



# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 99 No. 272

Friday, October 31, 2008

50¢ Plus tax

## Briefs

### Early voting hours extended

Early hours will be offered on Friday, Oct. 31 and Saturday, Nov. 1, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. at the Supervisor of Election's Office, 307 NW Second Street. Remember to bring your driver's license for identification. For more information contact the Supervisor of Elections Gwen Chandler at 863-763-4014 or at the office located at 307 NW Second Street Okeechobee, FL 34972 or visit [www.voteokeechobee.com](http://www.voteokeechobee.com).

### IRSC hosts Hispanic Health Fair

The Public is Invited to this Free Event Indian River State College, the Mexican Consulate and other healthcare agencies will co-sponsor a health fair focusing on the Hispanic community Saturday, Nov. 1. Agencies will be conducting various screenings for HIV, cancer, diabetes and dental issues. IRSC will also provide information about its educational programs and services. The event is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Koblegard Student Union at the IRSC Main Campus in Fort Pierce. Over ten agencies will provide information and screenings for the Hispanic community on health and safety issues including hypertension, diabetes, sexually transmitted diseases, heart disease, obesity, nutrition, dental health, women's health, mental health and more.

### Grief support group for parents

A grief and healing group dedicated to helping parents deal with the loss of a child will meet at the Red Cross Building on Thursday nights from 7 to 8:30 p.m. For more information contact Georgene at 863-763-2957.

### Drought Index

Current: 493  
Source: Florida Division of Forestry  
Local Burn Ban: None

### Lake Levels

**14.80 feet**  
Last Year: 10.25 feet

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

### Index

Classifieds.....	11-12
Community Events.....	6
Crossword.....	12
Financial Cents.....	12
Obituaries.....	6
Opinion.....	4
Speak Out.....	4
Sports.....	14-15
Sudoku.....	12
Weather.....	3

See Page 2 for information about how to contact the newspaper.

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# Sugar buyout progressing

## SFWMD exercising due diligence in U.S. Sugar buyout

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

Since Gov. Charlie Christ's June 24 announcement of the sale of all of U.S. Sugar's assets in Florida to South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), the district has been working with due diligence preparing

to close the deal, finance it and make best use of the property.

The land will be used as part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program (CERP). It will be used for water storage and treatment to clean the water before it is sent to the water conservation areas. The land purchase will also protect the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries from freshwater discharges from the lake by providing for more excess water to be sent south.

Officials have pledged that the public will be kept informed throughout the process.

"Public participation is as vital to the Everglades restoration process as the projects themselves," said Sheryl Wood, SFWMD general counsel. "The citizens of Florida and stakeholders will play a valuable role in this process."

The public will have the opportunity to review and comment on the contract before closing. A firm acquisition price has

not yet been established, but an estimated price tag of \$1.75 billion was mentioned at when the purchase was first announced.

Certificates of participation (COPs) are being used to finance the acquisition. This is a type of revenue bond that government agencies may issue to finance projects such land acquisition. District officials stress the acquisition will be possible without raising taxes.

No timetable has been established for closing the deal. It

appears that early estimates of a November closing were not accurate.

Water management officials hired the Duff & Phelps Corporation to scrutinize the appraisals, property and all aspects of the potential transaction. They will issue an independent "fairness opinion" which will give their opinion as to whether or not the sale represents a good and fair deal to taxpayers.

Engineers are evaluating res-  
See Sugar — Page 8

## Fright night: It's Halloween!



Okeechobee news/Pete Gawda  
Jerett Butts proudly displays the pumpkin he got at First United Methodist Church's pumpkin patch. Jerret and other children from A Child's World came to the pumpkin patch on Thursday, Oct. 30 for storytelling, pumpkin decorating, refreshments and to search through the pumpkin patch for Jack O'Lantern's brothers.

## Community plans holiday fun

The Okeechobee community offers a variety of holiday activities for Halloween night.

For those planning to celebrate with traditional **trick-or-treating**, the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office suggests the following hours for those who trick-or-treat: younger children, 5 to 7 p.m.; older children, 7 to 9 p.m. All trick-or-treaters should be off the street by 9 p.m. Children should be accompanied by an adult and follow all traffic safety rules. Most Okeechobee neighborhoods do not have sidewalks; parents should take care to keep children out of the street

when there is traffic.

Okeechobee Main Street, the City of Okeechobee and Okeechobee County will host the **Fourth Annual Halloween Celebration at the Agri-Civic Center** on State Road 70 East, from 6 until 9 p.m. A costume contest will be in four age groups: 0-2 from 6:45 to 7:15 p.m., 3-5 from 7:15 to 7:45 p.m., 6-10 from 7:45 to 8:15 p.m. and 11-14 from 8:15 to 8:45 p.m. Registration for the costume contest will be at the Seacoast National Bank Booth. The celebration will also have games and activities, a haunted house contest and treats!

For more information, please contact Toni Doyle at 863-357-MAIN (6246).

Martha's House will host a **haunted house** in their administrative building, 4134 U.S. 441 N, past Cemetery Road on the right, from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person with all proceeds going to Martha's House. For more information or to volunteer to help with the haunted house call 863-763-2893.

A **Family Fall Festival** will be sponsored by First Baptist

See Fun — Page 9

# Value Adjustment Board hears property tax cases

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

Benjamin Franklin said that nothing is certain in this world except death and taxes.

The inevitability of taxes was brought home to the petitioners to the 2008 Okeechobee County Value Adjustment Board that met on Tuesday, Oct. 28 and Wednesday, Oct. 29. This board is made up of two commissioners, two business people and one school board member. Its purpose is to hear the claims of property owners who feel their tax assessment

was not fair. Property taxes for 2008 are based on the value of the property on Jan. 1, 2008.

Out of the 14 petitioners to the board, only one was successful.

Realtor Haynes Williams made a lengthy and documented plea for all business owners. Several residential property owners protested their assessed value. However, in each case the property appraiser presented three 2007 sales of comparable properties in the same price range.

One claim for homestead exemption was denied because

the petitioner's wife owned homesteaded property in Palm Beach County.

One petitioner built a dwelling late in 2007. The certificate of occupancy was not issued until after Jan. 1, 2008. However, the board ruled that the dwelling was suitable for occupancy on Jan. 1, 2008. Therefore, the petitioner was taxed on the full value of the dwelling.

Most of the challenges were from commercial property owners who felt their businesses were assessed at too high

See Board — Page 8

# Prosecutor astounded by verdict

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee County jury Thursday left a state prosecutor astounded when they found a man guilty of a misdemeanor when he had been charged with capital sexual battery on a 9-year-old girl.

After deliberating for several hours, the six-member jury found Lewis V. Willis Jr.

not guilty on a charge of lewd and lascivious molestation of a victim under the age of 12. The jury did find the fire alarm inspector guilty



Lewis V. Willis, Jr.

See Verdict — Page 8

# Amendment 3 pushes storm preparedness

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

While Amendment 3, if passed, might not mean much of a tax break, there could be other benefits.

The title of Amendment 3 is: "Changes and improvements not affecting the assessed value of residential real property."

What this means is that

improvements which increase resistance to wind damage, such as storm shutters or wind resistant glass, and installation of renewable energy source devices would not increase the assessed value of property for tax purposes. This amendment does not apply to new

See Amendment- Page 9



Submitted photo

## Blood donor to win quilt

Marie Kirchoff, a member of Tantie Quilters, has donated a \$300 quilt which she made, to be awarded a lucky blood donor at the Okeechobee Blood Roundup which will be held Nov. 14 and 15 at the First United Methodist Church. This third annual drive is seeking 450 donations in the two days and has received other donations to be awarded donors through drawings. Every donor is entered in a drawing for the grand prize of a chest freezer from Okeechobee Sears.

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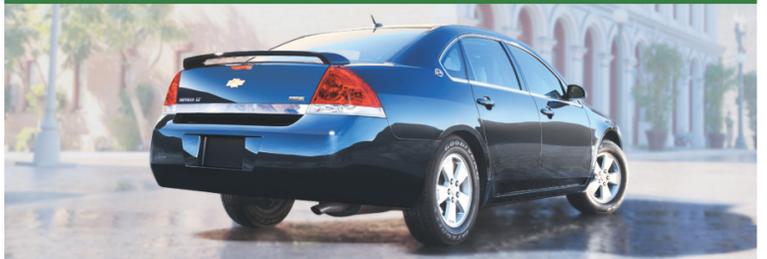
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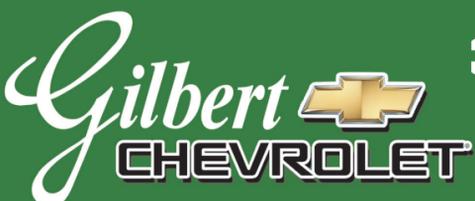
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<sup>†</sup> Price includes qualifying rebates <sup>††</sup> Lease payments based on 48 months, 12,000 miles per year, \$2,500 down plus tax, tags and fees. <sup>2</sup> - EPA estimated MPG hwy.: Cobalt XFE 37, Toyota Corolla 35. <sup>4</sup> - EPA estimated MPG hwy.: Impala LT 29 vs. Avalon 28. <sup>6</sup> - EPA estimated MPG highway with 4-cylinder engine and 6-speed automatic transmission: Malibu 1LT 33 vs. Camry 31. <sup>8</sup> - EPA estimated MPG highway (2WD): Tahoe with available 5.3L V8 20 vs. Sequoia with available 5.7L V8 19. <sup>9</sup> - EPA estimated MPG city/highway (2WD): Silverado with available 5.3L V8 14/20 vs. Tundra with available 5.7L V8 14/18. \* Monthly payment is \$13.89 for every \$1000 you finance. \*\* Monthly pymts. are based at 7.9% APR for 72 mos. with \$2,000 down. All prices and pymts. are plus tax, title and license. With approved credit. Rates are in lieu of rebates. Pictures are for illustration purposes only. See dealer for details. • GICH\_0366

# Moore Haven trio charged in theft of culvert, wire

**By Eric Kopp**  
Okeechobee News

MOORE HAVEN - Three Moore Haven residents have been arrested in connection with the theft of copper wire and an aluminum culvert from a government work site near this Glades County community.

Jason Hough, 25, was arrested Oct. 16 on a charge of grand theft. He was booked into the Glades County Jail under a bond of \$5,000. Also charged were Lena Lamb, 42, and John Stewart, 49. They were both charged with two counts of grand theft and one count of trespassing. They were both booked into the county jail under a bond of \$10,500 each.

According to Detective Sergeant Steve Harris, of the Glades

County Sheriff's Office (GCSO), Hough is also charged with violating his probation on an original charge of possession of cocaine and is being held without bond on that charge.

Hough was put on 18-months probation on Oct. 6, said the detective.

Hough was arrested on Oct. 16 by Deputy Victor Alvarez of the GCSO after the deputy ascertained that the man was involved in the theft of a generator and lawn mower. It was later learned that Lamb and Stewart were also involved in that theft, stated information from the GCSO.

Sgt. Harris and Detective Mike Pepitone were given the case and on Oct. 21 arrested Lamb and Stewart for their alleged involvement. Through the course of their investigation the detec-

tives learned that the couple were also reportedly involved in the theft of a culvert and 100-feet of heavy duty copper wire from a South Florida Water Management District work site.

The culvert, wire and lawn mower were then sold as scrap metal to a business in Clewiston. The generator has been recovered and returned to its owner.

Sgt. Harris said the trio received \$8.50 for the rechargeable lawn mower, \$20 for the culvert and \$15 to \$18 for the copper wire.

The detective went on to say that Hough became the focus of their investigation when Hough's wallet - containing his identification - was found near the crime site.

# Company fined by Dept. of Labor for accidental death

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

Gamez Enterprises, Incorporated was fined \$6,300 by the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration on Oct. 1 due to a May 9 accident that claimed a life on Micco Bluff Road in Basinger.

Gamez Enterprises did not contest the fine but the case remains open, OSHA Spokesman

Les Grove said.

The company was cited for a serious violation which claimed the employer did not instruct every employee in the safe operation and servicing of all their covered equipment with which he or she was involved, the OSHA report said.

Sergio Depaz died on May 9 when he was struck by a citrus fruit loader.

The OSHA report said the operator of the machine drove in reverse with an obstructed view to the rear without making sure everyone was clear of the machine.

The company was also required to submit an abatement certificate to OSHA. That abatement can include additional training for employees.

## Glades County Arrest Report

The following individuals were arrested on felony or driving under the influence (DUI) charges by the Glades County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) or the Department of Corrections (DOC).

- Francisco Zuniga, 25, Moore Haven, was arrested Oct. 20 on a felony charge of smuggling contraband into a detention facility and a misdemeanor charge of possession of marijuana under 20 grams. He was returned to the Moore Haven Correctional Institute.
- Alvaro Cappas, 26, Moore

Haven, was arrested Oct. 20 on a charge of possession of cocaine. He was returned to the Moore Haven Correctional Institute.

- John Stewart, 49, Moore Haven, was arrested Oct. 21 on a felony charge of grand theft (two counts) and a misdemeanor charge of trespassing. His bond was set at \$10,500.
- Lena Lamb, 42, Moore Haven, was arrested Oct. 21 on a felony charge of grand theft (two counts) and a misdemeanor charge of trespassing. Her bond was set at \$10,500.
- Patrick Fagan, 21, Moore Haven, was arrested Oct. 21, on a felony charge of fraudulent use of a credit card. He was also

charged with the misdemeanors of battery (domestic violence) and petit theft. His bond was set at \$11,000.

- Bonetta Ballard, 40, Crescent Acres, was arrested Oct. 23 on a charge of obstructing justice. Her bond was set at \$5,000.

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.

## Okeechobee Forecast

**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. Windy, with a northeast wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25.

**Friday night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 60. Winds from the northeast between 5 and 10 mph.

### Extended Forecast

**Saturday:** A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 80. Winds from the northwest between 5 and 10 mph.

**Saturday night:** A 30 percent chance of showers after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. Winds from the north, northwest around 5 mph.

**Sunday:** A 30 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high around 79. Winds from the northeast between 5 and 10 mph.

**Sunday night:** A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy with a low near 64. Winds from the northeast around 5 mph.

## The Florida Lottery

The Florida Lotto: Numbers selected **Wednesday** in the Florida Lottery are: **Cash 3:** 1-7-6; **Play 4:** 5-9-7-4; **Fantasy 5:** 2-3-11-28-36; **Lotto:** 4-11-15-46-53; Those selected **Tuesday** are: **Mega Money:** 10-25-34-42, **Mega Ball:** 15. Numbers selected **Thursday** are: **Cash 3:** 4-8-7; **Play 4:** 5-5-5-4.

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08

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## 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).

- Jason Anthony Dysinger, 27, U.S. 441 S.E., Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 24 by Officer R. Holroyd on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$1,000.
- Gloria Marie Lowe, 58, U.S. 441 S.E., Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 28 by Deputy Matthew Hurst on a warrant charging her with violation of probation - possession of cocaine. She is being held without bond.
- Charles William Buchanan, 26, N.W. 36th Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 28 by DOC's Alfreda L. McFarlane on a charge of violation of probation - possession of cocaine. His bond was set at \$5,000.
- Carlos Rafael Colon, 24, N.W. 18th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 28 by Deputy Corporal Aric Majere on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with failure to re-deliver leased property - more than \$300. His bond was set at \$5,000.
- Christopher Gillaspay, 35, S.E. 33rd Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 30 by Deputy Bart Potter on a warrant charging him with failure to appear - driving while license suspended. His bond was set at \$2,500. Gillaspay was arrested later that same day by Deputy Sergeant J. Royal on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - driving under the influence. He is being held without bond on that charge.

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

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# 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](http://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. You can also e-mail comments to [okeenews@newszap.com](mailto:okeenews@newszap.com) or call 863-467-2033, but online comments get posted faster and not all phone calls can be printed. What follows is a sampling of some of the discussions currently taking place. Thanks for participating!

**HALLOWEEN:** Parents, please make sure your children understand that when the porch and/or yard lights are off, there are no treats. So don't knock at the door. When I am home and plan on giving out treats both my porch and yard light are on. When treats are gone or I am not home the lights are off and I don't want to be bothered. My dogs go crazy enough when the kids come so after the lights are off, Please don't ring the bell. This is a good way to know who has treats and who doesn't want to be bothered. Have a Happy Halloween

**ELECTORAL COLLEGE:** In my opinion, having a third or even a fourth party is healthy for the country. The two main political parties are too powerful and such power often leads to corruption. The American people deserve more choices. In this election, a lot of people are not happy with either choice. In a popular vote system, with a runoff if no one gets at least 50 percent plus one vote, every vote would count. Currently this simply isn't true. Every vote does not count. It is possible -- and it has happened -- that the candidate who received the majority of the votes did not win the office. When the country was formed, there was a need for the electoral college. With modern mass communication, that need no longer exists. It is time for change. I think we should put it to a vote -- a popular vote -- to amend the Constitution.

**REDISTRIBUTE THE WEALTH:** We already have a "redistribution of wealth" that's been in effect for years. President Reagan instituted a thing called earned income tax credit. Basically that's where if you're poor, the government takes a portion of what us regular taxpayers pay and give it to low income people when they file their taxes. Nobody seems to realize this is nothing new.

**BOMB:** I read the story about the kids learning how to make a bomb on YouTube. They are very lucky that they were not injured and that none of the other children who were there watching them detonate their bomb were injured. This could have been very serious with kids in the hospital or maimed for life. Parents need to sit their children down and make sure they understand that what happened is not fun or funny. These kids did a stupid and dangerous thing and they are very lucky that the worst thing that happened to them was a trip to the jail. The story is also a warning to parents that children should not be allowed to surf the web without adult supervision. Don't let your kids go online unless you are in the room and pay attention to which web sites they visit. A good idea is to keep the computer in the family room. Don't let kids go online alone in their rooms. The web is not a safe place for children. They need adult supervision.

**CAMPAIGN:** Barack Obama is loaded, way more loaded than John McCain, way more loaded than any presidential candidate has ever been at this stage of the campaign. Just to throw a number out: He has raised well over \$600 million since the start of his campaign, close to what George Bush and John Kerry raised combined in 2004. Without question, Obama has set the bar at a new height with a truly staggering sum of cash. And that is why as we approach this November, it is worth reminding ourselves what Barack Obama said last November. One year ago, he made a promise. He pledged to accept public financing and to work with the Republican nominee to ensure that they both operated within those limits. Then it became clear to Sen. Obama and his campaign that he was going to be able to raise, on his own, far more cash than he would get with public financing. So Obama went back on his word.

**POLLS:** I found it interesting that Nickelodeon has a voters poll for the kids and it came out 51 percent for Obama and 49 percent for McCain. I would be willing to bet their polls are closer to fact than any others taken or posted. Kids seem to vote what they hear their parents talking about.

**EXPERIENCE:** Past experience isn't always what it takes to do a good job.

**DANGEROUS DOGS:** They say that this incident with the dogs attacking a woman happened in May of 2007 in Collier County. Where have the dogs been all this time? And they say the dogs were taken from the area and dropped off in LaBelle and Okeechobee County. By whom were they dropped off? And why is this story just coming out now to the public when one of the dogs that was put down has been in Okeechobee County in February of 2008. Also whose dogs were they, just stray dogs? *Editor's note: According to Okeechobee County Animal Control Supervisor Gary Barber, his office along with officers from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) were conducting the investigation and had told residents in the north portion of the county to watch for these dogs. Mr. Barber said it finally got to the point that they weren't getting any more information from the area so he decided to go public with the case. He went on to say that they also didn't want to alarm a lot of people. As for the dogs, they were reportedly dropped off by a Clewiston woman who is a friend of the dog's owner, Shirley Newell. At the time of the incident, Mrs. Newell was suffering from a broken ankle and could not take care of the dogs. That task was turned over to Mrs. Newell's ex-husband, Charles Newell, and the friend. Reports from the Collier County Sheriff's Office indicate that Mr. Newell heard about the death of Carshena Benjamin, who was killed by dogs May 26, 2007. He wanted the friend to kill the dogs, even though he told investigators that he didn't know if the dogs had actually been involved in the attack. However, the friend told detectives she couldn't do that and she believed the dogs were innocent of the attack. She did, however, take the dogs away from Mrs. Newell's home in Collier County on May 27, 2007. The woman told detectives one of the dogs, the Welsh Corgi, actually belonged to her. Detective Raymond Wilkinson's reports indicate that on May 31, 2007, the woman put the animals into her truck and took them away. The Corgi was released in an area north of LaBelle. She then drove to Okeechobee and released a dog named Sierra in an area near Potter Road and N.W. 141st St. She then dropped the other dog, Pie-Pie, in the area around N.W. Ninth Ave. and N.W. 141st St. The woman reportedly told the detective she released the dogs in neighborhoods hoping that someone would take them in and care for them.*

**VOTING:** With the early voting hours extended, people don't have an excuse for not voting this year. They can vote on Friday until 7 p.m. or on Saturday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. If you work out of town and didn't get an absentee ballot, you can go to the elections office on Saturday and vote. The Supervisor of Elections is predicting a 70 percent turnout this year. I would love to see that be 80 or 90 percent. Every registered voter should vote.

**JOE THE PLUMBER:** Ohio state computers were used to investigate Joe the plumber. If you're against Obama they will go to any length to get you. How can Obama people get use of state computers to investigate anyone?

**POLITICS:** I am sick and tired of the dozens of emails I am receiving every day from the National Democratic Party and the Florida Democratic Party. If they think sending out dozens of emails every day is going to sway voters, they are wrong. Or they may be surprised that people will be sick and tired of the emails, they will vote against the candidates the emails promote. Every time I delete these political emails, more pop up. I didn't ask to be on their list. I have responded asking to be off the list. I even tried to block them as SPAM, but they keep coming. I would change my party affiliation if that would help but nothing seems to discourage them. I will be so glad when this election is over and hope that the email avalanche will finally end.

**AMENDMENT 2:** In this great county of ours, there are many people who call themselves Christians, go to church and read the bible that have been so blind sided by the liberal agenda that they now believe that marriage has somehow been changed in God's eyes. The bible tells us plainly that marriage is between a man and a woman. Are there people who would like defy that? Sure, just like people who would like to defy other moral issues that we hold dear. How dare we change what God has ordained. We will be held accountable for what we stand for. Who cares if the liberals call it discrimination. We have to stand up for what is right in God's eyes, not what is politically correct.

# Letters to the Editor

## Kids' Day support appreciated

The members and officers of Taylor Creek Bass Club would like to thank the many sponsors of the 2008 Lee Mc Allister Memorial Okeechobee Kids' Day Fishing Festival. Their support of our 23rd annual event with fishing equipment, prizes, food, drinks, cash and personal time helped provide

Okeechobee kids and their families a day of wholesome activities based on fun, fishing, fellowship and competition.

We encourage the community to stop by, say thanks and patronize our 2008 supporters as we start preparations for the 2009 event: Poge's Restaurant, Okeechobee News, Penny Saver, WOKC 1570 AM Radio, Advanced Engraving, Stitching Post, Taylor

Creek Printing, The Sportsman's Edge, Inc., Publix, All Clean Services, Garrard's Bait & Tackle, Winn Dixie, VFW Post 9528, VFW 9528 Women's Auxiliary, Buford Baits, Mobile Home Depot, Taylor Creek Rental, Walpole, Inc., Big "O," Teen Anglers, Okeechobee Fishing Headquarters, Dundee, Oakview Baptist Church, Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, ESPN Outdoors, Florida Fish

and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Okeechobee County Commissioners, Managers and Staff of Okeechobee County Agricultural Center, South Florida Water Management District, Florida B.A.S.S Federation Nation (Bill & Charlie Hays), Palm Beach County Fire & Rescue.

Dave Stout  
Taylor Creek Bass Club

# Community Calendar

## Friday, Oct. 31

**Tops Take off Pounds Sensibly #669** meets at 9 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. The public is invited. All persons interested in a sensible approach to losing weight and becoming part of a caring group are welcome to come and see what we are all about. For information, contact Ollie Morget at 800-932-8677.

Just for Today Club of Okeechobee meets at 101 N.W. Fifth Street, (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **N.A. Sickest Of The Sic**, speaker, open discussion, 8 p.m. *The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.*

**A.A.** meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church 200 N.W. Second St. This is an open meeting.

**A.A.** meets from 8 until 9 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St. This is an open speaker meeting.

Compulsive overeaters are invited to a weekly meeting. **Overeaters Anonymous (OA)** meets at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Avenue on Fridays, 6 until 7 p.m. (Use 4th Street entrance.) Overeaters Anonymous is not a diet club. There are no dues, fees or weigh-ins. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop eating compulsively. For more information call Loretta at 863-763-7165 or 863-697-0206.

## Saturday, Nov. 1

**A.A.** meeting from 8 until 9 p.m. at Grace Christian, 701 S. Parrott Ave. It will be a closed discussion.

**Okeechobee Chapter D.A.R.** meets the first Saturday of every month October-May at Oakview Baptist Church 677 S.W. 32nd Street at 10 a.m. For information call Kenna Noonan at 863-634-5669.

**The Gathering Church** will hold its monthly healing service on the first Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. until noon. Anyone desiring to receive personal prayer for healing is welcome to attend. The Gathering is located at 1735 S.W. 24th Ave. For information call Theresa Brown at 863-357-3318.

**Just for Today Club of Okeechobee**, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee, (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **A.A.** weekend noon Open Discussion meeting; **N.A. Sickest Of The Sick Group** 7 p.m.; **N.A.** Nowhere Left To Go Group Open Discussion meeting 8 p.m. The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.

## Sunday, Nov. 2

**A.A.** meeting from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St. It will be an open step meeting.

**A.A.** open 12 step meeting from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m. at the Church of Our Savior, 200 N.W. Third St.

**Just for Today Club of Okeechobee**, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee, (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **A.A.** weekend noon meeting Open Discussion. The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.



Submitted photo/Animal Control

## Pet of the Week

This is a male chocolate seal point domestic short hair, affectionately named 'Truffle.' He is quite opinionated and independent. He was found as a stray and he is looking for a good home. His adoption fee is \$90.00 which includes his neuter, vaccines and feline leukemia/aids test. Please call Animal Control at 863 357-3225 for further information.

# Okeechobee News

## Our Purpose...

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

## We Pledge ...

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

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For More Information See At Your Service On Page 2



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

## Smiling pumpkins

These Jack-o'-lanterns set the mood for Halloween. They were spotted in a yard near downtown Okeechobee.

# Halloween safety tips

The American Red Cross offers the following safety tips for Halloween Night:

- With witches, goblins, and super-heroes descending on neighborhoods across America, the American Red Cross offers parents some safety tips to help prepare their children for a safe and enjoyable trick-or-treat holiday. Halloween should be filled with surprise and enjoyment, and following some common sense practices can keep events safer and more fun.
- Walk, slither, and sneak on sidewalks, not in the street.
- Look both ways before crossing the street to check for cars, trucks, and low-flying brooms.
- Cross the street only at corners.
- Don't hide or cross the street between parked cars.
- Wear light-colored or reflective-type clothing so you are more visible. (And remember to

put reflective tape on bikes, skateboards, and brooms, too!)

- Plan your route and share it with your family. If possible, have an adult go with you.
- Carry a flashlight to light your way.
- Keep away from open fires and candles. (Costumes can be extremely flammable.)
- Visit homes that have the porch light on.
- Accept your treats at the door and never go into a stranger's house.
- Use face paint rather than masks or things that will cover your eyes.
- Be cautious of animals and strangers.
- Have a grown-up inspect your treats before eating. And don't eat candy if the package is already opened.
- Small, hard pieces of candy are a choking hazard for young children.

## At Your Service

# Okeechobee News

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# Community theatre presents 'Christmas Belles'

"It's the merriest time you'll have this holiday season." That's the way the Okeechobee Community Theatre (OCT) is describing "Christmas Belles," the first of three shows in its 30th year of producing live comedies, dramas and musicals for local audiences. The comedy will run for four performances at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights, Nov. 7-8, 14-15. It promises a jump-start to the holidays as it follows the activities

of the residents of fictitious Fayro, Texas through the process of producing a church Christmas pageant. Even with unusual ingredients like and Elvis impersonator at the manger and problems which threaten to ruin the entire show, the real meaning of the season still manages to come through. Reserved seat tickets for the play are \$12 each, and are now on sale at the Okeechobee County Chamber of Commerce during

regular business hours. Performances are at the theatre on S.W. Second Avenue at Seventh Street, one block behind Golden Corral Restaurant. The play is a follow-up to "Dearly Beloved," which was presented to sold-out houses by the Okeechobee Community Theatre in 2007. Most of the same all-adult cast is back to reprise their roles from that production. The performers

include OCT veterans Joanie Mofatt, Laurie Garner, Brynne Emley, John Garner, Louise Chandler, James Garner, Joyce Taylor, Cathy Womble, Josh Van Wormer, Joey Marcinek, and Paulette Wise. The play is directed by Ron and Jacque Hayes. Also scheduled for the current OCT theatre season is the stage adaptation of Harper Lee's beloved novel of racial tensions as seen through the eyes of a young girl, "To Kill a Mockingbird."

The Okeechobee Community Theatre is an all volunteer not-for-profit organization which is operated under the care of the Okeechobee Educational Foundation. Anyone wishing more information on the group, or would like to volunteer to be part of its activities, may call Ron or Jacque Hayes at 863-763-1307.

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## Local horse rescue seeks adoptive homes for equines

Horses are among the victims of the current economic crisis. Horse owners are feeling the pinch of problems with the economy and the rising cost of animal feed. The price of corn rose sharply in the past two years due to the use of corn for ethanol production. Other grains also became more expensive when more farm land was switched to production of corn for ethanol. With feed bills rising, more and more people are surrendering their horses to horse rescue organizations such as the one run by Sue Bonham in Viking properties along with her friend Debbi Allison-Cook in Fellsmere. Mrs. Bonham and Ms. Allison-Cook have been working with

rescue horses for about one year. Together they have placed more than 100 horses in new homes. They do it out of the goodness of their hearts and love of the animals. Some people surrender their horses voluntarily when they see they cannot properly care for them. Some horses are surrendered after threats of turning the owners over to animal control for animal cruelty. Their goal is to have unwanted horses adopted. The adoptions are free. The person wishing to adopt must have at least one acre of land in fenced pasture with some type of shade or shelter. The adopted horse cannot be sold or traded. At first, the adoptive owners are checked once

a month and later every other month. She also has a program of foster parenting. The foster parent can treat a horse as their own until the horse is adopted. Sometimes foster parents decide to adopt the horse. Mrs. Bonham said they appreciate donations of hay, feed, fencing supplies, veterinary supplies and other items for the horses. They do not accept cash donations. They welcome volunteers who have some type of horse experience. For more information on donating feed or supplies, adopting or fostering a horse call 863-763-6959.

That show is set to be performed in early March. Auditions for acting roles will take place during the first few days of January. The conclusion of the theatre group's 30th birthday season will be an encore production of A.R. Gurney's beautifully romantic play "Love Letters," which chronicles the love of a man and a woman which exists over several decades, but is only demonstrated by their letters to one another. Along with that play will be a free reception for the audience, cast and crew, honoring the theatre company's accomplishments over 30 years. The show and receptions are set for March 27 and 28.

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## Wildlife Center has open house



Your Weekly Entertainment Guide

Share your news and photos for this column by email to [caguilar@newszap.com](mailto:caguilar@newszap.com)

Pharmacy for \$10 in advance and they will be \$15 at the gates which are open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day with the air show acts at 1 p.m. and 4:20 p.m. Children 10 and under are free. The event has a fun-filled Kidz Zone full of rides and activities and even Helicopter rides are available. For more information visit [www.vnaairshow.com](http://www.vnaairshow.com) or call 1-800-694-9183. On Nov. 16, Barracudas will present "Ride for the Troops." There will be a slow drag race, weenie bite contest, drawing prizes, live music, and more. Tickets are available at Barracudas for \$20, which includes: t-shirt, drawing ticket and ride. All proceeds will be donated to Military Order of The Purple Hearts. Run leaves Barracuda's a noon sharp. For more information call 863-801-

6268. The 17th Annual Waldau Junior Golf Tournament to benefit Junior Golf will now be held on Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club. Complimentary lunch starts at 11 a.m. with scramble shotgun start at noon. After the tournament and awards, it's Waldau's Famous Dance Party with D.J. David Padgett. All entry, sponsorship forms and information can be obtained by visiting [www.floridajuniorgolf.org](http://www.floridajuniorgolf.org). Or you can call Bridgette Waldau at 863-467-7300 or the Golf and Country Club at 863-763-6228. If your organization or business has some entertaining events coming up, please forward them along to [caguilar@newszap.com](mailto:caguilar@newszap.com).

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Political ad paid for and approved by James Kirk for City Council

**By Chauna Aguilar**  
Okeechobee News

Looking for some entertainment in and around Okeechobee? **Arnold's Wildlife and Rehabilitation Center** will hold an open house on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. It will be held at 14895 N.W. 30th Terrace. Adult tickets are \$10 and children under 12 years of age are \$5. Be sure to visit the half-acre free-roaming butterfly garden. There are also thirty different species of native and exotic animals for you to see and photograph. A lunch of hot dogs, chips and a drink will be available for a donation. There will also be activities for the children. Go north on 441 until you get to the flashing light. Turn left and go west for about two miles and look for the Arnold Wildlife sign. For more information or directions please call Sue Arnold at 863-763-4630.

The Visiting Nurse Association is holding their 2008 **Air Show** on Saturday, Nov. 8, and Sunday, Nov. 9, at the Witham Field in Stuart. Tickets are available at CVS

**NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**  
**3 DAYS A WEEK - 12pm to 9pm**

**Okeechobee Shrine Club**  
 1855 S.W. 53rd St. - Hwy 78  
**763-3378**

**Tuesday** ..... Donation only  
**Spaghetti Dinner**  
*Music 6pm to 9pm*

**Thursday** ..... \$600  
**Fried Shrimp or Clam Dinner**

**Friday** ..... \$600  
**Catfish Dinner**

**Halloween Party**  
**Fri, Oct. 31 6 pm til ?**  
**Music by Jim Elder**

**Happy Hour 3-6pm**



Elma Yates

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**Proposed Amendment to Code of Ordinances of Okeechobee County, Florida**

Notice is hereby given that there will be a **Public Hearing** before the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners to receive public input regarding adoption of an ordinance amending the *Code of Ordinances of Okeechobee County, Florida*. The title of the proposed ordinance is:

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA, PART II, LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, ADDING SECTION 7.11 LANDSCAPE REGULATIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

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\*All items EXCEPT Stuffed Tomato include: Choice of french fries, onion rings or cole slaw with beverage purchase. (excludes water) Dine-in only. Not valid with any other offer/coupon.

**NEW! MON-FRI DINNER SPECIALS!**

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 •Chopped Sirloin Steak • Tender Sweet Clam Strips • Spaghetti & Meatballs

Including: Soup or Salad **\$5.99\*** Each

\*Dinners above served w/ vegetable, choice of potato & roll or biscuit. Spaghetti w/meatballs served w/garlic bread.

•Banquet Room Available: Seats 50 **(863) 467-2224 • 1111 S. Parrott Ave.** Call-In Orders to Go!

The public hearing will be held on Thursday, November 6, 2008 at 5:01 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Room at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

Interested persons may appear and be heard. This public hearing is the second of two hearings.

A copy of the proposed amendment will be available for public inspection at the Planning and Development Department, 499 NW 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida each weekday, Monday through Friday, except holidays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Any person deciding to appeal any decision by the Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made and that the record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal will be based. County Clerk tapes are for the sole purpose of backup from official records of the Clerk.

**Clif Betts, Jr., Chairman**  
**Sharon Robertson, Clerk**  
**Board of County Commissioners**  
**Okeechobee County, Florida**

**Publish: in The Okeechobee News: October 31, 2008**

# Community Events

## OHS reunion - 1950 through 1959

A reunion will be held for those that graduated or were in Okeechobee High School in the 1950s. The event will be held **Nov. 8** at the Shrine Club. If you know someone who should be invited send that name to Betty Williamson, P.O. Box 248, Okeechobee, FL, 34973. Also if you are eligible and have changed your address in the past five years please let them know so you can have more information sent to you. The occasion is sponsored by the Okeechobee Historical Society and any profit will assist with projects such as two \$500 scholarships given each year to a deserving senior female and male student.

## OHS Class of 1979 plans reunion

Join in a celebration at the 30 year reunion of the Class of 1979 for Okeechobee High School on Friday, **Nov. 7**. The Class of '79 will gather at the homecoming football game at 7:30 p.m. After the game, they will meet at Kahootz for refreshments and to reminisce with old friends. Saturday, Nov. 8 there will be a dinner dance at Good Spirits special event room. Meet and greet friends at Happy Hour in the Tiki bar at 6 p.m., dinner is at 7 p.m. with dancing afterwards. For information and tickets go to [www.OHS1979.com](http://www.OHS1979.com) or call Diane Mitchum Prescott at 863-634-1257. Class of '79 members are encouraged to spread the word about the reunion.

## OCEA has membership meeting

The Okeechobee County Education Association will have its second General Membership Meeting of the 2008-2009 school year on Thursday, **Nov. 13**, at 4:30 p.m. in the Media Center at Osceola Middle School, 825 SW 28th St. They will conduct business, report on the recent annual FEA Delegate Assembly, and also address issues of members. If you are not a member of OCEA, you may join at the meeting. Door prizes and refreshments will be given. Be informed!

## Free memory loss screenings

Friday, **Nov. 14** the Alzheimer's Association will be sponsoring free memory loss screenings at the Visiting Nurse Association, 208 S.E. Park St. Appointments are needed and available from 11 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. For more information or to make an appointment please call Donna True at 800-861-7826, ext. 1. Screenings are for anyone - any age - concerned about memory loss. Screenings conducted by staff from St. Mary's Memory Disorder Center. Immediate results.

## Future of Citrus topic of radio show

Saturday, **Nov. 1**, at 7:30 a.m. on 91.7 FM and 100.3 FM, Doug Bournique, Executive Vice President and General Manager, Indian River Citrus League, will be on to discuss the topic of the 2008/2009 Citrus Crop and the future of the citrus industry with ongoing research into citrus canker and citrus greening. For more information call 772-562-2728 or email [info@ircitrusleague.org](mailto:info@ircitrusleague.org).

## BHR VFD to host spaghetti dinner

BHR VFD will be hosting a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, **Nov. 1**. Donation of \$5. Call 863-532-9015 or 863-467-8220 for information.

## Class of 99' reunion planned

Plans are in motion for the Class of 1999 reunion on the weekend of **Nov. 7-8**. For more information go to [www.myspace.com/OHS1999](http://www.myspace.com/OHS1999) or email OHS99-GRADS@yahoo.com.

## First United Methodist Women sponsor Bazaar

The First United Methodist Women of Okeechobee will host their Annual Bazaar on Saturday, **Nov. 1** from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the fellowship hall, 200 N.W. Second St. in Okeechobee. There will be a variety of crafts, quilted items, knives, nuts, baked goods, white elephant items and a silent auction. A lunch consisting of soup, sandwiches and desserts will be available from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Proceeds will go to Mission projects local and abroad. For information call 863-763-4021.

## Wildlife Center holds open house

Arnold's Wildlife and Rehabilitation Center will hold an open house on Saturday, **Nov. 8**, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. It will be held at 14895 N.W. 30th Terrace. Adult tickets are \$10 and children under twelve years of age are \$5. Be sure to visit the half-acre free-roaming butterfly garden. There are also thirty different species of native and exotic animals for you to see and photograph. A lunch of hot dogs, chips and a drink will be available for a donation. There will also be activities for the children. Go north on 441 until you get to the flashing light. Turn left and go west for about two miles and look for the Arnold Wildlife sign. For more information or directions please call Sue Arnold at 863-763-4630.

## Attention Okeechobee Class of 89

Class of '89 reunion organizers are currently collecting emails and home addresses from all classmates. Please send these to [okeechobee89@yahoo.com](mailto:okeechobee89@yahoo.com).

## Croppin' Crew to meet

The "Croppin' Crew" scrapbookers will hold an all-day crop on Saturday, **Nov. 8**, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. This month the crop will take place at Peace Lutheran Church, 750 N.W. 23rd Lane. There will be a hands-on demonstration of eyelets and brads to add a little pizzaz to your scrapbooking and cardmaking projects. All levels of scrapbookers are welcome. Please bring a covered dish if you wish to participate in our pot luck luncheon. Bring any scrapbook pages on which you are currently working. For more information call Joan at 863-467-0290 or Corry at 863-467-2231.

## Masonic Lodge holds breakfast

The Masonic Lodge, 107 N.W. Fifth will hold a breakfast on Sunday, **Nov. 2**, all you can eat. Tickets are a \$5 donation. Call Hugh Alger or Tom Jolly for tickets, 863-467-1491.

## Chamber luncheon planned

The new Okeechobee chamber of commerce luncheon will be on Wednesday, **Nov. 12**. Sean Moore with the Small Business Development Center will be speaking. Their services include Free, confidential one on one counseling for prospective or current business owners. They offer free, monthly, one day seminars on Steps to owning a Business, Business Plans, and Marketing. The Chamber is donating office space to the Small Business Development Center. Do you have a suggestion for a Chamber logo? If so email me at [candace7@gmail.com](mailto:candace7@gmail.com).

## Friends of the Okeechobee Library Board Election

The election of officers for the Friends of the Okeechobee Library Board for the coming year will be held on Tuesday, **Nov. 4** at 4:30 p.m. in the library board room. The nominations are as follows: Marion Davis, President; Jan Fehrman, Vice-President; Hazel Parnis, Secretary; Renee Witter Treasurer, Janet McKenna, Membership Chairman. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. The public is invited to attend. The board meets the first Tuesday of the month at 4:30 p.m. in the Okeechobee Library Board Room and is open to the public.

# Obituaries

## Alice Louise Micco Snow, 86

BRIGHTON RESERVATION — Alice Louise Micco Snow, died Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2008, in Raulerson Hospital. She was 86. Born Sept. 15, 1922, she had been a lifetime resident of Brighton/Okeechobee and was a member of the 1st Indian Baptist Church. She is preceded in death by her husband, Bob; son, Jim Snow; daughters, Jennie Chalfant, Smawley Holata, and Carolyn S. Billie; her sisters, Goby Tiger, Cody Micco, and Leona Smith; brothers, Little Charlie Micco, and Jack Micco; and grandchildren, Dawn Snow Fertitta and Clayton Billie.

She is survived by her son, Albert Snow (Judy); daughter, Salina Dorgan (John), all of Okeechobee; and brother, Howard Micco of Brighton. In addition she is survived by 19 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces and nephews. The family will receive friends from 9 a.m. until service time of 10 a.m. Friday at the 1st Indian Baptist Church of Brighton. Burial will follow in Ortona Cemetery. All arrangements under the direction and care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 N.E. 5th St., Okeechobee.

## John A. Bowery Jr., 85

AUGUSTA, GA - John A. Bowery Jr., formerly of Okeechobee, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2008. He was 85. Mr. Bowery was a native of West Palm Beach, a graduate of St. Ann's School and attended the University of Florida. Prior to his retirement and move to Okeechobee, he was employed by McLaren Construction Co. and later was with A.G. Holley Hospital in Lantana. He has held membership in the Knights of Columbus and the American Legion, and continued his Fleet Reserve membership. His Service record included three years of submarine duty during World War II, one year in Vietnam and twenty-five years with the Naval Reserve Construction Battalion RMCB 6-17.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Mary Agnes Bowery; sisters, Sister John Loretto Bowery, Loretta Randolph, Louise Smith, Bernice Helena Good, and Sarah Carraher. He is survived by two sisters, Frances Bowery of Adrian, Mich., and Martha Tosti of Bumpass, Va.; and numerous nieces and nephews. The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31, 2008, with Scripture Service at 7 p.m. at Elliott Sons Funeral Home, 2524 Lumpkin Road, Augusta, Ga. Mass will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, with the Father Bill Williams officiating. In lieu of flowers, any donations can be made to the Knights of Columbus of Okeechobee.

## Kathryn Alma (Conrad) Holt, 80

OKEECHOBEE — Kathryn Alma (Conrad) Holt, died Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2008, in the Okeechobee Health Care Facility. She was 80. Born June 16, 1928 in Okeechobee, she had been a lifetime resident. She was preceded in death by her husband of many years, William I. "Bill" Holt Jr.; mother, Alma Jane (Walker) Conrad Holley; father, Lewis L. Conrad Sr., former Sheriff of Okeechobee County from 1941 - 1945 also former Chief of Police; and brother, Clarence Laverne Conrad. She is survived by her children, Richard A. Holt (Mary Ann), Karen S. Cooper (Terry), all of Okeechobee, and Sharon Roberts of Belle Glade; grandchildren, Greg Caldwell (Debi) of Okeechobee, Jeff Holt of Alva, Kristian Moore (Julie) of Okeechobee, and Julie C. Bramlett of Belle Glade; great-grandchildren, Mason Caldwell and Kameron Moore of Okeechobee; brothers, Lewis L. "Cossie" Conrad Jr. (Wanda), and Robert I. Conrad, all of Okeechobee; sisters, Dorothy Constable of Alford, Texas, and Susanne (James) Morton, of Okeechobee; and sister-in-law, Patsy Conrad of Okeechobee. In addition, she is survived by several nieces and nephews. The family will be receiving friends from 9 a.m. until service time of 10 a.m. Saturday in the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel, with Pastor Matt K. Morton officiating. Burial will follow in Evergreen Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Shriner's Hospital for Children, 2900 Rocky Point Dr., Tampa, FL 33607-1460. Friends may send condolences to [www.buxtonfuneralhome.com](http://www.buxtonfuneralhome.com). All arrangements are under the direction and care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 N.E. 5th St., Okeechobee.



*Obituaries should be submitted to the Okeechobee News by e-mailing [obits@newszap.com](mailto: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](http://www.newszap.com).*

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# Benefit links tourney nets estimated \$14,000



Submitted photo/Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office  
**Donnie Arnold, his wife Madonna Bryant Arnold and their son Ryan were on hand for the 16th annual Skip Bryant Golf Tournament held at the Okeechobee Golf & County Club on Saturday, Oct. 25. The event raises money to fund scholarships for children of law enforcement and firefighter personnel. Some of the money can also be given to the families of law enforcement and firefighter personnel who are suffering financial hardships. Mrs. Arnold's father, Deputy Glover 'Skip' Bryant, was the first member of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office to be killed in the line of duty. Deputy Bryant died Nov. 8, 1991, when the airplane in which he was riding crashed into Lake Okeechobee while searching for missing boaters.**

**By Eric Kopp**  
 Okeechobee News

Besides providing 144 golfers with an enjoyable day, the 16th annual Skip Bryant Golf Tournament netted approximately \$14,000 for the Skip Bryant Memorial Fund.

The fund -- named after Deputy Glover 'Skip' Bryant III who was the first deputy from the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) to lose his life in the line of duty -- assists families of law enforcement officers and firefighters. The fund provides scholarships, as well as assistance to these families in times of hardship.

"This is the 16th year of the Skip Bryant Golf Tournament and we have raised over \$200,000 for families of law enforcement and firefighters," said OCSO Major Noel Stephen. "This year we have exceeded \$100,000 in school scholarships and \$60,000 in assistance funds.

"In these tough economic times we appreciate the assistance of the community and their support. We also appreciate the support we have received from the community for our local law enforcement officers and firefighters," he added.

Maj. Stephen went on to say that next year's tourney has been set for the last Saturday in October and that team registrations have already begun.

A full field of golfers took part in the Oct. 25 event held this year at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club (OG&CC).

Finishing in first place was the Billy White Team -- made up of Adam White, Billy White, Bret Macias and Jimmy Jones. The first-place prize was a \$500 gift certificate at the OG&CC pro shop.

Other prize-winning teams were: fifth place - Dudley Kirton Team, \$400 gift certificate at the OG&CC pro shop; ninth place - Robert Cook Team, \$300 gift certificate at the OG&CC pro shop; and next to last - Stark Masonry Team - \$200 gift certificate at the OG&CC pro shop.

Closest to the pin winners and their awards were: Chuck Swanson (#2), \$100; Matt Koff (#11),



Submitted photo/Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office  
**Laurie Stephen (left) and Delores May (right) were on hand to help at the 16th annual Skip Bryant Golf Tournament held Saturday, Oct. 25, at the Okeechobee Golf & Country Club. Laurie is the wife of Major Noel Stephen and Delores is the wife of Sheriff Paul May.**

ceived a door prize. Maj. Stephen said the cost for entering the one-day event was \$60 per player. Of that, \$22 went to the country club for their expenses (golf and food), with the remainder going to the memorial fund.

Businesses sponsor holes at a cost of \$250 per hole and more than one business may sponsor a hole. A hole sponsorship allows the business to advertise at that hole. All of this money goes directly to the memorial fund, minus the cost of the advertising sign.

Also, businesses that don't

sponsor a hole may donate door prizes that are given to the golfers.

Maj. Stephen said the final tally for this year's event is still being calculated. This golf tournament is the sole fundraiser for the memorial fund, he added.

Deputy Bryant died Nov. 8, 1991, in a plane crash on Lake Okeechobee while searching for missing boaters. He was survived by his wife and three daughters.

For information on the event or to register for next year's tournament contact Maj. Stephen at the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, 863-763-3117.

19-inch color TV; Jeff Vest (#17), Edwin Watts gift certificate for golf lessons.

Winners in the longest drive contest all won a dozen golf balls. Those winners were: red tee - Vicky Johnson; gold tee - Richard Vest; white tee - Saul Tijerina.

In addition, every player re-



Submitted Photo/Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office  
**Golfers loaded their carts in preparation for the start of the 16th annual Skip Bryant Golf Tournament held Saturday, Oct. 25. A field of 144 linksters took part in the one-day event that is the sole fundraiser for the Skip Bryant Memorial Fund. The tournament has raised over \$200,000 for the families of law enforcement officers and firefighters. According to Major Noel Stephen, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, the fund has awarded over \$100,000 in school scholarships and over \$60,000 in assistance funds to the families of law enforcement and firefighters who are suffering financial hardships. Besides entry fees from the golfers, the tournament also raises money through hole sponsorships by local businesses.**

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# Sugar

Continued From Page 1

tation concepts. They are looking at plans for storage, treatment and conveyance components. To aid in contract development SFWMD has secured the international business law firm Sidney Auston, LLP. This firm will be assisting in reviewing more than 5,000 documents including title policies, surveys, leases, contracts, permits, sugar mill and citrus processing logs and maintenance records. Many of these documents are not public record until a contract is secured. The district has assembled a team of seven independent appraisal and consulting organiza-

tions to prepare an appraisal of all U.S. Sugar assets including 185,839 acres of land in Palm Beach, Hendry and Glades counties, a sugar mill and refinery in Clewiston, a citrus processing plant in Clewiston, two railroads which own about 225 miles of track and all tangible property owned by U.S. Sugar including such things as computers, desks, and tractors. It is possible that some assets not needed for Everglades restoration will be sold to reduce the debt load. There are ten engineering and environmental firms performing an environmental assessment for all 392 square miles. This assessment will determine the viability of the property for its intended future uses as well as the necessity of remediation.

An independent engineering firm is conducting an analysis of the condition of the sugar mill and refinery, citrus processing plant, vehicles, equipment, machinery, railroads and air strip. "This acquisition represents an unprecedented opportunity to protect and restore the Everglades in a way we never anticipated," said Kenneth Ammon, District Deputy Executive Director for Everglades Restoration. "The increased flexibility provided by these lands will present a suite of restoration options and will work to build up and enhance the federal/state partnership known as the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan." While SFWMD is working on the financial, ecological and engineering aspects of the sale, the

Office of Trade Tourism and Economic Development (OTED) is working on the economic aspect. There will be 700 employees of U.S. Sugar out of work plus the impact on the economy of the towns at the south end of the lake. A survey has been conducted of the communities involved and OTED is working on an impact study. Florida's Heartland Regional Economic Development Initiative will use this impact study to develop a regional economic development package. No details of this economic development program have been announced yet. Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com). Reporter Pete Gawda can be reached at [pgawda@newszap.com](mailto:pgawda@newszap.com).



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Donny Arnold, Bariatric Program Manager  
Email: [dietdonny@yahoo.com](mailto:dietdonny@yahoo.com)

# Board

Continued From Page 1

a value. Here again the property appraiser was able to document 2007 commercial sales in the same price range. Owners of several properties that had been classified as agriculture protested losing their agriculture assessment. In those cases, Russ Duncan, who specializes in appraising agriculture property, presented pictures showing that there was no agriculture activity on the properties in 2007. Ronald and Guy Celli, the only successful petitioners, operate a self storage business. They presented documentation that they had renters who were behind on rental payments, lowering their income. The property appraiser took into consideration the lower income and reduced the assessment. While Mr. Williams protested the increase in taxes on his two

commercial properties, he expressed concern about all downtown commercial properties. "I'm here to talk about the general increase in the value of downtown property. I'm concerned about the economy of Okeechobee County." He claimed that while the assessed value of agriculture and residential properties have gone down, assessed value of commercial properties have not. Mr. Williams presented documentation to show that of 602 parcels in the commercial area, 374 showed an increase in assessed value, 190 showed a decrease in value and 38 showed no value change. "I'm here for the 374 pieces of business property that went up this year," he asserted. Mr. Williams presented figures documenting a decrease in real estate transactions, building permits and unemployment and an increase in foreclosures in 2007 in the county. The realtor noted that five local restaurants have gone out of business recently and that

one of the criteria for assessing commercial property is the income from the property. The assessed value of a vacant lot Mr. Williams owns increased 24 percent while the assessed value of his real estate office building went up 11 percent. He noted that in the 1930s and 1940s people were taxed out of business. "I don't want to see that happen again," he said. "This is the year to hold the line and not go up on anybody." Mr. Williams' presentation brought a smattering of applause from the others who had gathered to protest their tax assessments. While he received sympathy, Mr. Williams did not get any tax relief. "We certainly realize these are hard times," said county commissioner Marvin Wherrell who serves as chairman of the board. Okeechobee County Property Appraiser Bill Sherman said he has certified tax roles for 34 years.

"This is the hardest tax roll I ever had to get approved," the assessor said. "We tried to assess as low as possible." He said the tax roll had to be adjusted two times. Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com). Reporter Pete Gawda can be reached at [pgawda@newszap.com](mailto:pgawda@newszap.com).

# Verdict

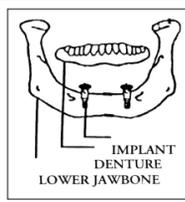
Continued From Page 1

of misdemeanor battery, even though he was charged with the more serious felony of capital sexual battery. Willis, 43, was sentenced to serve one year in the Okeechobee County Jail. Following the Oct. 30 verdict, Assistant State Attorney Daniel Kuczler was at a loss for words and couldn't put his finger on why the jury returned the verdicts. Among Mr. Kuczler's top witnesses were not only the victim, but her uncle. "Our witness testimony came

across pretty well," he said. "I thought with the witness statements we had a good shot." Obviously, the jury saw things differently. Willis, of Lake Worth, was arrested Dec. 3, 2007, by Detective Sergeant Brad Stark of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO). The detective's arrest report indicates that Willis allegedly fondled the girl while at her home and that the girl's uncle walked into the room and saw the molestation taking place. When Willis saw the other man he pushed the girl off his lap and onto the floor, continued the report. The girl's uncle then confront-

ed Willis and told him he needed to leave, and Willis did. The youngster and her uncle met with Sgt. Stark the next day. Sgt. Stark's arrest report states that Willis later called another family member. In that taped phone conversation Willis reportedly apologized for what he had done and told the family member that "he had messed up," the report said. The detective then stated in his report that Willis had left Okeechobee County and was staying in a motel, but he wouldn't tell the family member where he was.

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License #DN10761



Jonathan M. Royal, D.M.D.  
License #DN12061

Graduate University of New Hampshire in Zoology and Temple University Dental School. US Air Force Medical Corp. Served as Chair of Council on Dental Health. Formerly of West Palm Beach, he has merged his practice with Dr. Harrouff.

Graduate of University of Tennessee 1977. Author, lecturer who has appeared on TV, radio and print (WPBF/ABC, Palm Beach Illustrated and more) as the authority on implants as well as general dentistry. Member of International Congress of Oral Implantology. American Academy of Implant Dentistry & Misch Institute of Advanced Implantology.

Graduate of Louisville School of Dentistry in 1989. Practiced privately in Boca Raton and has recently joined Dr. Harrouff's group. Past Vice President of South Palm Beach County Dental Association.

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# The bald eagle soars in Florida to 10,000 ft.

It's only fitting the bald eagle should make such stunning population gains in recent years in Florida and across the United States. With a diving speed between 75 and 100 miles per hour and the ability to soar to 10,000 feet and to sail through the air for hours, this national symbol represents majesty and strength and tenacity.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), through sound conservation plans, will ensure the bald eagle continues to increase in numbers in Florida. The FWC's Bald Eagle Management Plan sets very rigid regulations for protecting the areas where this migratory bird makes its home during the cold-weather months.

"The goal of the plan is to maintain a stable or increasing bald eagle population throughout the state in perpetuity," said Ulgonia Kirkpatrick, FWC eagle



Courtesy photo/Dominick Martino  
**Bald eagle nests in Florida are protected by the Bald Eagle Management Plan.**

plan coordinator. "To achieve this goal, bald eagles and their nests have to be protected through science-based management, regulation, public education and law enforcement."

When the founding fathers named the bald eagle as the national symbol in 1782, its population was estimated at more than 300,000. Nearly 200 years later, its population decline reflected man's intrusion into eagle habitat. Fewer than 500 pairs existed by the 1960s.

This drastic decline sounded the alarm, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) officially named the bald eagle as endangered in 1967, a full five years before the Endangered Species Act passed in 1973. In Florida, monitoring of the bald eagle began in 1973 and only 88 active nests were found. That call to arms for the nation's symbol worked, allowing the majestic bird to make a comeback. In 2007, the FWC reported more than 1,100 documented nests - a 300-percent increase.

The USFWS removed the bald eagle from the endangered species list in 2007, and in 2008, the FWC also delisted the bald eagle along with adoption of a new state Bald Eagle Management Plan.

"This is a historic occasion," FWC Chairman Rodney Barreto said in April 2008 when the bald eagle was delisted. "Bald eagle

conservation efforts have been a success story that reflects great credit on agencies and people who worked tirelessly to make it happen. Good news is hard to come by sometimes when we're dealing with an imperiled species, but we've all earned the right to celebrate a victory today."

Delisting the largest bird of prey -- and one of the largest birds in all of North America -- does not mean the bald eagle will not be protected. Florida is the destination for approximately 1,400 breeding pairs of bald eagles, according to reports from the FWC in 2005. They leave the colder climate of the Midwest for, not only warmer temperatures, but also the abundance of water Florida provides.

Bald eagles nest in pine trees close to lakes, marshes, rivers and seacoasts. The nesting season in Florida begins in October as the couple works together to build a large nest with twigs, leaves and grasses. By spring, the female will lay between one and three eggs. For 35 days, the pair will share incubation duties. At 12 weeks, the fledglings are ready to leave the nest, but despite their status as fully-fledged birds, they have a 50-percent chance of surviving that first year.

While the FWC and other entities have worked to enact protections for the bald eagle, the eagle itself has adapted to urbanization

by building nests in cell towers and on telephone poles. Its recovery can also be attributed to the management efforts of the FWC that create buffers around bald eagle nesting sites.

## The FWC's Bald Eagle Management Plan

State permitting near bald eagle nesting sites falls in three categories: disturbance, scientific collecting and nest removal. The FWC's Bald Eagle Management Plan may be found at MyFWC.com/eagle.

The Web site has information about the annual nesting surveys, a nest site database, and a technical assistance section for permitting. For more information, call 352-732-1225 or e-mail, eagle\_plan@MyFWC.com. Answers to questions about bald eagle nesting are available at 386-758-0525

or baldeagle@MyFWC.com.

Report potential wildlife law violations, 24 hours a day, to the

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## Fun

Continued From Page 1

Church, 401 S.W. Fourth St., from 5:30 to 8 p.m. All activities are free. There will be activities for

## Amendment

Continued From Page 1

construction and would go into effect immediately if approved. It is sponsored by the Florida Budget and Taxation Reform Commission.

It is uncertain how this would

elementary and preschool age children.

**Freedom Ranch** will host a Fall Festival featuring The Grouper Therapy Band, Redeemed and Capstone. There will be a spooky haunted trail, a pumpkin carving contest (please bring your pump-

kin already carved), and best costume judging. Please bring finger foods and snacks. The party is from 7 to 10 p.m. Freedom Ranch is located at 11655 U.S. 441 S.E. For more information, call 863-634-1681 or 863-634-1410.

effect individual tax bills. However it could encourage hurricane preparedness resulting in less hurricane damage in the future. Less hurricane damage in the future could possibly result in lower insurance rates.

Addition of hurricane safety features and renewable energy source devices could increase the

resale value of a house.

On the negative side, local revenues from ad valorem taxes might be reduced in a time when local governments are already feeling the pinch of decreased revenues.

*Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com). Reporter Pete Gauda can be reached at [pgauda@newszap.com](mailto:pgauda@newszap.com).*



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# Service Club Briefs

## The American Legion Post 64

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We can accommodate meetings, weddings and parties of any size.

The public is always welcome unless it's a members only event. Our kitchen is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and 1 to 8 p.m. on Sunday.

Sunday: Open 1 to 8 p.m. - Regular Bingo from 6:30 p.m.  
Monday: Open 11-8 p.m. - Social Bingo 1 PM

Tuesday: Open 11-8 p.m.  
Wednesday: Open 11-8 p.m. - "Taco Day" 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tacos - \$1.50  
Music with Jim Elders 2-6  
Thursday: Open 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. - Social Bingo 6 p.m.

Friday: Open 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. - Karaoke from 6 p.m. Hosted by BP Productions.

(Anyone wishing to perform in the Lip Sync Programs see Bobby and Penny)

SAL Steak Dinner third Sunday each month \$12 donation.

Legion and Auxiliary meet the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

The fourth Tuesday meeting includes a carry in dinner at 6 p.m.

SAL Meet the third Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Friday night dinners resume on Nov. 7.

## Am-Vets #2001

Am-Vets No. 2001 will hold a regular informational meeting on the first Saturday of the month at the Buckhead Ridge VFW Post #9528, 2002 U.S. 78 W., at 10 a.m. Applications for new members are available. Call Helen James at 863-824-7644 or Lou Eder at 863-357-0467.

Am-Vets Ladies Auxiliary meetings are the first Saturday of the month at 10 am. Contact the Post at 467-2882 for information.

## Eagles Aeries #4137

Eagles Aeries #4137 is located at 9983 U.S. 441 N. For information on events, call 863-763-2552.

Every Tuesday bingo at 1 p.m. Food will be available for a donation.

Wednesdays: bar bingo starting at 4 p.m. Food will be available.

Every Thursday: washer toss at 1 p.m.

First and third Thursday: Auxiliary at 6 p.m.; Aeries at 7 p.m.

Fridays: steak night (16-oz.) starting at 5 p.m. for a \$12 donation. Music will be by Jimmy

Harper.

Saturdays and Sundays: music at 7 p.m.

First and third Sunday: breakfast cooked to order from 9 until 11 a.m. for \$5 donation.

## Okeechobee Masonic Lodge #237

The Okeechobee Masonic Lodge is located at 107 N.W. Fifth Ave. For information about the club and events, call Jose Verano at 863-634-2071.

The Masonic Lodge holds their meetings on the second and fourth Monday of each month starting at 7:30 p.m.

## Order of the Eastern Star - Chapter #128

The Order of the Eastern Star has many fun activities planned on the first and third Tuesday of each month. For upcoming activities, contact Mary Ann Holt at 863-634-8087.

## B.H.R. Moose Lodge

The lodge is located on U.S. 78 W. in Buckhead Ridge. The Lodge's phone number is 863-763-2250.

Sundays: breakfast will be served from 9 until 11 a.m. With many items to choose from.

Mondays: WOTM Chapter meeting the first and third Mondays of every month 7:30 p.m.

Wednesdays: Bingo and food, food served at 5 p.m. and bingo starts at 6 p.m.

Thursdays: dinner will be served from 5 until 7 p.m. Call the Lodge for the menu.

Thursdays: Music for dancing at 7:30 p.m. Call to see who is playing.

Thursday: 5-Card Bingo at 6 p.m. food available at 5 p.m.

Fridays: dinner served from 5 until 7:30 p.m. Music for dancing at 7:30 p.m. Call to see who is playing.

Saturdays: dinner starting at 6 p.m.

Saturdays: Prime Rib Dinner served from 6 until 8 p.m. the first Saturday of the month.

Karaoke at 6 p.m. on Oct. 12 and 26 with Phil Eddings.

Friday: Oct. 31 at 8 p.m. Halloween Costume Party. Get dressed up and join the fun. Drawing for the barbecue grill will be held, so get your tickets soon.

Saturday, Nov. 1 from 1 until 5 p.m. The lodge, along with Glades County Sheriff will offer Children's I.D. (finger prints, hair samples, DNA and photo) free of charge. Children will receive free hamburgers, chips and soda. For more information call the lodge.

Every Friday a steak dinner with baked potato, salad and rolls will be served from 5:30 until 7 p.m. for an \$11 donation. Dancing immediately follows the dinner.

Membership meetings are held on the second Saturday of

#1753 is located at 156 N.W. 36th St. in Okeechobee. Please call the Lodge at 863-763-4954 for further information, sudden changes and menus. Guests are invited to enjoy the activities and consider membership.

Every Sunday breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m.

Horseshoe practice every Sunday at 2 p.m. and Thursday Evening.

Every Monday, Pool tournaments - sign up, 7 p.m. Food is served.

Women's meeting second and fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Officers meetings first and third Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Men's meetings, second and fourth Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Moose Legion meetings third Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Bar Bingo Thursday at 1 p.m. and Friday night at 7 p.m. - Food Served. (you must be a member to play bar bingo)

Dinner and music almost every Saturday night.

## VFW Post #4423

The VFW North Post #4423 is located at 300 N.W. 34 St. The Post phone number is 863-763-0818.

Happy hour Monday through Thursday 4 until 6 p.m.

Mondays: 50-cent hot dogs.

Tuesdays: Washer toss at 1 p.m.

Wednesdays: Pizza and Grill, 5 until 7 p.m.

Fridays: Bingo at 1 p.m. Pizza and Grill 6 until 9 p.m. Karaoke 7 until 11 p.m.

Saturdays: Bar Bingo at 1 p.m. Karaoke 7 until 11 p.m.

Sundays: Dinner 2 until 4 p.m. Post and Ladies Auxiliary meetings third Sunday of every month at 11 a.m.

Men's Auxiliary Meeting 3 Monday of every month 7 p.m. Big Screen TV and Pool Table

## VFW Post #9528

The VFW Post #9528 is located at 2002 S.R. 78 W. in Buckhead Ridge. For information, call 863-467-2882. Post opens at noon, Monday through Sunday.

We are taking applications for new members for the VFW, Ladies Auxiliary, Male Auxiliary, AMVETS and AMVETS ladies auxiliary.

Wednesday: Ladies Auxiliary dinner and Men's Auxiliary or AmVets. Music will be available.

Every Thursday is bar bingo at 12:45 p.m. Lunch will be available.

Every Friday a steak dinner with baked potato, salad and rolls will be served from 5:30 until 7 p.m. for an \$11 donation. Dancing immediately follows the dinner.

Membership meetings are held on the second Saturday of

the month beginning at 10 a.m. The House Committee meeting is on the fourth Saturday.

For information, contact Commander Robert Hare at 863-467-2882.

All games and special events are shown on three televisions. The game room has a regulation-size pool table.

\*VFW Post 9528, in Buckhead Ridge, is having an open mic night with Nellie from 6 until 9 p.m. every Tuesday evening. Come on out and support her by singing your favorite songs.

## VFW Post #10539

Post hours are 10 a.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 p.m. on Sunday. Closing times are discretionary and dependent on the number of patrons but usually not before 8 p.m. on weekdays and 11 p.m. on weekends.

Happy hours: 10 to 11 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Noon to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

Monday: Card Bingo at 6 p.m.

Tuesday: Ladies Auxiliary all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner \$5 donation beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Bar Bingo at 12:45 p.m. Lunch by Ladies Auxiliary. Kitchen open from 5 until 8 p.m. Evening music.

Thursday: Music, kitchen open from 5 until 8 p.m.

Friday: Music, kitchen open from 5 until 8 p.m.

Saturday: Noon, dollar hot-dogs, \$1.50 Polish Sausage, both with Chili and all the fixings. Card bingo at 5 p.m. Music and dancing at 7 p.m. \$50 gas card giveaway.

Scheduled meetings: VFW First Sunday at noon, Ladies Auxiliary second Monday at 7 p.m., Men's Auxiliary second Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Do you have a family member serving overseas? We send packages of urgently needed supplies to them. We accept donations for this worthy cause. Contact Cheryl Beniot at 863-697-2930.

For further information call 863-763-2308.

## Shrine Club

The Okeechobee Shrine Club, S.R. 78 W., members will meet the first and third Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. The club is also available for weddings and parties. For information call the club at (863) 763-3378.

They are now open three

days a week.

Weekly specials are:

Tuesdays: Noon until 9 p.m.: Spaghetti dinner - donations only, music from 6 until 9 p.m.; happy hour 3-6 p.m.

Thursdays: Noon until 9 p.m.: Fried Shrimp dinner or clams \$6 donation; happy hour 3-6 p.m.; shrimp skewers 2 for \$3.

Fridays: Noon until 9 p.m.: Catfish dinner \$6 donation; happy hour 3-6 p.m.

## Cypress Hut Eagles #4509

The Cypress Hut Fraternal Order of Eagles post #4509 located at 4701 U.S. 441 S.E. is now open to members Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. until 10

p.m., Sundays from 1 to 10 p.m. Information can be found by visiting www.foe4509.com, or calling 863-467-1154.

Food is served several evenings a week.

Aerie meetings are at 7 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month at the old Cypress Hut flea market restaurant.

FOE Auxiliary meetings are at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month.

Friday night: 16 oz rib eye steak dinner with the trimmings beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Editor's note: To add listings or make changes to the service club news, please email okeeneews@newszap.com.

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\*\*\*\$1,200 Energy Super Saver System rebate is valid only with purchase of the qualifying Lennox system and available through October 17th, 2008.  
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## In the Military

### Furphy graduates USMC boot camp

PFC Edmund J. Furphy III, age 18 of Okeechobee, graduate from United States Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island on Oct. 24, 2008.



PFC Edmund Furphy, III

While in basic training, PFC Furphy qualified as a sharpshooter.

Following 10 days home leave he will report to Camp Geiger for one month at Military Combat training then Military Occupation School.

### Kurey to be deployed

Army National Guard Capt. Tamara R. Kurey has been mobilized and activated for deployment overseas to a forward operating base in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Operation Iraqi Freedom is the official name given to military operations involving members of the U.S. armed forces and coalition forces, participating in efforts to free and secure Iraq. Mission objectives focus on force protection, peacekeeping, stabilization, security and counter-insurgency operations as the Iraqi transitional governing bodies assume full sovereign powers to govern the peoples of Iraq.

Members from all branches of the U.S. military and multinational forces are also assisting in rebuilding Iraq's economic and governmental infrastructure, and training and preparing Iraqi military and security forces to assume full authority and responsibility in defending and preserving Iraq's sovereignty and independence as

a democracy.

The captain, a detachment commander with 17 years of military service, is normally assigned to the 338th Military Police Battalion, San Antonio, Texas.

Capt. Kurey's mother is Lela D. Arvant of Okeechobee, Fla.

Capt. Kurey graduated in 1998 from Colonial High School, Orlando, Fla., and received an associate degree in 1995 from Anne Arundel Community College, Arnold, Md. In 1998, Kurey earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona, Tucson.

**Alonzo Law Offices, P.A.**

**CRIMINAL LAW**

**VOP • JUVENILE  
DRUG COURT • DUI  
BOND REDUCTIONS  
MISDEMEANORS  
FELONIES**

**Okeechobee Office is now open  
in front of Los Cocos**

**217 Avenue A, Fort Pierce . . . . . 772-464-8930  
608 W N. Park St., Okeechobee . . 863-763-9755**

*Okeechobee Golf and Country Club*

**Good Golf - Close to Home!**

**GOLF SPECIAL**

**1 Player FREE**  
when accompanied with  
a regular rate paying player

**MUST BRING COUPON**

Not valid with any other coupons - Expires 11/13/08

**Call For Afternoon Specials**

- Memberships Available
- Book Your Holiday Parties NOW!

For more information,  
call 763-6228

**405 NE 131st Lane • Okeechobee**

**FREE FOOD & DRINKS**

**Grand Opening**

**Saturday November 1st 10 am to 4pm**

**Skip's Bar-B-Que**  
Catering and takeout available  
863-763-8313

**Hungry Howies**  
Pizza and Subs  
863-467-2222  
www.bringmypizza.com

**Family Unlimited.**

**4 lines for \$100.**

Unlimited local and nationwide long distance wireless calling. Without sharing minutes.

**Listen to LIVE Remote WILD 95.5 from 12 - 2**

**Love your phone but not your wireless service?**

Bring us your favorite phone! MetroPCS can now activate your existing phone so that it will work on the MetroPCS unlimited network.

Switch to MetroPCS now for only \$40 and receive your first month of service FREE.\*

\*Activated phones can only use voice and text messaging. This service requires a CDMA phone. Some phones may not be supported. Certain restrictions may apply. Visit a MetroPCS store for a complete list of supported handsets as well as information on specific terms and conditions of service, local coverage areas, and any applicable restrictions. Nationwide long distance available only in continental U.S. Rates, services and features subject to change. Taxes and fees not included. At participating locations.

**Family Unlimited Options**

Family Members	Regular Rate Plan	Family Unlimited Plan	Family Unlimited Total
2	\$40	\$35	\$70
3	\$40	\$30	\$90
4	\$40	\$25	\$100
5	\$40	\$25	\$125

**metroPCS**  
Authorized Dealer

Get a new Samsung Spex™ for **\$49**

Offer ends December 31, 2008  
AFTER INSTANT REBATE

When you sign up for new MetroPCS service.

**Beeper Depot P.S.L./Okeechobee**  
405 S. Parrott Ave. Okeechobee  
Call For Hours **863.763.2056** Call For Hours

\*Phone not actual size and selection may vary by store. Offer available from October 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008. Certain restrictions apply. Visit www.metropcs.com or a MetroPCS store for information on specific terms and conditions of service, local coverage area, handset capabilities and any restrictions. Nationwide long distance available only in continental U.S. and Puerto Rico. Rates, services and features subject to change. Taxes and fees not included. First month free available with new activations only. Offer only valid with the purchase of Samsung Spex™ (Z10) and activation of a new MetroPCS account. While supplies last. \$49 Price is after \$30 instant rebate. Offer ends December 31, 2008.

# Classifieds



How to place your ad:

## Three weeks Free . . . It's Easy!

- IT'S EASY, JUST GO TO:**
- www.newsap.com/classifieds\_fl
- OR CALL:**
- 1-877-353-2424 (Toll Free)
- OR EMAIL:**
- For Legal Ads: legalads@newsap.com
  - For All Other Classified Ads: classads@newsap.com
- OR FAX:**
- 1-877-354-2424 (Toll Free)

All personal items under \$5,000 ABSOLUTELY FREE!

# SUBMIT YOUR FREE CLASSIFIED AD TODAY!

Published 3 weeks\* in all of our Florida papers: Caloosa Belle, Clewiston News, Glades County Democrat, Immokalee Bulletin, Okeechobee News, and The Sun

\* Ads will run in the Wednesday Okeechobee News and weekly publications.

**BUSINESS HOURS**  
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**DEADLINES**

- Wednesday 11 a.m. Tuesday for Wednesday publication
- Friday 11 a.m. Thursday for Friday publication
- Sunday Friday 10 a.m. for Sunday publication

**GUIDELINES FOR PLACING FREE ADS!**

- All personal items under \$5,000 ABSOLUTELY FREE!
- Price must be included in ad
- Private parties only
- 2 items per household per issue

### Announcements 100

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 Independent Newspapers. 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 Independent Newspapers' style and are restricted to their proper classifications. Some classified categories require advance payment. These classifications are denoted with an asterisk \*.

Independent Newspapers will never knowingly 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 or other offers to send money in advance for a product or service - we advise you to check with the Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Line at 1-800-220-5424, and/or The Better Business Bureau, 800-464-6331 for previous complaints.

- Auctions 105
- Car Pool 110
- Share a ride 115
- Card of Thanks 120
- In Memoriam 125
- Found 130
- Lost 135
- Give Away 140
- Garage/Yard Sale 145
- Personals 150
- Special Notices 155
- 900 Numbers 160

### Employment 200

**Employment - Full-Time 205**

- Medical 210
- Part-Time 215
- Employment Wanted 220
- Job Information 225
- Job Training 227
- Sales 230

**Employment Full Time 0205**

**Camp Cook/Housekeeper,** must be neat, clean dependable. Exp'd in cooking & cleaning for large crowds. Weekends a must. Call Jackie (863) 763-9950 (863) 634-0798

**Employment Medical 0210**

~ LPN/RN ~  
Must be experienced. Needed for Cardiologist Office. Please bring resume to office: @ 204 NE 19th Dr., Okeechobee, FL 34972 or kindly fax to: 863-467-1156. Please DO NOT call the office.

**Employment Part Time 0215**

**Needed - Bird Exp,** clean cages, water & feed, sweep & clean firs. Background check (863)824-0015

**Now Hiring- Wireless Zone** Verizon Wireless Authorized Retailer, Exp Sales person needed for outside & inside sales. Sales exp a must, apply in person at 603 SW Park St. Okeechobee, FL

**SEMI RETIRED - Person** for inspections. \$200-\$300 per wk. Part Time in Okeechobee, St. Lucie & Martin Co.. Fax 352-799-1225

## Be Your Own Boss

The Okeechobee News has opportunities for New Independent Delivery Agents who want to provide excellent service to our readers.

# Okeechobee News

Must have a dependable car and provide excellent service to our customers everyday.

Come in and fill out a contractors information sheet at the Circulation office  
107 S.W. 17th St., Suite D, Okeechobee, FL.

### Houses - Rent 0930

**DOLL HOUSE COTTAGE**  
ON TAYLOR CREEK  
1/1 Dade County  
Hardwood Floors  
Wrap around  
Porch/Huge  
Cypress Trees  
Fully Furnished.  
\$750 month  
863-467-8683

**A LARGE STUCCO HOME -** 2 Bdrm., Waterfront w/boat dock. Great neighborhood. \$850 month (863)467-1308

**BEAUTIFUL 3 Bdrm., 2 Ba.,** New floors. Basswood Estates. \$900. mo. + dep. & ref's. Call (786)417-2135

**BRAND NEW- Rent or Buy** 3br/2ba, 1700 sq ft, laundry, tiled, \$1100/mo. rent. \$5,000 applied to purchase of \$149,900 after 1 year. 3429 NW 40th Dr. Basswood. (561)718-2822

**BUCKHEAD RIDGE - 2 Story,** 3BR, 2BA, Front Screen Porch, Hot Tub. W&D., Short Term or Long Term. \$850 mo. 863-634-5236

**CITY OF OKEE.,** 3br, 2ba, SW section City. Great neighborhood. \$950. mo. + Sec. dep. (863)634-1554

**IN OKEECHOBEE CITY: 4 Br/2Ba,** \$1100 mo. + 1st, last, sec. & refs. Call Barry for more info. 772-216-1461

**KINGS BAY, 2/2/1 CBS home,** W&D, comm pool \$1000/mo. + 1st, last & \$500 sec. 863-801-9163

**\*NEW\***  
2 bed/2 bath/2 car garage  
All appliances included, and many extras.  
Great neighborhood;  
A Must See!  
\$1,000.00/mth + sec.  
(863)634-7222

**NEW DUPLEX - 3/2,** in the city limits. Avail Immediately, \$900/mo + 1st, & deposit. (863)465-0053

**OKEECHOBEE - 3BR, 1BA,** Kings Bay, closed in carport, \$850/mo, 1st, last, \$700 sec. (321) 262-9278

**OKEECHOBEE - remodeled 2/2** Villa, \$850/mo, also 2/1 house for rent \$700/mo 1st, last & sec req. (561)743-0192

**OKEECHOBEE, 3br, 1ba, Lg** yard, inside city limits, \$900. mo. + Util., 1st & Last mo. sec. dep. (863)990-3294

**OKEECHOBEE, 3br, 2ba, with** garage. C/Air. Lazy 7 area. 1st, last & sec. 863-467-2541

**Rent to Own - 4/2**  
\$1000 mo. new, ready now.  
863-599-0156 or  
561-248-3888

**SW Okeechobee- 1600 SW** 3rd Ave, CBS House Close to library, Close to everything, 3BR/1.5BA extra room Nice fenced yard, \$900 a month \$2000 to move in, year lease. (863)634-0512

**SW Section- 2200 SW 3rd** Ave. CBS, 3BR/1BA, Close to Wal-Mart, Nice yard, Carport, \$850 mo., \$2000 moves in (863)634-0512

**TREASURE ISLAND - 3br,** 1.5ba, Cent/AC, on water, gar, fenced yard \$800/mo, 1st & last, (561)308-7566

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

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

### Office Space Rent 0937

**Great Location!**  
OFFICE SPACE  
Upstairs Available  
863-763-4740

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

### Real Estate 1000

**Business Places - Sale 1005**

- Commercial Property - Sale 1010
- Condos/Townhouses - Sale 1015
- Farms - Sale 1020
- Houses - Sale 1025
- Hunting Property 1030
- Investment Property - Sale 1035
- Land - Sale 1040
- Lots - Sale 1045
- Open House Out of State - Property - Sale 1055
- Property Inspection 1060
- Real Estate Wanted 1065
- Resort Property - Sale 1070
- Warehouse Space 1075
- Waterfront Property 1080

**Condos/Townhouses Sale 1015**

**WPB Condo-Very nice 2/2** will trade for home in Okeechobee. Call 561-662-4563

**Houses - Sale 1025**

**LAND FOR SALE**  
\$200,000 or best offer.  
Access to road, electric, water, 15 acres of pasture.  
305-877-8688.  
Visit link for map:  
<http://www.reachon.com/LandforSale.htm>

**NEW! 4/2 - 1450 Sq Ft.,** Concrete w/vaulted ceilings, jacuzzi tub. Make Offer. Asking \$120,000 Leader waiting to lend you money. 3698 NW 7th St. 863-484-0809

**OKEECHOBEE - 2BR, 2BA,** Kings Bay house. \$800. mo. \$500. Sec. dep. 863-634-7460 or 634-7895

**R BAR - 4br, 2ba, 2 car** garage, 2.5 acres, Pond, \$225K Best Price in R-Bar (863)801-9163

### Public Notice 5005

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Okeechobee will meet in Regular Session on Tuesday, November 4, 2008, 2:00 p.m. at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. A copy of the agenda will be available on our website at [www.cityofokeechobee.com](http://www.cityofokeechobee.com) or contact City Administration at (863) 763-3372 x 212.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that if any person desires to appeal any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, such interested person will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose may need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. City Clerk media are used for the sole purpose of back-up for the Clerk's Office.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Florida Statute 286.26, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Lana Gamiette, no later than two (2) working days prior to the proceeding at 863-763-3372 x 214; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call TDD 1-800-955-8770 (voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TTY).

By: James E. Kirk, Mayor  
Lana Gamiette, CMC, City Clerk  
298512 ON 10/31/08

**Mobile Home Sale 2020**  
ADULT PARK in Okeechobee. 8'x24' w/10'x20' attached family rm. 8'x8'6" Shed w/ W&D. \$4000 863-381-7835

**BANK REPO'S**  
MOVE TO YOUR LAND  
Mobile Home Angels  
561-721-2230

**Double Wide Mobile Home-** 55 x 23' w/fireplace, no title, you move \$1000 OBO (863)357-3567 After 5pm

**DOUBLE WIDE TRAILER -** 3BR, walk-in closets, 2BA, den, LR, DR, appls, ceiling fans, roof-over, covered front/back porches, CA/H, fenced back yard, pole barn, 2 car driveway, 1 car carport, located at 4232 SE 22nd Court, Treasure Island, \$95,000 863-467-7911 for appt.

**OKEECHOBEE - 14x60, 2br,** 2ba, Fla Room, Util Room, workshop, carport, River Bend Lot 32, \$25,000 or best offer (863)824-0473 leave message.

**ON CANAL - 24x48, 2BR, 2BA** 2 Screen rms, 3 sheds, carport, River Bend Park, Lot 37 \$42,500 (863)467-4712

**Pine Ridge Park-2/1 SW** Mobile Home asking \$10,500 OBO (863)634-5965

### Public Notices 5000

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HIGHLAND COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION FILE NO.: GS 06-50**

IN RE: GUARDIANSHIP OF SAMANTHA LYNN SCHMIDT, Minor Ward.

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO MAKE APPLICATION TO CONVEY REAL PROPERTY OF WARD**

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the undersigned will call up for hearing before the Honorable OLIN W. SHIH-HOLSER, judge of the above court, in the judge's chambers in the HIGHLAND COUNTY Courthouse, the address of which is 590 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870, on Monday, November 24, 2008, at 10:00 o'clock A.M. or as soon thereafter as same may be heard, RHONDA SCHMIDT, as guardian of the property of SAMANTHA LYNN SCHMIDT, PETITION FOR AUTHORITY TO CANVEY REAL PROPERTY OF WARD.

CLIFFORD R. RHOADES, ESQ. CLIFFORD R. RHOADES, P.A. Attorney for Petitioner, RHONDA SCHMIDT, as Guardian of the Property of Samantha Lynn Schmidt, 2141 Lakeview Drive Sebring, FL 33870 Florida Bar No.: 308714 Telephone: (863) 385-0346 296444 ON 10/17/24.31/11/7/08

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 2008-CA-451 DIVISION: Civil Division**

LIVE OAK TRUST, INC., A Florida Corporation Plaintiff  
v. ROBITSON LLITE Defendant

**NOTICE OF ACTION CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE**

TO: ROBITSON LLITE 4754 ELMHURST RD. #2 WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33417

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that a Complaint for Foreclosure of Mortgage involving real estate located in Okeechobee County, Florida, and legally described as follows:

THE W 1/2 OF THE E 1/2 OF THE S 1/2 AND THE W 1/2 OF THE W 1/2 OF THE S 1/2 OF THE S 1/2 AND THE E 1/2 OF THE W 1/2 OF THE S 1/2 OF TRACT 19 SECTION 28 IN TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH, RANGE 38 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGES 3A-D, INCLUSIVE OF THE OKEECHOBEE COUNTY PUBLIC RECORDS.

Strap Number(s): 1-28-34-33-0A00-00019-M,N,0000

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on KENNETH M. JONES, of Moody, Jones, Ingino & Morehead, P.A., Attorneys for Plaintiff, whose address is 1333 S. University Drive, Suite 201, Plantation, Florida 33324, within 30 days of first publication and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on the Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court on 10/21/2008.

SHARON ROBERTSON CLERK OF THE COURT  
By: /s/ Linda F. Young AS Deputy Clerk

Moody, Jones, Ingino & Morehead, PA. 1333 S. University Drive, #201 Plantation, FL 33324 (954) 473-6505 Florida Bar No. 142618 297675 ON 10/24.31/08

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
A public auction will be held at BMJ Towing, Inc. Lot at 414 South Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34974 on Friday the 14th day of November 2008 from 10:00-11:00 A.M. Pursuant to Florida statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage. Year, Make, Model & Vin's as follows:  
1993 White Ford F150 1FTEK150PK824368

Terms of sale are cash, and no checks will be accepted. The seller reserves the right of final bid. All sales are final. No returns will be made. Said automobiles will be sold in "AS IS" with no warranties.  
298538 ON 10/31/08

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

### Auctions 0105

## AUCTION

Oct. 31st 6PM  
PREVIEW 5:00PM

American Legion Hall  
501 SE 2nd St.  
Okeechobee

Terms Cash or Check  
10% BP

**Next AUCTION**  
Nov. 7th  
Jimbo Watford  
Auctioneer  
AU1843 AB1583  
863-261-2525

**Lost 0135**

**CHIUAHUA - Black & Tan,** Very Small, 4 Seasons area. Family pet. Dearly missed! (863)634-9082/634-9769

**Female/Spade- Black & White** Boston Terrier lost in the vicinity of Dark Hammock rd. 3 weeks ago (863)467-6100

**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.

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

**Potter Road- 870 NW 141st** St. Nov 1 & 2 Sat & sun 7:30 am-? Lg family yard sale! Lots of misc...Don't miss this one

**Will the couple who** purchased the large painting at the Yard & Barn Sale PLEASE CALL (863)763-5986

### Services 400

**Babysitting 405**  
**Child Care Needed 410**  
**Child Care Offered 415**  
**Instruction 420**  
**Services Offered 425**  
**Insurance 430**  
**Medical Services 435**

**Cleaning**

~ HOUSE CLEANING ~  
15 yrs. exp. Okeechobee & Buckhead Ridge area's. Call Sandy (863)763-8581

### Financial 300

**Business Opportunities 305**  
**Money Lenders 310**  
**Tax Preparation 315**

**Business Opportunities 0305**

**NEED A GRANT WRITER ???**  
Call (561)924-3520

**Handyman Services**

**DEE'S MINOR REPAIR**  
License # 5698  
& Pressure Washing  
License #1126  
FREE ESTIMATES  
(863)467-2917  
or (863)261-6425

**? NEED HELP ?**  
**CALL GEORGE CARTER**  
Painting, Repairs, Carpentry  
Power Washing  
FREE CONSULTATION  
(863)763-4775

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

**Lawn & Garden**

**THINK GREEN!!! Plants & Trees** Starting @ \$5 Hwy. 720, 2nd curve to left Fri., Sat. & Sun. • 8am-5pm Landscapers Welcome! Call (954)727-6108 Ag#47233965

Shop here first! The classifieds ads

### Merchandise 500

**Air Conditioners 505**  
**Antiques 510**  
**Appliances 515**  
**Appliance Parts 520**  
**Beauty Supplies 525**  
**Bicycles 530**  
**Books & Magazines 535**  
**Building Materials 540**  
**Business Equipment 545**  
**Carpets/Rugs 550**  
**Children's Items 555**  
**China, Glassware, Etc. 560**  
**Clothing 565**  
**Coins/Stamps 570**  
**Collectibles 575**  
**Computer/Video 580**  
**Crafts/Supplies 585**  
**Cruises 590**  
**Cups, Linens & Fabrics 595**  
**Fireplace Fixture 600**  
**Firewood 605**  
**Furniture 610**  
**Furs 615**  
**Health & Reducing Equipment 620**  
**Heating Equipment/Supplies 625**  
**Household Items 630**  
**Jewelry 635**  
**Lamps/Lights 640**  
**Luggage 645**  
**Medical Items 650**  
**Miscellaneous 655**  
**Musical Instruments 660**  
**Office Supplies/Equipment 665**  
**Pets/Supplies/Services 670**  
**Photography 675**  
**Plumbing Supplies 680**  
**Pools & Supplies 685**  
**Restaurant Equipment 690**  
**Satellite 695**  
**Sewing Machines 700**  
**Sporting Goods 705**  
**Stereo Equipment 710**  
**Television/Radio 715**  
**Tickets 720**  
**Tools 725**  
**Toys & Games 730**  
**VCRs 735**  
**Wanted to Buy 740**

**Miscellaneous 0655**

**MANY ITEMS- High performance** rebuilt 350 engine all new internals \$500 OBO, Chevy 283 engine \$500 OBO, Rebuilt Ford Engine 2300, D-Porthead 30 over \$500 OBO, 9" Poseytrack rearend w/coil overshocks \$500 OBO, various size bar clamps- prices vary, 1 professional built metal "A" frame \$400 OBO, 5 hp 3 phase rotary power converter \$500 OBO, 300 spring clamps \$150 OBO, 220 air compressor for shop \$500 OBO. (863)447-6286

**METAL GYM Locker - 78in** high x 18in deep x 30in wide, 4 lockable cabinets \$35/or best offer. (863)983-7041

### Rentals 900

**Apartments 905**  
**Business Places 910**  
**Commercial Property 915**  
**Condos/Townhouses - Rent 920**  
**Farm Property - Rent 925**  
**House - Rent 930**  
**Land - Rent 935**  
**Resort Property - Rent 945**  
**Roommate 950**  
**Rooms to Rent 955**  
**Storage Space - Rent 960**

**Apartment 0905**

**OAK LAKE APTS - 2/1,** 2 story screened porch, very clean, no pets. \$700/mo, + sec. (863)634-3313

**OKEE., Huge, Clean, 2br, 2ba** \$750/mo, 1st & \$500 sec. 2br, 1ba, New Kitch, carpet & paint. \$650/mo, 1st & \$500 sec. Call 772-215-0098

**VIKING/PRAIRIE** Efficiency. Very clean! \$600/mo. Includes utilities. No pets. Call 561-329-8205

**Condos/Townhouses 0920**

**KING'S BAY, 2/1, Pool,** Tennis, new tile flrs., etc. \$800 mo. + sec. Water & Cable included. 863-697-6428

### Recreation 3000

**Boats 3005**  
**Campers/RVs 3010**  
**Jet Skis 3015**  
**Marine Accessories 3020**  
**Marine Miscellaneous 3025**  
**Motorcycles 3030**  
**Sport Vehicles/ATVs 3035**

**Boats 3005**

**WELLCRAFT 180 FISHERMAN** 2000 - cc-1, 2hp, vhs, fishfinder, alum. trailer, 90hp "OceanPro", offshore ready, great cond., trades? \$8950. (863)467-7415

**Marine Accessories 3020**

**MERCURY O/B MOTOR - 4 hp,** engine w/kill switch. Recently serviced. Exc. cond. \$495 (863)467-9800

**ADJUSTABLE RENTS - in** BHR, 2br starting at \$225/mo, & 3br \$300/mo., + \$500 sec, Single family no pets (863)763-4031

**BEST VALUE IN TOWN!** For Rent: 2/1 unique Loft unit and/or 3/2 home. Both units newly remodeled. Located 12 minutes north of Okeechobee on Equestrian Ranch. Monthly water, trash & lawn maintenance included. \$550 / \$650 - Move in special. M-F (863)467-2982

**DWMH 3BR/2BA - sits on** 1.25 acres, located in Prairie/Viking, outside pets welcome (863)801-1517

**FOR RENT: Nice 3bd/2ba on** 2 lots. \$750/mo. 1st, last & \$500 sec. to move in. Call (863)634-4480/228-0580.

**FT. DRUM - 2 BR,** Completely furnished. C/Air & Heat. \$400 mo. (917)836-8628 or (863)801-1517

**HOTEL/MOTEL ALT. - 2** Bdrm., 2 Ba., w/full kitchen, W&D. \$250 wk. \$300 sec. dep. (863)824-0981

**NORTHWEST 63rd** Terrace, 2BR, 1BA, on big lot. \$600/mo. + dep. Call 757-431-0331

**Off Potter Rd- \$625. per mo.** 1st and last (863)763-3482

**RIVER RUN-2br/2ba** furnished, carport & laundry room, large florida room, includes water & elec. \$800 month (863)357-4164 til 5pm & leave message or (863)610-9465 after 5pm and weekends

### Sporting Goods 0705

**METAL GYM Locker - 78in** high x 18in deep x 30in wide, 4 lockable cabinets \$35/or best offer. (863)983-7041

### Rentals 900

**Apartment 0905**

**OAK LAKE APTS - 2/1,** 2 story screened porch, very clean, no pets. \$700/mo, + sec. (863)634-3313

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# BBBS skeet shoot this weekend

By Teresa Mataushek  
Okeechobee News

If your looking for some fun with guns and fundraising, get a team together and head down to the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) first ever skeet shoot fundraiser. Get off to a rolling start at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1 at the Quail Creek Plantation.

BBBS currently provides mentoring in three Okeechobee County Schools: Seminole Elementary, Everglades Elementary and North Elementary.

Shooters will start at 8 a.m. with the last shooter at 10 a.m. Lunch and awards will follow at noon. Teams of four can get in on the action for \$375 (fee includes lunch) or individual shooters can join in for \$100 (fee includes lunch) or if you just want to come watch and eat lunch will be available for \$20.

Sponsor participation levels are: Banner Sponsor - \$1,000. Includes: team of four, banner on course, recognition at the awards ceremony, and mention in pre-event press releases; Station Sponsor - \$150. Includes: Sign on course and mention in pre-event press releases.

Submitted photo



## Outdoors

newsletter and annual report; Signature Sponsor - \$500. Includes: team of four, sign on course, recognition at the awards ceremony, and mention in pre-event press releases; Station Sponsor - \$150. Includes: Sign on course and mention in pre-event press releases.

So go out and have some fun and support our Big Brothers and Big Sisters. For more information or to register call 863-824-2227 or 772-466-8535.

## Fishing news

Bass Busters tournament dates have been set. The Bass Buster Classic will be held on Nov. 15 and 16, for qualifying teams. Please visit the official web site and look on the 2008 standings page for qualifying team names.

Also the 18th ANNUAL TOYS FOR KIDS fishing tournament will be held on Sunday Dec. 14, in Clewiston on Lake Okeechobee. The entry fee for the tournament is \$50 and two unwrapped toys. The tournament runs safelight to 3 p.m. 100 percent Pay-Back with Cash and Prizes.

For more information or entry forms for these events please contact Chris Fickey at 941-232-9539 or go to www.bassbustersflorida.com and we look forward to seeing you at the ramp.

## Big O Hike

Ready for some exercise? It is time to organize your schedule so that you can take the time off during Thanksgiving week to attend the Big "O" Hike around Lake Okeechobee.

The Hike will begin in Pahokee on Nov. 22 and end at Pahokee on Nov. 30. That's nine days of walking from 9 to 14 miles a day to make it all the way around the lake. There is a little bit of a challenge to this walk. Hundreds of people have tried over the years and (for some reason) only about 20 to 30 percent of the walkers manage to finish the nine days.

So plan now and get in shape for November. For further information, call Paul at 561-963-9906. **Hunting season is here and we want your news! If you would like to share any information with the Okeechobee News about an outdoors event please email Teresa Mataushek at tmataushek@newszap.com or call 863-763-3134. We welcome news on all sporting events, outdoors activities, nature inspired hobbies and with hunting season nearing, please send in pictures of your prize kills. Please include your name, phone number and specific dates of the events. The Okeechobee News Outdoors column will run every Friday so please be sure to have all your information into the office no later than 5 p.m. Wednesday. Information can also be emailed to OkeeNews@newszap.com or faxed to 863-763-5901. Refer all material to Teresa Mataushek.**

# Ladies Golf Association elects new officers



Newly elected 2008-2009 Officers are Fran Dierig - Secretary, Dale Bryant - Treasurer, Kay Duball - Vice President, and Saba Curran - President, for the 2008-2009 Ladies Golf Association.

April 2008, officers were elected and sworn in for the 2008-2009 Ladies Golf Association at Okeechobee Golf and Country Club.

The new officers are: Saba Curran - President, Kay Duball - Vice President, Fran Dierig - Secretary, Dale Bryant - Treasurer.

The new season started Oct. 3, 2008, the ladies association plays every Tuesday (pick your own tee time) and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. for

group play. A fun time is had by all so come and see and join. Our season is from October to April.

For information call the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club at 863-763-6228.

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# Brahman scouting report: Martin County Tigers



## Scouting Report

Share your news and photos for this column by email to okeeneews@newszap.com

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Martin County High School's football team (0-7) is not having a good season, but that doesn't mean the Okeechobee High School Brahms will be looking past them on Friday night.

The Tigers come in with a young team that hasn't been able to run the ball and haven't been able to stop the run. That doesn't seem like a good formula against the Brahms.

Coach Chris Branham said last week's loss hurt as bad as any loss he had ever experienced. He noted that loss has carried over into practice this week and that this team is angry, and ready to atone for a bad performance.

"We need to play our best football. Last week shouldn't have happened. We just didn't get the job done up front," he noted.

Branham said he told his players to refocus because they still have a chance to accomplish a number of great things, which include making the playoffs for the second straight year.

"I talked a lot this week about our best effort. I told them to give it all. We are still a great football team, but we must come out and play our game."

Martin County has struggled to score points this year. However they are capable of putting together decent efforts. They led Westwood in the fourth quarter earlier this month before they lost 35-24.

"The Tigers have trailed a lot and have had to pass the ball to come back. I don't know if that's their plan but when you're behind you have to throw. I expect the ball to be in the air a lot tonight."

Top players for the Tigers include wide receiver and defensive back Gillie St. Hill, running back Jamar Spencer, and QB's Mike Duhart and Austin Larson. The Tigers have thrown 10 touchdown passes and for over 1,000 yards this year. They have also thrown 10 interceptions.

St. Hill has 18 pass receptions and five touchdowns. R.J. Fyne has caught 10 balls and four of those were for touchdowns.

Top defenders for the Tigers include Nick Jones, 86 tackles, and Matt Diekman, 51 tackles and three sacks.

Tiger Coach Chuck Kenyon said his team scheduled some top teams, Deltona and Nease

this year so that they wouldn't be intimidated when they began district play. He said despite the 0-7 start, his team is showing progress.

"We are gaining experience but it doesn't show on the scoreboard. We are getting better and making progress," he noted.

Kenyon said his team probably played Westwood as well as any area team this year. They led until late in the game. He said it was a game that his squad should have won.

"We have some weaknesses but we are working to shore up what we do. We are looking for positives and I think are young players will rise up and complete some plays," he added.

Kenyon said Okeechobee will be a daunting task. He said the Brahms have several great players and have a good coaching staff that knows how to expose a team's weaknesses.

"We're going to try to be in this game. Last year we weren't and I feel our team was better than this year. You never know, that is why

they play the games." Okeechobee QB Garrett Madrigal has thrown for 822 yards and 11 touchdowns. Lonnie Pryor has rushed for 1,450 yards and 14 touchdowns.

On the injury front, defensive end Sam Dixon broke his hand in practice this week. He will be a game time decision. Wide receiver Walt Fortner is also battling some leg soreness but is expected to play. Fortner leads the team with 16 pass receptions.

Tonight's game is senior parent night. To honor the seniors,

all who attend are asked to wear camouflage outfits. Camouflage has long been the senior class color. All seniors in fall sports, the marching band and in cheerleading will be honored before the game.

The high school also has opened up the homecoming week bonfire to the public this year. It will be held next Thursday, Nov. 6. **Those attending the bonfire must be on the school grounds by 6 p.m. as the gates will be locked at that time.**

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# Softball tournament to help family

Tournament to benefit Gainer Family

By Chauna Aguilar  
Okeechobee News

Friends and family of James "Jimbo" Thomas Gainer, Sr. are holding a softball tournament to help raise funds for the Jimbo Gainer family on Saturday, Nov. 8, and Sunday, Nov. 9.

Mr. Gainer died of a massive heart attack on Sunday, Oct. 12. He was 37 years old and left behind a wife and five boys.

They did not have any life insurance and his wife, Becky Gainer, is currently in school to become a Registered Nurse.

Mr. Gainer had lived in Okeechobee since he was two years old and worked to support his family as a heavy equipment operator. Mr. and Mrs. Gainer have five sons: Heath Gainer, 14; James Gainer, 17; Robbie Duquette, 18; Justin Duquette, 16; and Damion Duquette, 13.

The softball tournament will be held at the Okeechobee County Softball field across from Yearling Middle School and the Indian River State College.

Saturday, Nov. 8, is a men's tournament and Sunday, Nov. 9, is a co-ed tournament. Entry fee is \$200 per team. Bring your own balls, 44 core. Independent



The Jimbo Gainer family fundraiser Softball Tournament will be held on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 8 and 9, at the Okeechobee County Softball Field. Jimbo Gainer passed from a massive heart attack. His family (left to right) Damion Duquette, Jimbo Gainer, Rebecca Gainer, Robert Duquette, Heath Gainer, Justin Duquette, and James Gainer, Jr will receive all proceeds from the event.

Softball Association (ISA) Rules apply. All proceeds from the tournaments will be going to the family of Jimbo Gainer. Donations can also be made directly to the "Jimbo Gainer Fund" at Regions Bank.

For more information about the tournament contact Jeanine Rhuda 863-634-2171, Jill Rogers 863-634-0870, or Ginni Mullis 863-634-0680.

In addition to the tournament, friends and family are coordinat-

ing a wild hog dinner at The Brahman Bull on Nov. 16, as a benefit for the Gainer Family. Dinner includes pork, swamp cabbage, baked beans, green beans, and potato salad for \$7, dine-in or take-out.

Live entertainment will be provided by two local bands: Hard Livin' and Saddle Tramp.

Additional items have also been donated for the event that will be given out as prizes for drawings or auctioned to the highest bidder.

For more information contact Kandi Lynn 863-634-5707.

All proceeds from the dinner will go to the Jimbo Gainer Family.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com). Reporter Chauna Aguilar can be reached at [caguilar@newszap.com](mailto:caguilar@newszap.com).

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# Padgett and Floyd win Bassmaster Casting Kid's event



Bassmaster® Casting Kids winners with State Youth Director and Club President, are (left to right) Donald Padgett, Charlie Hays (Youth Director - Florida BASS Federation Nation), Chan Garrett (President, Taylor Creek Bass Club), and April Floyd.

The 23rd annual Lee McAlistler Memorial Kid's Day Fishing Festival was held on October 26th at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center. Taylor Creek Bass Club, with the support of many local sponsors, conducted the Bassmaster® Casting Kid's Competition as part of the all day event. In near perfect weather, approximately 50 anglers demonstrated their skills in the morning Casting

Kids event. Free soft drinks, hot dogs and an attendance gift were provided to all participants.

The Bassmaster® Casting Kid's Competition was open to girls and boys in two age groups, 7-10 and 11-14. Following instructions given by the members of Taylor Creek Bass Club and a practice period, each participant tested their flipping, pitching and casting skills. Donald Padgett finished first 7-10 age group with a score of 80 out of a possible 150. April Floyd won the 11-14 age group competition with a score of 130 out of a possible 150. For their efforts, Donald and April received first place medals, a Bassmaster rod and reel, a practice target, a hat and a framed certificate. Both of these champions will advance to the Florida State competition. Over 130 winners from across the state of Florida will compete in the November 1st championship event at Okeechobee's Scott Driver Park ramp area. State winners advance to the semi-finals and potentially to the National Bassmaster® Casting Kid's Championship for a share of over \$20,000 in scholarships. Congratulations to both Donald and April.

Taylor Creek Bass Club has organized this event as part of our civic activities for the past 23 years. Weather permitting it is held the last Sunday in October. The B.A.S.S. affiliated club, which

was formed in 1981, is actively seeking new civic-minded members (non-boaters and boaters) who love the sport of bass fishing. Regularly scheduled monthly meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at the Buckhead Ridge VFW Post 9528. Meetings start at 7 p.m. Club tournaments are held on the following weekend. For additional information, contact Dave Stout (863-467-2255).



Courtesy photo/Chan Garrett  
Bassmaster® Casting Kid's Winner for the Age 7-10 group was Donald Padgett.



Courtesy photo/Chan Garrett  
Bassmaster® Casting Kid's Winner in the Age 11-14 group was April Floyd.

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**WATERFRONT** Beautiful fully upgraded DWMH. Pella Windows w/double panes throughout. Oak floors, upgraded kitchen cabinets. One car garage, boat dock. Too many features to include. MUST SEE THIS BEAUTY. MLS #201548, \$149,900. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.

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# OHS Volleyball fights to keep season going

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School Volleyball team ended several years of frustration by qualifying for the state regional tournament Wednesday night when they defeated long-time nemesis Suncoast, 25-4, 25-18, and 25-16.

The win moved OHS into the championship match of the District 14-4A tournament against Jensen Beach Thursday night. Jensen defeated Lincoln Park in impressive fashion to reach the final.

Okeechobee opened up their District tournament with an impressive display against Glades Central on Tuesday at the Graham gymnasium. Okeechobee won in three consecutive games, 25-2, 25-7, and 25-7.

The team displayed strong serves and focus and weren't forced into many long rallies with the Lady Raiders.

"Our practice is probably 30 percent harder than that," Se-

nior Kari Berger said. Berger and Courtney Marker were honored after the game as the only seniors on this year's squad. The team had planned senior night festivities last Thursday against Summit Christian but the match was cancelled when the referees didn't show up.

Marker said she liked the fact that the team took the match seriously and didn't let down against a weaker opponent, "I think we held it together and we didn't slack off at all."

Berger said she would like to play volleyball in college and has targeted Florida Golf Coast University as her top choice.

Berger and Marker said the trip to the state regional next week would almost be a dream come true. In the past two years Okeechobee had been eliminated by Suncoast in a state qualifying match.

Okeechobee wrapped up the regular season last Friday in Tampa with a loss to Tampa Prep in four games, 23-25, 25-2, 25-11, and 25-13.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Senior Courtney Marker with her younger sister and her father.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Senior Kari Berger with her parents, Laurie and Phil Berger.



Submitted photo

## Kids Day

Abby Ison shows off her third place trophy in the 7-10 year old division on Sunday at the 23rd Annual Lee McAllister Memorial Kids' day Fishing Tournament at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center.



Submitted photo

## First place

Kegan Adams shows off his first place trophy in the 7-10 year old division on Sunday at the 23rd Annual Lee McAllister Memorial Kids' day Fishing Tournament at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Monica Koger lines up to serve against Glades Central on Tuesday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Paige McCrary and Rebekah Bryan (right) get ready for a Glades Central serve in Tuesday's game.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Hannah Frank gives Athletic Director Heather Stillians a new hair style at Tuesday's volleyball match.



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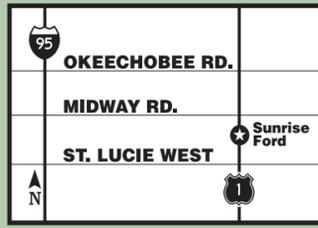
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# Civilian Conservation Corps Festival at Highlands Hammock

By Dorothy L. Harris,  
Park Services Specialist

Highlands Hammock State Park's 23rd annual Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Festival is Saturday, Nov. 1, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. More than 75 craft vendors will exhibit woodcrafts, paintings, pottery, jewelry, floral arrangements, stained glass, and much more. You can also buy local fruits, vegetables, herbs, native plants, fresh honey and homemade jellies.

Arnold's Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Okeechobee will bring Professor Possum, Rocky Raccoon, Bobby the Bobcat and other native animals to highlight their efforts to rescue, rehabilitate and return animals to their natural habitats. Croc Encounters of Tampa offers a close-up look at our reptilian residents with the alligators, crocodiles and other reptiles they bring and Heartland Horses and Handicapped, Inc will be here too, providing pony rides for just \$3 each.

Your kids will enjoy the magical experience provided by Weatherbee's Magic of Lakeland. More excitement is found at Peace River Electric Cooperative's Electric Junction Safety City demonstration. Don't forget the antique cars, tractors, and expansive model railroad exhibit. Keep an eye out for the Division of Forestry's Smokey Bear and our Highlands County Fire Services too. Park staff will provide hayrides and tram rides for just a dollar. Get your tickets at the Friends of Highlands Hammock tent. Your kids will also enjoy Party Bounce House Rental's bounce house nearby the playground.

Don't forget to bring a hearty appetite. The Hammock Inn will serve breakfast sandwiches and biscuits & gravy from 8 to 10 a.m., and their regular menu including those wild orange goodies until 4 p.m. Additional food vendors include Smoken' Flames BBQ with gator tail and fries, smoked ribs and chicken, cold sandwiches and boiled peanuts. There will also be hot dogs, cotton candy, snow cones, funnel cakes, frozen coffees, pastries, ice cream, fresh fruit and more.

In the CCC Museum you can visit with our CCC Alumni. Former park ranger Darrel Smith will also present his living history program, "The Best of Times, The Worst of Times," at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

This annual festival is held to honor the men of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a ci-

vilian workforce established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933. During the festival, you'll meet men who served all over the United States, and some who served right here in Florida. Listen to their stories and memories

of life in the Civilian Conservation Corps. Almost five thousand camps consisting of over three million men were put to work in every state of the Union, including Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Enrollees,

just like the ones you'll meet during the festival, were fondly referred to as Tree Troopers, Soil Soldiers, and the Colossal College of Calluses. These young men reforested wastelands, developed recreational facilities, worked in

erosion control, fire fighting, and built dams, bridges, and roadways during the grips of the Great Depression.

Come revisit history with us during this fun event. Park admission is just \$4 per vehicle with

up to eight people per car. Come enjoy some outdoor, family fun in "the REAL Florida." For more information on the festival, contact Dorothy Harris at 863-386-6094 or: dorothy.l.harris@dep.state.fl.us.

# \$22,000



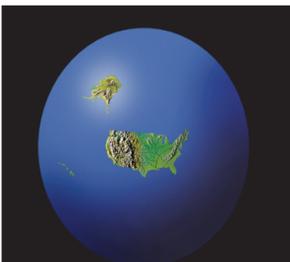
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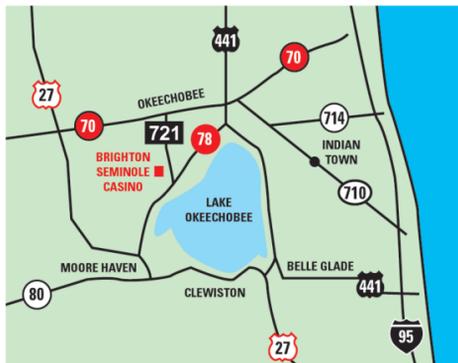


Submitted photo/Dorothy Harris  
John Paner from Croc Encounter in Tampa will be just one of the entertaining, informative exhibits at the upcoming Civilian Conservation Corps Festival set for Saturday, Nov. 1 at Highlands Hammock. Other exhibitors scheduled for the event include Sue Arnold from Arnold's Wildlife in Okeechobee with Willow the panther, numerous vendors with food and crafts, antique cars and more.



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