for poor preachers. The family walked a fine line between extreme need and daily bread. Young Paul watched his parents pray, and saw many answered prayers: the family never starved. And yet, he often wondered why needs weren’t met more quickly, and why some prayers fell on silent heavens.

It all came to a head one Christmas. His crisis of faith accelerated as Christmas drew near — the house bereft of food, not a scrap of money left for presents or feasts. And worse, he saw the effort of the want on the face of his father: Lines drawn in his dad’s face, brow furrowed in concern, shoulders bearing the weight of family need. And yet, his father kept the family prayers. He read the Bible daily, and told the family to trust in God. Young Paul tried to trust, but his faith grew thin. Too many questions. Why would God allow them to struggle so much?

Christmas grew near, with no presents under the tree, and no food in the cupboards. The closer Christmas came without answers, the lower fell Paul’s faith. Christmas Eve night was the worst of his life. He entered into depths of dark dismay and doubt. “Why, God?” “Don’t you care?” But that morning, something happened that changed his life.

Early that Christmas morning, he heard his father quietly moving in the pre-dawn darkness. The door softly opened, then shut. Silence. Paul instantly awakened, threw on his coat and followed his father out the door. He saw his father enter the barn, so he crept to the barn and peered through a crack. His father was praying!

The prayer cut him to the heart. His dear father was asking God for Christmas food. He also asked God for gifts for the children. “Heavenly Father, I’ve been asking you...”

As an old man, Paul witnessed that as the moment that faith became real for him, and the moment the call of God entered his life, to carry on the preaching of the gospel. Christmas faith! Alleluia!

Lesson: What if the shop owner had not listened to the Spirit of God? What would have happened to the faith of a boy — and all those he was called to help in his life — if the store owner had reasoned away the holy guidance? God uses people to answer prayers, friends. We are the hands and feet of Christ. And, the faith of a child may depend on our obedience this Christmas. Let’s listen, and obey, and help many souls to understand the mind of Christ. And, the faith of a child may depend on our obedience this Christmas. Let’s listen, and obey, and help many souls to understand the mind of Christ.

Amen.
DEPUTY
Continued From Page 1

he continued, delivered some 300 barbecue
dinners.

There was also an area set up in Flagler
Park #6 where people could sit down and
dine.

Deputy Gracie, 46, was injured when he
collided with another vehicle on S.R. 70 East
as he was responding to a domestic violence
call. The deputy, who was not running with
his emergency lights or siren activated, was
responding to the call as a back-up.

The 2 a.m. crash claimed the lives Eliza-
abeth Arellano Renteria, 21, and Hilda Marisol
Medrano, 21.

According to a Florida Highway Patrol
press release Deputy Gracie was westbound
on the two-lane highway when Ms. Renteria,
who was eastbound in her 2000 Ford Focus,
took a left-hand turn into McDonald's.

The release states the young woman “...turned
directly into the path ...” of the on-
coming patrol car.

At this point the FHP has not indicated the
speed at which Deputy Gracie was driving
his 2006 Ford Crown Victoria patrol unit.

Maj. Stephen said Friday his heart still
breaks for the families of the two young la-
dies, and that the benefit for Deputy Gracie
and his family did not minimize the grief he
and the sheriff’s office feels for those fami-
lies.

“We are sympathetic to the other fami-
lies, but we just felt compelled to help our
own — who's a part of our family,” he said.

HUNT
Continued From Page 1

Mr. Ezell was born in April of 1929 and
that makes him almost 85 years old. He has
been part of the Okeechobee landscape for
all those years he says, “except for the time
he served in the Navy.”

Mr. Ezell served in World War II and re-
members his most exciting moment. He was
forward watch two days out of Pearl Harbor
and reported two Japanese mines ahead of
his ship. His report caused him to be sent a
rifle commonly used by the military at the
time, an M-1 Garand.

Mr. Ezell dispatched the two mines while
they were still 300 yards away with two shots
from his rifle. “That was with rear peep sights
and 300 yards away and it is something I will
never forget,” he said with a smile.

Mr. Ezell only needed help from a local
friend to fill out his application for the hunt.
The friend turned out to be Ray Worley, a
Son of the American Legion and an adult
volunteer for the 4-H Picture Perfect Photog-
raphy Club. Mr. Worley assisted Mr. Ezell in
making the hunt happen.

“When Ray called me and told me I was
going to get to go hunting, I just couldn’t be-
lieve it,” said Mr. Ezell.

Mr. Worley picked up Mr. Ezell and took
him to Danny and Carla SantAngelo’s Hunt-
ing Preserve. Mr. Ezell was escorted around
the club house by Mr. SantAngelo. Mr. Ezell
appreciated the mounted game at the club
house. His excitement continued to grow as
he was taken from the club house to a
large waiting swamp buggy. There he was
asked to take the gunners seat and handed
a 30-06 Rifle which was the same caliber as
the one he used as a marksman with in his
Naval service.

Mr. SantAngelo explained to Mr. Ezell
what he was seeing: “We are riding on
2,500 acres of land that is still maintained as
what he was seeing: “We are riding on
what he had enjoyed as a younger man.

As they rode, Mr. Ezell was elated to
see.

Exotic game was in herds; Mr. SantAn-
gelo called them black bucks.

Mr. Ezell had told everybody he was not
really interested in harvesting anything. Just
being out to see what he had seen when he
was much younger just one more time would
give him a great and everlasting memory of
what he had enjoyed as a younger man.

Mr. Ezell was especially happy when he
saw game and there were plenty of animals
to see.

The buck was down and Mr. Lemoyne
Ezell had fulfilled a long-time dream of
harvesting a buck one more time. Mr. Ezell
was so excited those with him thought he
was going to need oxygen but he just started
telling everybody how much this had meant
to him and wanted to make sure that every-
body who had anything to do with making
this happen knew how much their effort
meant to him.

He wanted me to make sure that “thank
you” were given out to each and every one
who had made his dream hunt a reality and
something that he will remember the rest of
his life.

Mr. Ezell wants to thank Sportsmen’s
Foundation for Military Families (huntfor-
 vets.com). Danny and Carla SantAngelo of
Okeechobee Outfitters, for all they did to
make his hunt come true and Ray Worley
for all his help filling out applications and
following up with Danny and Carla to make
the hunt such a great surprise.

Mr. Ezell gave special thanks to every-
body for making his dream come true.

“I will remember you all for what you
have done for me,” he said. “I think this is
the happiest day of my life. Thank you all
for what you have done for me from the bottom
of my heart. This has to be the best Christ-
mas gift I have ever had.”
Legion has Sunday bingo

American Legion 64 will host Sunday night bingo on Dec. 22 at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. in the bingo area. The kitchen will offer a limited menu. Payoffs will be determined by player attendance. All proceeds benefit the American Legion veterans’ programs. The event is open to the public.

Food to be distributed

Point of Light Fellowship Church, 15399 S.R. 78 in Lakeport, will host two food trucks from the USDA and the Harry Chapin Food Pantry on Friday, Dec. 27, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. They will have enough free food for the first 300 people to register. Bring bags and/or boxes to carry your food home.

BHR catfish festival planned

The Buckhead Ridge Volunteer Fire Department will hold the 20th annual Buckhead Ridge Catfish Festival on Saturday, Dec. 28, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Festival organizers are taking booth reservations now. For information, call 863-447-6585 or 863-467-8220 or email bhrvfd@yahoo.com.

Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted to the Okeechobee News by e-mailing obits@newszap.com. Customers may also request photos and links to online guest books. A link to the obituaries is available at www.newszap.com.

Loren E. Harris, 66

OKEECHOBEE — Loren E. Harris, 66, of Okeechobee, formerly of Deerfield Beach, passed away peacefully on Dec. 13, 2013.

Loren was born August 27, 1947 to the late Al and Marty Harris. He graduated from Pompano High School in 1965.

Having served in the US Army in Vietnam in 1968-69, he returned a decorated veteran.

Loren and his dad formed Al Harris and Son Construction. He was elected to serve on the board of commissioners for Buck Head Ridge Mosquito Control District and served as the Buck Head Ridge Fire Chief. He also worked for the State of Florida Flood Control.

A member of the local Breakfast Club for many years, Loren will be remembered for his sense of humor as well as the beautiful roses and orchids he grew and shared with many.

Loren is survived by his wife, Betty; his son, Loren Tate Harris (Fallon) of Mississippi; his brother, Dave (Pat) of Deerfield Beach, and their two sons, Greg and David (Teresa) of Deerfield Beach; his sister, Judy H. Gardner of Hana-lei, Hawaii; his four nephews, Greg and David Harris (Teresa), Derek S. Moore (Melanie) and Nathan Gardner (Diana); two grandsons, Tyler and Tanner Harris; and a grand niece, Torrie; and a great nephew, Dalton.

There will be a memorial ceremony at the South Florida National Cemetery in Lake Worth on Friday, Dec. 27, at 2:30. A gathering of family and friends after the ceremony is being planned and the location has yet to be determined.

Flu Focuses on Keeping Seniors Safe and Mobile

Florida focuses on keeping seniors safe and mobile

Florida leads the nation with more than 17 percent of its population age 65 years and older, and that number is expected to continue to grow in the years to come. Access to transportation is important to many older Floridians who cherish their independence. With such a large resident population of senior drivers and many more who vacation here during the winter months, it is fitting that Florida observes Older Driver Safety Awareness Week to help ensure seniors can continue to enjoy their freedom while doing so in a safer manner.

“More than 3 million of our almost 16 million drivers in Florida are age 65 or older,” said Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Executive Director Julie L. Jones. “Being able to remain active and productive members of their communities is important to our older residents, and by highlighting the importance of driver safety, we hope they can continue to safely enjoy this freedom.”

The department offers these tips to assist older drivers:

• Plan your day so that you do most of your driving when visibility is greatest and traffic is lightest, such as mid-morning and after lunch.

• Turn the volume on your radio down or turn off the radio completely.

• Have your vision and hearing tested annually.

• Keep medications away from child’s reach.

• Follow traffic rules at all times.

• Plan the route to your destination to minimize left turns.

• Look twice both ways before making a turn or entering an intersection.

• Minimize lane changes. When you change lanes, be sure to use your signals.

• Use two sets of home address.

• Keep your home address in your glove box.

• Keep your social security number and other important papers away from child’s reach.

For more information and additional resources to help older drivers remain mobile and independent, visit the website at www.safeandmobileseniors.org.

Register for youth basketball

The Okeechobee Recreation Department 2014 Youth Basketball League registration is underway at the Parks and Recreation Office, 640 N.W. 27th Lane. The co-ed program is for ages 9 to 14, as of March 15, 2013. Please bring the child’s birth certificate to register. The registration deadline has been changed to Monday, Jan. 6, 2014. The Recreation Department office is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. It will be closed on holidays. Registration fees are $50 which includes New Jersey style uniforms. Games will be held at Yearling Middle School. Tryouts will be Jan. 7. Games will start Jan. 25. For information online go to https://www.facebook.com/OkeeparksandRec.

Health Expo is Jan. 25

The seventh annual Okeechobee Family Health and Safety Expo will be held Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center, just off S.R. 710. There will be free parking and admission — everything is free. Take advantage of health screenings and education, demonstrations and first responder vehicles — including fire rescue, police, sheriff’s office and helicopters. There will also be free entertainment and lunch, with over 100 vendor booths, giveaways and prizes. Apply for Florida KidCare, Medicaid and Food Stamps at the Expo. Complete the survey, and you have a chance to win a prize. There is still lots of space available for vendors. For information, call 863-462-5000, ext. 257, or 863-634-6464.

Celebrate A Life

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Online Guestbook

All obituaries now include Online Guestbooks where family and friends can share reflections, memoriam and condolences.

Visit www.newszap.com for a complete list of obituary notice. Click on your community then click on “Obituaries.”

Florida has been known for its airports, but also for its roads and highways. With such a large resident population of senior drivers and many more who vacation here during the winter months, it is fitting that Florida observes Older Driver Safety Awareness Week to help ensure seniors can continue to enjoy their freedom while doing so in a safer manner.

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An event for the day will be turned into a community gathering to celebrate the life of a loved one.

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Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

DECEMBER 16 & 17, 2013

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

<table>
<thead>
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<th>COWS:</th>
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| BULLS:  | | | | |
|--------| | | | |
| 1200-1400| 84.00 | 104.00 | 94.20 | 91.40 |
| 1400-1600| 83.00 | 117.00 | 98.46 | 99.11 |
| 1600-1800| 97.00 | 113.00 | 107.14 | 102.20 |
| 1800-2000| 107.00 | 114.00 | 110.75 | 102.40 |

| STEERS: | | | | |
|--------| | | | |
| 150-250| 175.00 | 275.00 | 241.85 | 243.53 |
| 250-300| 160.00 | 260.00 | 212.55 | 222.93 |
| 300-350| 150.00 | 250.00 | 204.77 | 207.20 |
| 350-400| 150.00 | 230.00 | 198.69 | 186.23 |
| 400-450| 135.00 | 215.00 | 182.82 | 176.22 |
| 450-500| 130.00 | 200.00 | 174.89 | 167.51 |
| 500-550| 135.00 | 185.70 | 169.44 | 158.57 |
| 550-600| 137.50 | 175.00 | 161.07 | 151.61 |
| 600-650| 127.50 | 165.00 | 151.11 | 144.00 |
| 650-700| 130.00 | 154.00 | 143.20 | 134.69 |

| HEIFERS: | | | | |
|---------| | | | |
| 150-250| 160.00 | 265.00 | 204.67 | 207.27 |
| 250-300| 155.00 | 250.00 | 175.42 | 175.24 |
| 300-350| 140.00 | 220.00 | 172.34 | 162.15 |
| 350-400| 140.00 | 187.50 | 162.05 | 158.20 |
| 400-450| 130.00 | 197.50 | 159.31 | 150.24 |
| 450-500| 125.00 | 175.00 | 157.99 | 147.33 |
| 500-550| 130.00 | 177.50 | 154.61 | 143.06 |
| 550-600| 135.00 | 160.00 | 145.95 | 144.24 |
| 600-650| 125.00 | 145.00 | 132.30 | 137.14 |

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

What a way to end the year!
Prices went through the roof. Calves were as much as $5-$10 higher on 300 & 400 weight calves...steers & heifers.

Cows and bulls were $2-$3 higher with exceptionally good yielding ones $4 to $6 higher. We had a big Brangus Bull go for $1.17 a pound! Merry Christmas!

Expect our Slaughter Cow and Bull Sale to be extremely good.
Join us this Monday, Dec. 23, at noon.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone and we’ll see you back here on Monday, Jan. 6 for the first sale of 2014!

Corona Cattle, Okeechobee, topped the calf market with a high of $2.75 bought by Rush Creek Cattle.

Jimmy Kicliter, Jr, Ft. Pierce, topped the cow market with a high of 101.00 bought by Central Beef.

Todd

IRSC offers automotive class

Jump start career options in one of the fastest growing career fields in the region right here in Okeechobee with Indian River State College. IRSC provides automotive training that builds increasingly sophisticated skills in all aspects of automotive repair, maintenance and service and is now offering an Automotive Service I (AERV006) class in Okeechobee for the Spring.

This course teaches shop equipment, tool safety, routine maintenance, and consumer services related to the automotive industry. The Automotive Service I class will be offered Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. Feb. 10 to April 28.

The IRSC Dixon Hendry Campus provides a wide range of educational opportunities to the residents of Okeechobee County.

For more information, on the Automotive Service course being offered or other educational opportunities at IRSC or the Dixon Hendry Campus call 863-824-6000 or visit www.irsc.edu.
A risk factor is something that increases your likelihood of getting a disease or condition. It is possible to develop colorectal cancer with or without the risk factors listed below. However, the more risk factors you have, the greater your chance of developing colorectal cancer. If you have a number of risk factors, ask your doctor what you can do to reduce your risk.

Risk factors for colorectal cancer include the following:

**Genetic factors**

Hereditry is perhaps the strongest risk factor for developing colorectal cancer. It is estimated that approximately 20% of all cases of colorectal cancer are hereditary. This risk increases if you have a primary relative, such as a parent, sibling, or child who develops colorectal cancer.

Hereditary colon cancer occurs at a younger age. As a result, anyone with a history of colon cancer in a relative should seek screening early. Guidelines recommend a screening at age 40 or 10 years younger than the earliest age at which a relative developed colon cancer, whichever is younger. Even in the absence of hereditary nonpolyposis colon cancer (HNPPC) and familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP), the presence of the disease before age 60 in near relatives increases one’s own risk.

The two most common forms of inherited colon cancer are:

- Hereditary nonpolyposis colon cancer (HNPPC)—This is a fast-growing form of colorectal cancer. It accounts for about 5-15% of all colorectal cancer cases. Typically, people with this form develop cancer in their 40s.
- Familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP)—People with this type of colorectal cancer develop hundreds of polyps at a very young age, sometimes as early as their teens. Initially, polyps are benign but do become cancerous over time. This type of colorectal cancer is rare. It only occurs in 1% of all colon cancer cases. If you have these polyps, the likelihood that you will develop colon cancer is almost 100%. Many patients have most of their colon removed as a preventive measure.

**Age**

Colorectal cancer most commonly occurs after age 50, though certain forms of this cancer may develop earlier. However, colorectal cancer can occur at any age.

**Lifestyle Factors**

Colorectal cancer has been strongly associated with lifestyle factors. The following factors may increase your risk of developing colorectal cancer:

- Diet—Diet high in fat, particularly fat from animal sources, and low in fiber have been associated with increased risk of colorectal cancer. Eating a diet that is high in fruits and vegetables may help lower the risk.
- Lack of exercise—Regular exercise decreases the risk of developing colorectal cancer. Exercise of 30 minutes per day is beneficial. Even moderate exercise of 30 minutes per day is beneficial.

**Gender**

Although both men and women develop colorectal cancers, men are at a higher risk.

**Medical Conditions**

Ulcerative colitis, Crohn’s disease, polyps, and a previous colorectal cancer are medical conditions that have been shown to increase the risk of developing colorectal cancer.

The Surgical Services Team at Raulerson Hospital perform colon resections, which is a removal of part of the colon, due to some types of colon cancers, diverticulitis, and intestinal blockages. In some cases, colon resections can be performed laparoscopically, resulting in a quicker recovery. To find a physician or speak to a registered nurse 24/7 call Consult-A-Nurse at 863-763-9228.
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County health administrator graduates national program

Special to the Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County Health Department Administrator Erin E. Hess along with more than 100 other new and aspiring public health officials from across the nation, graduated on Dec. 11 from the National Association of County and City Health Officials’ (NACCHO) Survive and Thrive: Roadmap for New Local Health Officials program. The program, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the de Beaumont Foundation, is designed to enhance the skills of top executives at local health departments. Participants in the 12-month program gained practical tools and experiences to help them work with elected officials and community partners, manage strategic planning and health department resources, and discover approaches for addressing challenges unique to local health department leaders.

“We are proud to have the opportunity to train public health leaders through Survive and Thrive,” said NACCHO Executive Director Robert M. Pestronk. “The Affordable Care Act and other factors are making our country’s health climate increasingly complex and competitive. That’s why it is even more important that dedicated public health leaders have the insights and tools they need to grow, flourish, and adapt with the times.”

Since 2008, nearly 190 new and aspiring local health officials have been trained through the Survive and Thrive program. Current and retired local health officials with five or more years of experience serve as Survive and Thrive coaches. These volunteer coaches complement the formal Survive and Thrive curriculum by guiding individual development plans, leading discussions about issues important to the program fellows, and reviewing assessments and performance reports.

Administrator Erin Hess stated, “It was an honor to be selected for NACCHO’s Survive and Thrive program. NACCHO is at the forefront of public health improvement and provides local health departments with the tools and resources they need to succeed. Survive and Thrive not only increased my understanding of public health but has provided me with tools and resources to improve the health of the communities I serve.”

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the nation’s 2,800 local governmental health departments.

“These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities.”

Graduates of the National Public Health Improvement Program include: (front row) Barbara Turner of Highlands County and Erin Hess of Harder and Okeechobee County; (back row) Charles Henry of Sarasota County, Marsha Player Lindeman of Franklin and Gulf counties, Karlette Peck of Martin County, and Clint Sperber of St. Lucie County.

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff D. Vest of Okeechobee, FL are pleased to announce the engagement of their son Jeffrey R. Vest to Caroline A. Fite. Grandparents of the groom are Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Markham of Okeechobee, FL and Mr. Richard Vest and Ms. Phyllis Vest of Okeechobee, FL. The groom graduated from Okeechobee High School and Lincoln College of Technology. The bride-to-be graduated from Okeechobee High School and is attending Indian River State College. A March 1st wedding is planned.

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Frank Carter, concert pianist and accompanist, will play some of his Christmas Carol arrangements. His Christmas Cheer CD, as well as other CDs he has recorded, will be available for purchase.

Nicolle Wood will again share her unique talents as our inspiring narrator. Singers from the audience will be invited to join the choir in singing the final selection, Handel’s Hallelujah! Chorus.

Admission is Free, but a love offering will be taken to defer advertising costs. For more information, call Sandy at 634-7714
### OMS Students of the Week

Osceola Middle School Students of the Week for Dec. 12, wish you a wonderful holiday! Congratulations to the following students: Ian Hernandez, Haley Garcia, Haley Underhill, Desiree Daniel, Madisyn Gonzalez, Haley Land, Jeffery Chapman, Jarrett Emmick, Max Castillo (not pictured) and Sharonda Jackson.

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<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
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<td>2001 VW Beetle</td>
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<td>Auto, A/C, 6 cyl, leather, loaded</td>
<td>$5995*</td>
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<td>2000 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer</td>
<td>Auto, A/C, loaded, 7 pass</td>
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Special to the Okeechobee News
By Tammi Kelly
Okeechobee News

• Bella Rose, 311 N.E. Second St., is a full-service, Christian-based spa and salon. They do everything from manicures to Swedish massages. They also have a full line of organic hair products. The store will be open Christmas eve until 3 p.m. Bella Rose has many last minute gift items for anyone to pick up, such as jewelry, hats or a flat iron with an oil infuser — they are great by the way. And for those who are just unsure what to get someone, pick up a gift certificate for any one of their wonderful services. Don’t forget to tell them Tammi sent you! Also like them on Facebook or visit their website at www.mysalononline.com/bellarose. They can be reached at 863-357-3333.

• Eli’s Western Wear, 907 N.W. Park St., is more than just cowboy hats and boots. They have gifts in their store for everyone! They carry Brighton jewelry, cow hide rugs, dresses and even toys. They will be open Christmas eve from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., so stop on in and grab those last minute gifts. They will even wrap them for you free of charge! Not only do they offer gift wrapping all year round, but they also offer layaway. Check them out on Facebook or even order online at their website at www.eliswesternwear.com. They offer gift cards for all their items. They can be reached at 863-763-2984.

• Flower Petals, 207 N.E. Park St., is owned by Lisa Fralix, who has been a florist for 13 years. They carry fresh and silk wreaths, centerpieces and flowers for all your holiday decorating needs. They also carry great last minute gifts such as candles, kitchen accessories, goodie bouquets and fresh flowers. Flower Petals will be open Christmas Eve until 5 p.m. Flower Petals’ sister company, CopyKat Art Studio, is a great place to get a gift to for anyone in your life. They offer classes and supply everything you need to make a beautiful work of your own art. Flower Petals and CopyKat Art Studio offer gift certificates all year round. They can be reached at 863-763-5051.

• Did you know the Okeechobee News has one of the strongest business Facebook audiences in the area? These days, the paper is so much more than the trusty print edition. Our community website is floridavnewszap.com (where you can read my blog on the Okeechobee page) and it is updated with breaking information and news in between publications of our regular print editions. We now have a new free local online business directory BizSearch. You can claim your free listing by going to our site and clicking on the BizSearch logo at the top of the page.

‘Tis the season

During this holiday season we are all so busy running around getting everyone gifts, baking and visiting loved ones. We sometimes may forget what Christmas is all about because it’s not about candy canes, holly or lights all aglow. Its about the hearts that we touch and the care that we show. So keep that in mind as you are rushing through the stores or standing in line at the post office. So, from my family to yours, have a very Merry Christmas!

Agri-Civic Center open to public for exercising

Unless an event is taking place, the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center grounds are open to area residents for exercise activities such as walking, running and bike riding on a daily basis. The gate on State Road 70 is open from 7 a.m. until dusk for residents to access the roads and parking lots within the facility. While the county encourages area residents to take advantage of the opportunity to use the facility grounds for exercise, the staff asks everyone to help keep the facility clean by not littering.
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Okeechobee News
December 22, 2013
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Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 13 CP 149

STATEMENT OF KENNETH M. HULL
Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of KENNETH M. HULL, deceased, whose date of death was June 22, 2013, is pending in the Circuit Court for OKEECHOBEE County, Florida Probate Division, the address of which is 132 4th St. S., 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 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE 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 ABOVE, ANY DEMANDS ON THE DECEASED AFTER TWO (2) YEARS FROM THE DATE OF DECEDENT’S DATE OF DEATH, ARE BARRED.

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

The date of first publication of this notice is December 22, 2013.

Personal Representative:
PAMELA T. KARLSON
5620 NE 9th Lane
Okeechobee, Florida 34972

Attorney for Personal Representative:
PAMELA T. KARLSON
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Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nicholas Lewis

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1 Some are chocolate
5 Trim
10 1968 self-titled folk album
14 “My body’s aching” and my time...
16 & 17 “Climb aboard!”
19 Israel’s Iron Lady
20 “CHIPS” star Erik
21 China’s Chou En-Lai
22 See 24-Down
25 “Dogma” star
26 “Assuming I’m right…”
28 Places to treat v-
tobacco
31 Must-family-friendly
36 Prefix for Caps or Cat
37 Confuses
39 Modern owner’s need: Abbr.
42 Lara Croft
45 Not very much
47 Hr. related to airspeed
48 Garr of “Mr. Mom”
49 Patient contribution
51 Spanish hors d’oeuvre
55 Driver’s gadget
56 Like many
59 Synopsis
60 1988 Cold War crossing point
61 Historic Cold War crossing point
64 Offer as proof
65 Navel variety
66 Dramatic opener
67 Part of AMEX: Abbr.
68 Turn aside
69 Midway game word

DOWN
1 Henry Blake’s rank in “M*A*S*H”
2 Tempe sch.
3 Opposite of an owl
4 Odd-shaped reef denizen
5 Keep one’s word?
6 Passport issuer?
7 Fitting
8 & 9 Slaughter in the
9 Ethically
10 Needing no Rx
47 Hr. related to
11 Handles
12 Needing no Rx
13 Seat of Florida’s
14 Rest a spell, or a
15 Handles
16 Rest a spell, or a
17 Émile, par
18 Abrbr. on some
19 Abrbr. on some
20 Abrbr. on some
21 Transparent, one
22 Pro Bowl div.
23 See 24-Down
24 Abbr. on some
25 “Dogma” star
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tobacco
27 Needing no Rx
28 Places to treat
29 React in shock
30 “I agree, señor!”
31 Must-family-friendly
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Level: Advanced

ANSWER

Happy Holidays from the staff of OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Okeechobee News
December 22, 2013
David Hazellief, 863-610-1553
Betty Hazellief, 863-610-0144
Sharon Prevatt, 863-634-7069
Dee Reeder, 863-610-2485

1018-H: 2 story w/ open concept and screened porch off the kitchen living rm area. 3 br, 2.5 ba (2 br, 1½ ba downstairs). Balcony off the upstairs master bdrm and much more. $250,000 MLS #207272

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Hospital volunteer honored

Raulerson Hospital names its Frist Employee, Volunteer and Physician of the Year each summer.

This year, the Volunteer Humanitarian Award was presented to Beverly Spieldenner, a seasonal resident who resides in Ohio during the summers. Beverly is a volunteer whose kindness and willingness to help are unwavering, regardless of the situation. She has been volunteering at Raulerson Hospital for the last five years. She was inspired to begin volunteering here after spending nearly every day caring for two of her family members who were in a nursing home in Ohio.

She is known to always give a word of encouragement to patients, friends and even strangers.

Congratulations to Beverly Spieldenner, Raulerson Hospital’s Volunteer of the Year.

Road Watch

Nearly all construction contractors working in the twelve counties of Florida Department of Transportation District One are observing the holiday season and suspending work for the next two weeks. A few contractors will continue some work activities, but work will not include new lane closures affecting travel.

FDOT reminds all drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians to observe the rules of the road and use courtesy, caution, and patience traveling Florida’s roadways.
Neal scores 11 to lead OMS in 44-22 hoop win

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Evan Neal scored 11 points and pulled down nine rebounds to lead Osceola Middle School to a 44-22 victory over Pemayetv Emahakv in boys basketball action in Okeechobee on Dec. 19.

Ja Juan Cherry added eight points, two steals, two assists and two rebounds for Osceola while Jesse Mond contributed two points, two rebounds and five steals for the Warriors. Richard Harris led the Brighton school with nine points, eight rebounds and two steals.

Osceola jumped out to an early 14-4 lead and never trailed in the game after a layup by Cherry in the first minute of action. Osceola led 23-10 at the half and 32-14 after three quarters. Osceola used their entire bench and had 10 different players in the scoring column.

Coach Justin Perman said the team has had their ups and downs this year but played a good team game and put everything together.

“This was the first time we had a lot of players score. One of our goals is to play good defense and when we get the lead move the ball around so everyone can score,” he said.

Perman said he liked to see his team hustle, play good hard defense, and play as a team.

He also praised Jesse Mond, who, as the team’s sixth man, really provides some energy to the team.

“He’s unselfish. It takes a lot for someone not to be in the starting lineup and then give you everything they have when they get in the game,” he said. “I thought he did an excellent job tonight.”

Mond said he planned on scoring in the game but when he saw his teammates open said he didn’t want to score but give the players that don’t play much a chance, “It feels good.

I let them score and we got the W.”

Mond said he likes to provide a spark for the team and he thinks the team is headed in the right direction.

“We are doing well and everyone has improved. People that never scored in their life scored tonight,” he said. “They’re happy and probably going out to eat right now.”

Edwardo Taylor grabbed six rebounds, scored a bucket and dished out two assists for the Warriors. He said the win felt pretty good.

Perman said two wins in one week feels good for his team but he puts a lot of emphasis on improvement, not just the win and loss record.

“We love to get wins all of the time but the improvement is better than everything,” said the OMS coach. “We want to see the kids learn something from their losses as well as their victories.”

Osceola’s final home game of the year will be on Tuesday, Jan. 7, against Gifford Middle School.
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