



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 99 No. 290

Friday, December 12, 2008

50¢ Plus tax

Briefs

Quit Smoking Now classes offered

The Okeechobee County Health Department (OCHD) offers a Tobacco Prevention and Education Program for the community. The purpose of the program is to reduce adult and youth tobacco use, and provide tobacco resources to residents, businesses and community organizations in the county. For information, call 863-462-5781.

Diabetes Support Group at Hospital

Raulerson Hospital offers a monthly Diabetes Support Group which meets on the second Thursday of each month in the hospital cafeteria at 2 p.m. If you have any questions please call the program coordinator, Wanda Haas, R.N., B.A., C.D.E., C.P.T., at 863-763-5093.

Cancer Society seeks volunteers

The American Cancer Society is recruiting volunteers who are interested in making a difference in the fight against cancer. Volunteers with the American Cancer Society's Florida Division participate in programs that support research funding, educate the community, deliver services to patients and advocate for policies that help defeat cancer. To get involved, call the American Cancer Society at 800-ACS-2345.

Healthy Start group seeks donations

The Healthy Start Coalition is accepting donations of baby items such as furniture, shoes, clothing, maternity clothes, strollers and other items for infants and toddlers. Proceeds from the sale of donated items will be used to benefit infants and pregnant women in the community. For information, call 863-462-5877.

Blood donors are needed

Florida's Blood Centers is looking for blood donors in Okeechobee. The Big Red Bus mobile unit will be at the Wal-Mart parking lot, 2101 S. Parrott Ave., on the last Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. For information, call 561-845-2323, ext. 1203 or 772-215-8360. All blood types are needed. There is no upper age limit, and most medications and conditions are acceptable. Diabetes and blood pressure donations can also be accepted. A picture ID is needed for all donors.

Drought Index

Current: 609
Source: Florida Division of Forestry
Local Burn Ban: None

Lake Levels

14.15 feet
Last Year: 10.23 feet

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

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

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Student suspended for acne pill

School board reverses expulsion; student forgot pill was in bookbag

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

A middle school student who forgot a prescription antibiotic pill was in a bookbag will not be expelled after all.

The Okeechobee County

School Board Tuesday voted to overturn the expulsion, going against the Superintendent's recommendation and their own Student Code of Conduct which was just recently revised.

The Osceola Middle School student was suspended for nine days and expelled after a prescription drug was found in a book bag in a locker. According to the student's father, a neighboring locker was identified during a K-9 drug check where a paper bag was targeted. Nothing was

found in the paper bag so, as procedure dictates, the lockers surrounding the targeted area were also checked. The book bag was emptied and an antibiotic pill that is prescribed for acne was found.

The student was called to the office, reminded that no prescription drugs should be at school outside the clinic, and then sent back to class. A while later, the student was called back to the office and told that after re-reading the policy, the consequence

for this offense was expulsion for the remainder of the school year.

The first time offender program was offered as an alternative for expulsion but this option was declined by the parent. The parent proceeded with an expulsion hearing and the expulsion was upheld at the hearing. The parent chose to go before the board to plead with them to not expel his child.

In his plea to the board, the father explained that while there

has to be consequences for everything, the looping of all of these offenses together are not equal. He pointed out that even the administrator read the code wrong and had to re-administer the punishment after realizing that expulsion was required by code.

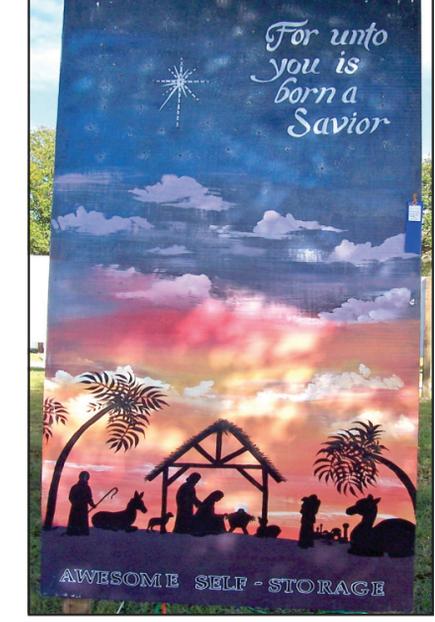
He stated that this is a child who achieves excellence for the school and the community and that the Student Code of Con-

See Student — Page 2

Stroll in the Park: 'Snow Hot' in Okeechobee



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar
(Top) Seminole Elementary School submitted their Holiday Card to the Okeechobee High School Band Holiday Stroll in the Park where it won both Best Non-religious theme and Best in Show. (Below left) Awesome Self-Storage's holiday card won the Best Religious Theme. (Below right) Boys at the Eckerd Intensive Halfway House made this holiday card of the Grinch stealing Christmas where it won the Best School or Civic Organization holiday card.



Angler wants to help Big 'O'

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

The fishing on Lake Okeechobee is tough and it's getting tougher. But a fishing tackle manufacturer in Pompano Beach wants to help, as does a business owner in Birmingham, Ala.

Some 14 to 15 years ago Mark Whitlock wanted to do something to help the bass fishery in his home state of Alabama, as well as the perception that bass tournaments were having a negative impact on



Fingerling Bass

the largemouth population. So Mr. Whitlock, who owns Mark's Outdoors in Birmingham, sent a check to the Alabama Conservation Department and Natural Resources (ACDNR). "But, it got lost in the general fund," he said in a phone inter-

See Angler — Page 2

City code board reduces the fines

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

When they met on Tuesday evening, Dec. 9, the City of Okeechobee Code Enforcement Board imposed fines in two cases that were not in compliance and reduced the fine in a third case.

Code enforcement officer Fred Sterling stated that the estate of Mary J. Gill on S. W. Ninth St. has not been in compliance since August because of a disabled vehicle. A fine of \$25 a day was imposed for every day of non-compliance beginning five days from notification.

On Nov. 6, at the request of Waste Management, city code enforcement officials

inspected and photographed the N.W. Park St. property of Kulsom and Shabana Abdulla because of the amount of trash piled up on the property. While some of the trash has been removed since that time, Mr. Sterling stated that there was still a large amount of trash on the property. Fire chief Herb Smith told the board that the tenants of the building were living in unhealthy conditions in a building that was not up to code. Because of the severity of the violation, the owners will be fined \$50 a day for every day of noncompliance beginning Jan. 15.

Property on S. Parrott Ave.
See City — Page 2

Annual Christmas parade is Saturday

Okeechobee's annual lighted Christmas parade will be Saturday, Dec. 13 at 6 p.m. in downtown Okeechobee. The parade route starts at the U-Save supermarket, goes north on Parrott Avenue (U.S. 441) to State Road 70 and then west on State Road 70 to the end of Flagler Park.

At press time Thursday, the Chamber had about 75 parade entries including floats, marching units, a military vehicle, swamp buggies, 4-H units, Cub Scouts, cheerleaders, school pep and drill teams, the high school band, beauty queens, and of course, Santa Claus.

Parade rules require that all parade entries have holiday lights and decorations. After the parade, Santa will be in Flagler

Park to visit with local children.

On Saturday starting at 9 a.m. the Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a Christmas festival in Flagler Park. Approximately 50 arts and crafts vendors will be there, along with a variety of food vendors. The festival will continue until about 8 p.m.

Other holiday activities and celebrations are also planned in the Okeechobee Community. The Okeechobee Yachtette Club and Butches Redneck Yacht Club will hold their annual Christmas boat parade on Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. The public is welcome. Decorate your boats and meet on Taylor Creek at State Road 70 by Burger King between 5 and 5:30 p.m. The parade begins at 6 p.m.



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar
Newshound, the Okeechobee News mascot, will be accompanied in the Christmas parade by alpacas dressed as reindeer. The alpacas belong to Lorraine Loperfido and Chuck Domm, from Florida.

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Student

Continued From Page 1

duct consequence of expulsion does not fit this crime, which was a simple mistake of leaving a pill in a book bag after a sleep over at a friend's house. No one even realized that the pill was in the book bag, he said. He said it apparently had been in the bag for weeks and would probably still be there if that bag had not been targeted by the K-9 officer.

An associate from Water's Edge Dermatology, which prescribed the medication, spoke on the student's behalf that this specific pill would not get a student high. The few side effects that are possible after taking this drug

are photosensitivity (sensitivity to sunlight) and becoming nauseated.

Many teachers and community members came out to support the student. Teachers pointed out that while they understand the intent of the policy, there are problems in the code that they themselves had been blind to because it was never brought to their attention.

This student is actively involved in FFA and began a project for Thanksgiving to donate food baskets to needy families. Due to this incident the delivery of this project was not seen by the student.

Ray Worley spoke on behalf of the student as did local community member Gary Ritter who detailed the incident as not a mistake but simply an accident. He

explained that the student didn't put the pill in the bag intentionally to take it to school. There was absolutely no malice in the intentions of the student.

The many who spoke on behalf of the student understood that there have to be rules and regulations set in place as policy to protect all of the students but that limitations and discretion must also be worked into policy as well in order to not detrimentally change a child's life for a simple mistake that happens to fall into a category of stronger offenses.

From a legal standpoint, the student should have had a valid care plan at the school and the prescription, if needed at school, should have been signed into the clinic.

Due to the current policy, the administration and the Superintendent were required to recommend suspending the student. The board however had the option of overturning that recommendation and allowing the student to return to school.

The board eventually voted 3 to 2 in favor of overturning the recommendation of the Superintendent to expel and allow the student to return to school. The student had already served nine days suspension prior to the meeting.

Vice-Chair board member India Riedel emotionally spoke about the task of the board to make policies and procedures to protect the children while they are educated. She expressed the need to revisit the code again

even though it was just revised by a committee.

Board member Joe Arnold expressed his confusion regarding how they classify types of drugs. He said he did not believe that expulsion is fair and equitable punishment for this particular offense. David Williams joined both India Riedel and Joe Arnold in voting against the Superintendent's recommendation of expulsion.

Board members Gay Carlton and Chair Kelly Owens both voted with the Superintendent and their current policy but agreed that the policy did need to be revisited by the board. It was expressed by both that the board cannot change policy each time there is a tough issue in regards to it or there is no point in having a policy.

Chairwoman Owens recommended that the "board step up and go through the code ourselves line by line so that we can say we looked at this as a board and can stand behind our policy."

A public workshop will be scheduled where they will be sure to also have administrators present in order to get their input as they have to implement the policy on a daily basis.

The date and time of the workshop will be announced at a later time.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com.

Reporter Chauna Aguilar can be reached at caguilar@newszap.com.

Angler

Continued From Page 1

view. Since that didn't work, he took things into his own hands.

Mr. Whitlock organized a bass tournament to be held on Lay Lake, located 30 miles south of Birmingham. But, it was no ordinary cast-for-cash event.

As the anglers unloaded their boats, each boat was given a bag of 300-400 young bass. Then, when the anglers reached the area they planned to fish, the 3- to 5-inch bass were released before a cast was ever made.

Today that tournament has grown to the point that in this year's May 10 event there were 500 boats, with two anglers per boat. The field was made up of kids and their parents, weekend anglers and touring professionals.

"The Alabama Conservation Department told us we couldn't stock Lay Lake because it threw off their survey numbers," said Mr. Whitlock. "But when we asked them if we were overstocking the lake, they said no."

Mr. Whitlock, who is licensed to release the fish, said he buys his stock from hatcheries in Arkansas, Texas and South Florida. He said all of the fish are certified and most are Florida strain bass.

"Every dime we make (on the one-day tournament) goes to buy fish," he said.

After this year's event, the tournament is responsible for releasing 2 million bass into Lay Lake.

After hearing about the success of Mr. Whitlock's program, Val Osinski wants to do the same thing on Lake Okeechobee.

"The idea is to have somewhere between 100 and 200 boats and every one of them release bass back into the lake," said Mr. Osinski, who owns Gambler Lures in Pompano Beach and is also an avid bass fisherman. "If we had done this four or five years ago, maybe we wouldn't be in the situation we're in now. If we can do this yearly, it will have a positive impact."

But, it's not quite that easy. First, there are both federal and state laws that prohibit individuals from releasing bass fingerlings into state waters. Second, state biologists doubt it will do any good at this particular point in time.

"The whole thing is, if you don't have the food base built up it won't matter anyway. You might as well put them (the young bass) in the parking lot," said Don Fox, a fisheries biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). "It's (the lake condition) not very promising. They (the fish population) have got to have food."

Mr. Fox, who heads up FWC's fisheries office in Okeechobee, was on the big lake Thursday, Dec. 4, taking samples of fish populations. While the bass numbers are bad, specks are even worse, he said.

"We've hit bottom," he said, while pulling trawl nets that were yielding more gar and catfish than either species of sport fish. "It hasn't gotten any worse, but we've not gotten better in the last two years."

To illustrate his point, Mr. Fox said in 900 minutes of pulling their nets they had only caught 67 bass. As for crappie, in 380 minutes they caught 53.

Because of hurricanes and other events, there has been a major loss of habitat which, in turn, has led to a massive decline in the forage base.

"We're just now starting to see chizzywinks again," he said.

However, on the bright side, Mr. Fox said he is beginning to see a lot of young shad which is a major food source for bass and crappie on Lake Okeechobee.

When asked about the stocking program started by Mr. Whitlock, the biologist said he wouldn't be

in favor of it on Lake Okeechobee. Mr. Fox said it's doubtful that enough fish could be produced to help a body of water the size of Lake Okeechobee.

Plus, the stock has to have the proper genetics.

"We're really strict about genetics," he said.

In Florida, that little eight-letter word plays a huge part in the state stocking program.

Rick Stout, the director of the Florida Bass Conservation Center in Webster, said when the state stocks a body of water only fish that are genetically compatible with the area are used.

"The Florida bass is a unique species. We must make sure bass we stock are pure Floridas and are the appropriate strain," said Mr. Stout, who heads up the state's largest freshwater fish production hatchery. "Bass from the Kissimmee River system are genetically distinct from other bass in the

state."

With that in mind, only pure Florida bass of the Kissimmee River strain can be used to stock Lake Okeechobee.

"We manage all that here (at the center) so that we don't introduce northern genes into Lake Okeechobee," he added.

Putting bass with the wrong genetics into Lake Okeechobee would do more harm than good, Mr. Stout continued.

He also said that Florida laws are probably "a little stricter" than those in Alabama.

Mr. Stout went on to say that stocking Lake Okeechobee at this point in time would do little, if any, good.

"Normally, to put them in ex-

isting populations, fingerlings don't do that well," he explained. "Where you have existing predators, fingerlings won't do very well. Also, if the lake is in trouble and spawning fish aren't doing well, then fingerlings won't either."

Still, Mr. Osinski wants to do something to return the Big 'O' to its ranking as one of the top bass fishing lakes in the United States. Since he can't have a tournament similar to that of Mr. Whitlock's, the bait manufacturer has come up with another idea.

Mr. Osinski will be talking with FWC officials about staging a non-profit bass tournament where all the money taken in will go to the Florida Bass Conservation Center, who can then raise the proper

strain of Florida bass for release into Lake Okeechobee if needed.

According to Mr. Whitlock, who offered to travel to Florida to speak with FWC officials, this would likely be the best way to go.

And even though Florida law prohibits the release of stocks into state waters by an individual, the collective chests of those anglers taking part in this type of tournament would swell with pride knowing they have given back to the sport, and fishery, they love.

"In every tournament, we now have 1,000 new conservationists," said Mr. Whitlock of his Lay Lake Open event.

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Partly sunny, with a high near 67. Northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 43. Northwest wind around 5 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 68. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 55. East north-east wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 75. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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City

Continued From Page 1

belonging to Okeechobee-FL Properties LLC had accrued a fine of \$9,225. A fine of \$50 a day because of overgrowth began accruing on April 18, 2007. The fine continued until Oct. 19, 2007 when the property came into compliance. Bryan West, of Okeechobee-FL Properties, stated he learned of the fine when a recent title search of the property by his attorney revealed a lien had been placed on the property. After considerable discussion the board reduced the fine to \$1,025.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Pete Gauda can be reached at pgauda@newszap.com.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Wednesday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 6-6-2; **Play 4:** 6-3-3-3; **Lotto:** 13-15-21-41-42-44; **Fantasy 5:** 8-21-24-29-31. Numbers selected Thursday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 6-5-2; **Play 4:** 8-6-4-7.

Hit-and-run victim identified

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

The identity of a homeless man killed by a hit-and-run driver has been released by the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO).

Alberto Lopez, 43, was killed around 1:08 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, while walking along N.W. 10th Terrace near North Elementary School.

According to OCSO Detective

Ted Van Deman the man was hit by someone driving a 1983-86 F-Series Ford pickup truck. The color of the truck has not been released.

"We have collected evidence and a vehicle, and now have a suspect," Detective Van Deman said Thursday, Dec. 11.

The detective said he and traffic investigator John Ashby are still searching for members of the victim's family.

Deputy Ashby said Mr. Lo-

pez was apparently walking in a southerly direction in the north-bound lane when he was hit. The truck, he added, was north-bound. After impact, the man's body became lodged under the truck and he was dragged 50 to 90 feet.

Seeing the pedestrian would have been difficult since the roadway is dark, added the deputy.

"He was wearing blue jeans and a light tan shirt," said Deputy Ashby.

Mr. Lopez had no identification on his person but was identified by his fingerprints, explained Detective Van Deman.

Mr. Lopez was pronounced dead at the scene.

If anyone has any information about this incident, or is a family member of Mr. Lopez, they are asked to contact either Deputy John Ashby or Detective Ted Van Deman at the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, 863-763-3117.

Off-duty cop asked to sell drugs

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A local man was arrested after he allegedly approached an off-duty detective and asked the cop to sell him some crack cocaine.

Mark Mongillo, 53, N.W. Sixth St., was arrested Tuesday, Dec. 9, on a felony charge of purchase of a substance in lieu of cocaine. He was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$5,000.

An arrest report states that Mongillo approached the black off-duty detective about buying some "hard" -- which is slang for crack cocaine -- while in a local business.

short time later with Mongillo. The arrest report goes on to say that the task force detective was in position to see the off-duty detective take the substance out of the bag and exchange it for the \$30.

When task force detectives moved in and placed Mongillo under arrest they reportedly found a glass smoking device -- similar to those used for smoking crack cocaine -- in the man's hand.

The three pieces of fake crack cocaine were reportedly found in Mongillo's shirt pocket.



Mark Mongillo

Couple charged in theft of car stereo

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A local man and woman were arrested after they allegedly took a car stereo/CD player from a local store.

James Henry Schock, 23, N.W. Seventh Ave., and Jennifer Nader Collins, 24, N.E. Range Road, Lake City, were both arrested in the Walmart parking lot Wednesday, Dec. 10, by Officer Jack Boon of the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD).

Collins was charged with grand theft and resisting a merchant. Her bond was set at \$1,000. Schock was also charged with grand theft and resisting a merchant. His bond was set at \$9,000.

Officer Boon's arrest report

states that when he entered the Walmart parking lot around 3:46 p.m. Wednesday he met up with Adam Peterson, an asset protection official with the store, who had Schock and Collins in custody.

While searching Collins' purse, Officer Boon stated he found the stereo/CD player, valued at \$624, and that it was still wrapped in plastic. He stated that the only other things in the woman's purse were a tri-fold wallet and a car key on a key ring.

The OCPD officer then viewed a surveillance video that showed Schock removing the anti-theft device from the stereo/CD player and placing the item in Collins' purse, stated his report. The re-

port went on to say that Mr. Peterson watched the alleged theft unfold then followed Schock and Collins as they left the store without paying for the item.

According to the report, the anti-theft device was found on a shelf, behind some bedding linens. The device was still active, added Officer Boon's report.



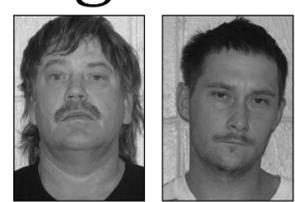
James Henry Schock Jennifer Nader Collins

Meth lab busted; three charged

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A traffic stop Tuesday led to the arrest of three people and the curtailment of a suspected methamphetamine lab.

Jack Edward Morgan, 46, N.W. Fourth St., Shannon Keith Rosemann, 27, N.W. 176th Ave., and Kathryn Suzette Mosley, 38, Curran St., Lake Wales were all charged with the felonies of possession of methamphetamine, manufacture of methamphetamine and possession of listed chemicals. They each were also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.



Jack Edward Morgan Shannon Keith Rosemann

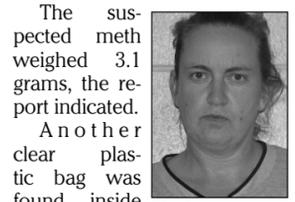
They were booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$315,000 each.

Finding the meth lab came about after a detective with the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force stopped a black Chevrolet pickup truck for doing 40 mph in a 25 mph zone in the 1200 block of N.W. Ninth St.

According to an arrest affidavit, when the detective activated his emergency lights the truck pulled into the parking lot of a local business. As the truck pulled into the lot, the detective stated in the report that a small white object was thrown from the truck.

The report states that Morgan was driving the vehicle.

After backup arrived, the detective retrieved the object that was reportedly thrown from the truck. In the object was a clear plastic bag that contained a suspicious substance. When that substance was field tested it indicated a positive result for the presence of methamphetamine, continued the report.



Kathryn Suzette Mosley

The suspected meth weighed 3.1 grams, the report indicated.

Another clear plastic bag was found inside the truck that allegedly contained a similar substance. When that substance was field tested it, too, reportedly indicated a positive result for the presence of meth. The report stated that this bag weighed 2.8 grams.

As their investigation continued task force detectives gleaned information of an outbuilding where methamphetamine was being 'cooked.'

When task force detectives searched the building they seized items consistent with the manufacture of meth. The detectives also learned that Morgan, Rosemann and Mosley were operating the lab, the report continued.

The arrest report goes on to state that detectives also searched a local motel room where the trio was staying and found "further evidence of the production of methamphetamine."

7 charged in attacks on EYA workers

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Seven clients at Eckerd Youth Alternatives Inc. (EYA) have officially been charged in Tuesday's attack on two male employees.

The Dec. 9 attacks started around 8:21 a.m. when Rickie Frazier, 18, N.W. 11th Place, Fort Lauderdale, asked EYA employee Lee Thicklin, 21, for keys to a door. When Mr. Thicklin, of Clewiston, refused Frazier reportedly twice hit the man in the face with a closed fist.

Frazier was arrested on a felony charge of battery on detention staff. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$10,000.

Also arrested were: David Atwell, 18, N.W. 79th Ave., Fort Lauderdale; Latrail Jones, 18, McCray St., Fort Pierce; Tacarus Merricks, 18, French St., Fort Myers; Alton Roberts, 18, Sheridan St., Pembroke Pines; and Travis Williams, 18, N.W. Eighth Ave., Fort Lauderdale.

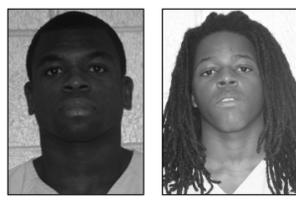
All were charged with battery on detention staff and their bonds were set at \$10,000 each. Williams, however, was charged with two counts of battery on detention staff and his bond was set at \$20,000.

A 16-year-old juvenile, Allen Eugene, was also charged with the third-degree felony. After being booked into the county jail he was taken to the Department of Juvenile Justice Detention Center in Fort Pierce.

According to an arrest report by Deputy Howard Pickering of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), once Frazier allegedly hit Mr. Thicklin, the man tried to restrain the EYA client. But at that point Williams, Roberts, Eugene, Jones and Atwell reportedly knocked the man to the ground and began to kick and hit him, the report stated.

The clients then allegedly took Mr. Thicklin's radio and log book and threw them at him, the report continued. Deputy Pickering said the radio was destroyed.

A second EYA employee, Robert Johnson, 23, of Okeechobee, tried to help his co-worker but



Rickie Frazier



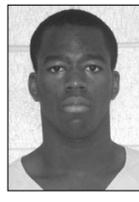
David Atwell



Latrail Jones



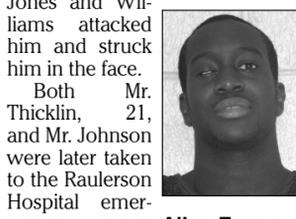
Tacarus Merricks



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Travis Williams



Allen Eugene

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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, click on the community name and your local or state Public Forum. There, you can create new topics or comment on existing topics.

What follows is a sampling of some of the discussions currently taking place. Thanks for participating!

BACK PACKS: I think the schools need to either quit making the kids take so many books home for homework or else let them use the wheeled backpacks. My fifth grader's backpack must have weighed 30 pounds the other day. I picked it up and could not believe how heavy it was. Last year he had a backpack with wheels but this year they said those are not allowed. Kids should not be carrying packs that weigh more than 25 percent of their body weight.

BAILOUT: Once upon a time a man appeared in a village and announced to the villagers that he would buy monkeys for \$10 each. The villagers, seeing that there were many monkeys around, went out to the forest and started catching them. The man bought thousands at \$10 and, as supply started to diminish, the villagers stopped their effort. He next announced that he would now buy monkeys at \$20 each. This renewed the efforts of the villagers and they started catching monkeys again. Soon the supply diminished even further and people started going back to their farms. The offer increased to \$25 each and the supply of monkeys became so scarce it was an effort to even find a monkey, let alone catch it! The man now announced that he would buy monkeys at \$50 each! However, since he had to go to the city on some business, his assistant would buy on his behalf. In the absence of the man, the assistant told the villagers: "Look at all these monkeys in the big cage that the man has already collected. I will sell them to you at \$35 and when the man returns from the city, you can sell them to him for \$50 each." The villagers rounded up all their savings and bought all the monkeys for 700 billion dollars. They never saw the man or his assistant again, only lots and lots of monkeys! Now you have a better understanding of how the Wall Street Bailout Plan will work.

BONUS: I cannot believe the head of Merrill Lynch had the gall to ask for a \$10 million bonus when his company lost millions of other people's money. Instead, he needs to work for free until he makes back all of the money to repay the investors.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN: The term African American carries important political overtones. Earlier terms used to identify Americans of African ancestry were conferred upon the group by Americans of European ancestry and were included in the wording of various laws and legal decisions which became tools of white supremacy and oppression. There developed among blacks in America a growing desire for a term of their own choosing. With the political consciousness that emerged from the political and social ferment of the late 1960s and early 1970s, the term Negro fell into disfavor among many blacks. It had taken on a moderate, accommodationist, even Uncle Tom, connotation. In this period, a growing number of blacks in the United States, particularly African-American youth, celebrated their blackness and their historical and cultural ties with the African continent. The Black Power movement defiantly embraced Black as a group identifier. It was a term social leaders themselves had repudiated only two decades earlier and a term often associated in English with things negative and undesirable, but they proclaimed, "Black is beautiful." In this same period, a smaller number of people favored Afro-American. In the 1980s the term African American was advanced on the model of, for example, German American. Jesse Jackson popularized the term, and it was quickly adopted by major media. Many blacks in America expressed a preference for the term, as it was formed in the same way as names for others of the many ethnic groups.

NAMES: I thought America was supposed to be the melting pot. It certainly worked out that way for Mr. Obama, whose mother is white and his father is black. Why do we need to use ethnic titles? Why label people as Chinese-Americans, Mexican-American or African-American. Why can't we all just call ourselves Americans? Mr. Obama is just as much white as he is black. So why do we need to call him anything else except Mr. President?

OBAMA: I did not vote for Barack Obama, but I am very pleased with his cabinet choices so far. I am pleasantly surprised. I suspect many of the liberals are also surprised, and not exactly pleasantly. If Mr. Obama keeps this up, I may be ready to vote for him in four years. I really hope that he turns out to be one of the best presidents this country has ever had, because we are in a lot of trouble and we need a great leader.

ALCOHOL: Alcohol is one of the most addictive, and destructive drugs. Yet, because it can be taxed it is legal. No jobs screen for the use of alcohol even though the effects can last days. Making it OK for a school bus driver to show up the next day hung over or even still drunk. Thousands of innocent people are killed every year from drunk driving or alcohol induced violence. Many more are effected by the addiction of a loved one. Sure, not every one who drinks is a drunk, but very few can say they have never driven after a few too many, or not done something they would have not normally done if not under the influence. I was in the Navy, and know I have. But have grown up since.

OBAMA: I can only hear this one more time before I start screaming. I don't like Barack Obama, but questioning his citizenship is ridiculous. It doesn't matter where he was born. Doesn't matter if he was born in Russia, Afghanistan, Hawaii, Florida or wherever. It doesn't matter. His mother was an American citizen therefore he is eligible to be president. It doesn't matter where he was born.

TREE HUGGERS: This is to all of those environmental people out there and the tree-huggers who want to save the trees. Why aren't they out there protesting about all of the Christmas trees they are cutting down and wasting the trees? Its just a waste of trees and once you cut them down they'll never be back again. So why aren't they protesting over cutting down the trees? They protest everything else they do.

CONSTITUTION: All I have to say is "taxation without representation." That is written in our Constitution. Think about it.

CURIOS: I was wondering, if someone puts you under an unusual amount of stress? Could you sue or take them to court?

BIBLE: I am calling concerning the person who called into the Speak Out concerning the bible. You know it doesn't really matter what that person believes or any of that, because the bible is true and its going to happen whether they say yes or no to it. But for them to say God talks of hate in the bible. I certainly would like to know where they found that. Because I've never read that. God is love, therefore he would not teach hate. This person really needs to go talk to a counselor concerning this, because they are so wrong and they are going to pay for it. The bible never lies. The bible is the only book that has withstood the world. So think about that and pray. Pray to the God of love.

MEMORIALS: I see in the news that they are already naming schools after President-elect Obama. I think it is extremely inappropriate to name something after a person who is still alive. Memorial buildings, highways or whatever should be done after a person is no longer among the living. It's just inappropriate to build memorials to someone who is still alive. When the person is still alive, you don't need a memorial to remember him.

ARREST: I recently just saw and Okeechobee man in the Port St. Lucie arrests for indecent exposure in a convenience store. When I read the article from the News Tribune then it was on the nightly news on T.V. I was just wondering, because he was already arrested for a previous offense in Okeechobee County, why wasn't that put in the paper? Was it because he had a prominent name in Okeechobee? I would just like to know, why wasn't it put in the Okeechobee arrest report? I would just like to know why that wasn't put in the paper. It might have prevented this thing from happening over there. And you don't know who is next with this guy. *Editor's note: The Okeechobee News includes all felony and DUI arrests in Okeechobee County in the arrest report. Under the Florida Statutes, indecent exposure is a misdemeanor.*

Letters to the Editor

He came to teach

"He didn't come to be taught, he came to teach us." That was the inscription on our son's memorial last month. Just 17 years old, but what a teacher he was and because of how he lived his life, those of us who knew him felt enriched and privileged to have known him. We heard those words over and over again from family, friends and even strangers - people who came up to my husband and I - people we didn't even know, but they knew our son and wanted us to know the impact he had on their lives. To all of you we say "Thank You." Thank you for sharing precious sweet memories and stories with us so that we too can cherish and remember him. He left us too early, but having the memories does help. His memory will never be forgotten as long as we continue to be kind to one another.

Our son, Blake Peirick, a junior at OHS died peacefully, yet unexpectedly in his sleep on Nov. 1, 2008 at our home. Although the loss and pain are still very raw in our hearts, we'd like to thank the community for the love they showered our family with during those days and weeks immediately following. Both of us have rather large extended families from out of state and countless neighbors and friends warmly opened their homes to them. Special thanks to Bill Brewner, Judy Hill, Pat and Susie Miller and Todd and Rachel Jones. Thank you to friends and family who simply sat with us during those first few days including his Aunt Wendi Miller, Karl and Lisa Holtkamp, Bo and Margaret Bowers and their daughter Brooke, and Mark and Cindy Brandel who also loaned us their

fifth wheel to set up in our driveway for more lodging.

Thank you to my sister, Michelle Pritchard who was a rock for us during this time and instrumental in getting Blake's Celebration of Life service set up. To her daughter, Taylor and her friend Kaylee Davis who worked so hard at scanning photos of Blake for the service. To the hundreds of people who donated toys and are still donating toys to the Blaker Toy Caper for local needy children during this Christmas Season - thank you! To Mr. Ingram's ESE classroom staff and the other outsource teachers who taught Blake this year - thank you for your compassion.

To Blake's fellow students and to the aides who assisted him in Mr Ingram's class - thank you for your love and tears on the Monday following his passing. You loved on us when we came to the High School and you shared with us so many stories that we didn't know. To Sarah Mericle and the many others who are working on getting this year's OHS yearbook dedicated in memory to Blake - your efforts are appreciated. To the Crime Watch students who presented us with a new shirt in memory of Blake, thank you for including him as your Sergeant at Arms. Thank you to the other OHS students and former teachers of Blake's going all the way back to Ace Pre-K who spoke at the service and shared their stories with us. Thank you to Kelly and Austin for being special friends to Blake.

Thank you to Pastor Huckabee for allowing the service to be held at the ROC; to Joann White and various Bible Study groups for the special pre-service dinner; to Shawna May for coordinating the

food for the service and to various Lakeport friends, and Chappy's Country Store for providing food both before and after the service. Thank you to our many neighbors, friends, co-workers and Pritchards and Associates for providing our family with food and supplies and continuing the Toy collection efforts. Special thanks to Renee Juarez, Bruce Jeffers, George and Dorothy Sweat, and Heather and Kirby Dobbs for the technical, sound equipment and video taping done at the service.

Blake used to play Upward Basketball at the ROC and although he may be best known for walking off the court during a game and sitting down in the bleachers discouraged from having the ball stolen from him. He carried many fond memories of the people who graced those floors and always encouraged him. People say he made them a better person and always looked at the bright side and tried to encourage them, well he learned that from the community to which he belonged and to all of you who played a part in his life. We thank you for the love you showed him. We miss him and we know he left the world a better place as his time here -- although short -- impacted many as he was our teacher. Another sister of mine who is also a teacher may have said it best, "as a student Blake, you passed this test with flying colors, now your reward is Heaven." Amen.

With much gratitude to our community,
Craig and Jeanette Miller

Thanks to cadets

On Saturday, Dec. 6, Okeechobee Lodge No. 237, Free and Accepted Masons hosted the District

30 meeting for the Grand Master of Masons in Florida, Most Worshipful Joe A. Fleites. It was a grand evening with Masons and their wives from every area of the State of Florida as well as out of state guests.

We were honored to have assisting us that evening the cadets of the Okeechobee High School ROTC, under the leadership of Sergeant Valerie Gibson. These students assisted in tasks including setting the tables, serving the food and cleaning up and I must tell you that they did it with enthusiasm and professionalism. The parents of each of these young men and women I am sure are bursting with pride at the accomplishments they have achieved in the spite of the adversities they have recently faced.

The Honor Guard did an outstanding presentation and posting of the American Flag and I know that each person in that room was equally impressed and full of pride as these young cadets performed their Patriotic duty.

I would like to thank these Okeechobee High School students, their leader and their Principal, Mrs. Toni Wiersma, for the outstanding manner in which they performed their duties and let the community of Okeechobee know what a wonderful impression they made on the many guests present for this function.

Sincerely,
Clifton T. "Kip" Gardner
District Deputy Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Florida, Free and Accepted Masons Past Master, Okeechobee Lodge, No. 237, F&AM

'Blaker Toy Caper' honors special young man

The community of Okeechobee is like no other. This is a place to raise our children in safety and togetherness. It is for this reason that the "Santa's Angel Network" was formed. One night Candace Burke and Matthew Buxton were discussing the amount of blessings that have been bestowed on them and their children. The discussion soon changed direction and led to the children not so fortunate and the needs that those children will have this Christmas.

Both Matt and Candy were raised here in Okeechobee and very proud of where they come from, so they wanted to help the children of Okeechobee. At first it was not known where the toys were going to come from, after all it was just an idea. It was not until the death of a very special boy, Blake Peirick, that the idea became a reality. At a memorial service for Blake, toys were collected in his memory. The "Blaker Toy Caper" was the name placed on this special event. Blake's parents, Craig and Jeanette Miller, then donated the hundreds of toys to Santa's Angel Network for distribution. Along with the Blaker Toy Caper, The Rim Ditch Toy Poker Run and Operation Home Front "Dollar Tree" have joined the network with toy contributions. The need is great this holiday season.

New unwrapped toys may be dropped off at the Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce or the Buxton Funeral Home. All toys will go to benefit the local children of Okeechobee. It is nice to think that all of this started with an idea and a very special boy that became an angel.



Submitted photo/Chamber of Commerce
Craig and Jeanette Miller (left and center-left), who recently lost their son Blake, donated hundreds of toys to Santa's Angel Network for distribution. Along with the Blaker Toy Caper, The Rim Ditch Toy Poker Run and Operation Home Front "Dollar Tree" have joined the Network with toy contributions. Unwrapped toys may be dropped off at the Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce represented by Candace Burke (center-right) or the Buxton Funeral Home represented by Matt Buxton (right). All toys will go to benefit the local children of Okeechobee.

Community Calendar

Friday, Dec. 12

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. Anyone interested in a sensible approach to losing weight and becoming a part of a caring group is welcome to come and see what we are all about. For information, contact Ollie Morgret at 800-932-8677.

Just for Today Club of Okeechobee, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee, (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **N.A.** Sickest Of The Sick 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 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, Dec. 13

Just for Today Club of Okeechobee, 101 N.W. Fifth Street Okeechobee, FL 34972 (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **A.A.** weekend noon Open Discussion; **N.A.** Sickest Of The Sick Group Step Study meeting 7 p.m.; **N.A.** Nowhere Left To Go Group (OD) 8 p.m. **The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.*

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

Sunday, Dec. 14

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, FL 34972 (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **A.A.** weekend noon meeting Open Discussion meeting. **The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.*

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

Community Events

Rodeo Team runs concession stand

The Florida High School Rodeo Team - Okeechobee Chapter will have a concession stand at the Horse and Tack Auction on Dec. 13, beginning at 11 a.m. The location is 4793 Hwy. 441 South. Barbecue pork sandwiches, hamburgers and hot dogs will be sold. Proceeds will benefit the rodeo team.

FHREDI meeting planned

A public meeting of the Board of Directors for Florida's Heartland Rural Economic Development Initiative, Inc. and Florida's Freshwater Frontier, Inc. will be held on Monday, Dec. 15 at 9:30 a.m. at the Bert J. Harris Agri-Civic Center, 4509 George Blvd. Sebring, Florida, Conference Room 2. For more information, please contact Jim Otterman at 863-385-4900.

Masonic Lodge holds breakfast

The Masonic Lodge, 107 N.W. Fifth, will hold an all you can eat breakfast on Sunday, Dec. 14, 28 and Jan. 11. The breakfast will be from 8 until 11 a.m. each morning. Cost is a \$5 donation.

Extension Service hosts Wildlife Garden Workshop

In Florida birds and butterflies abound year round. Your yard deserves its share of these beauties. Come to this Garden Workshop and learn what plants are attractive to the species you want to attract and what garden features are needed for wildlife.

During the workshop you can design your space and create a list of plants and features you want to complement your own landscape. Be sure to bring the measurements of the space you have available for wildlife. Leave with a detailed plan for your garden and a Florida Friendly Plant. The workshop will be held on Dec. 15, from 1-2:30 p.m., or 5:30-7 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Extension Service, 458 Highway 98 North, Okeechobee. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Call 863-763-6469 to sign up.

Chamber holds concealed weapons course

The Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce will hold a concealed weapons course on Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. For more information call the Chamber at 863-763-6464. Space is limited

Machine Embroidery Group meets

If you have an embroidery machine, plan to buy one or are just interested in the concept, please join us at our next meeting. It will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. in the Red Cross classroom, 323 N. Parrott Avenue. Bring a covered dish if you wish to participate in our Christmas luncheon.

Sour Orange Fest has new date

Lakeport will have the Sour Orange Festival on Saturday, Jan. 10, (new date for 2009). They are looking for vendors, volunteers, and patrons. If interested call 863-227-4323 or attend the next Lakeport Community Association meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 4, at 7:30 at the Community Center.

Chamber will be closed

The Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce will be closed on the following dates: Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve; Dec. 25 - Christmas Day; Dec. 26; Jan. 1, 2009 - New Years Day; Jan. 2, 2009. Also, there will neither be a Coffee Klatch nor General Membership luncheon for the month of December. For information call the Chamber at 863-763-6464.

Christmas turkeys available

Fully cooked whole roasted turkeys, 18-20 lbs. for \$30 each will be available at the Masonic Lodge from 9 a.m. until noon on Dec. 25. You must order and pay for the turkeys by Dec. 20, pick-up will be on Dec. 25. (Limited to the first 75 pre-paid orders.) Place orders at Porter's Cleaners, 1700 S. Parrott Ave., cash, check, VISA and MasterCard accepted. Pick up orders at Okeechobee Masonic Lodge, 107 N.W. Fifth Ave.

BHR VFD Winterfest 2009

Winterfest 2009 will be held on Jan. 31. There will be catfish, cotton candy, popcorn, crafts, music and more. For more information, call 863-532-9015 or John at 863-467-8220.

Anyone interested in renting a booth for Winterfest 2009, please call John at 863-467-8220 or 863-532-9015.

Seacoast invites children to mail letters to Santa

Children of all ages are invited to mail their letters to Santa at all Seacoast National Bank locations in Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, and Okeechobee counties through Dec. 20. For those who wish to join in the merriment, letters can be dropped off at festively flocked mailboxes located in the lobby at each branch where kids can personally mail their letters - no postage required!

Regardless of the heavy workload in Santa's workshop this time of year, each letter will receive a message from Santa sent via U.S. Post. To locate a branch location nearest you, visit www.seacoastnational.com.

Benefit Teen Dance Party planned

Come to the next "Teen Dance Party!" The party begins at the Okeechobee Civic Center on Highway 98 on Saturday, Dec. 20, from 6 until 10 p.m. The cost for entry is \$7 with all proceeds to benefit the March of Dimes - March for babies. The entry fee includes hot dog, chips and soda. For more information, please call Teresa Chandler at 863-697-6819.

YMS collecting printer cartridges

Yearling Middle School (YMS) is collecting empty printer and copy toner cartridges. They are sent in for credits that go toward school supplies to be used by all students. To donate empty printer or toner cartridges, they can be dropped off at YMS, 925 N.W. 23rd Lane or at the Stitchin' Post, 620 S. Parrott Ave. Or call Miss Webb at 863-462-5056 or Linda at 863-467-1484 for free pickup.

Cheer and dance try outs to open

Okeechobee X-Plosion All Star Cheerleading and Dance Will be holding Open Tryouts on Saturday, Dec. 20. Starting at noon-3 p.m. This is for the SENIOR team only! You must be over 12 for this particular tryout. Girls must wear black shorts, black shirts, white shoes and a black ribbon in their hair. Please contact Coach Victoria for further information 863-441-3826, xplosionallstarcheer@yahoo.com, www.xplosionallstars.weebly.com. If you are under 12 and would like more information regarding cheerleading, tumbling or dance please feel free to call! The tryout will be held at the xplosion gym on 441 S.E. behind the new carwash!

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary to do vessel exams

Okeechobee-The Lake is back and so are we. Flotilla 57 - U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary we are ready to do vessel exams. They are free and we will come to you, we make house calls. Call 863-763-9570 to make an appointment to examine your boat and get it certified with a sticker.

Low cost spay/neuter available

Low cost spay/neuter vouchers for dogs and cats. Participating veterinarians in Vero Beach. For information, call United Humanitarians Port St. Lucie volunteer: 772-335-3786. Email: Petscry1@bellsouth.net. Okeechobee veterinarians are invited to participate. In this low cost spay/neuter program.

State Veterans nursing homes

Are you a veteran in need of a nursing home or assisted living facility? The Florida Department of Veterans Affairs can help you. The Department operates five veterans nursing homes and one assisted living facility throughout the state, with a new nursing home being built near St. Augustine. The basic admission criteria for all of the facilities is an honorable discharge, Florida residency for one year prior to admission and certification of need of assisted living facility or skilled nursing care. The VA Nursing homes are located in Daytona Beach, Land O' Lakes, Pembroke Pines, Springfield (Panhandle) and Port Charlotte with the VA Assisted Living Facility being located in Lake City. For further information on VA nursing homes contact the County Veteran's Service Officer, Betsy Grinslade at 863-763-8124.

Historical Society collects info for book

Mrs. Betty Williamson, from the Historical Society is in the process of writing a book about Okeechobee Women. She is looking for all of the Speckled Perch Queens from 1968 to recent. Please call the Chamber of Commerce at 863-763-6464 or Betty Williamson at 863-763-3850 if you are able to help. The Queens will be listed in the book.

Ladies Auxiliary Spaghetti Night

The VFW Post 10539 Ladies Auxiliary will hold a Tuesday night spaghetti night. All you can eat spaghetti, garlic bread and salad for a \$5 donation. The dinner starts at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information call 863-763-2308.

Join the Red Hatters

For ladies looking for fun and meeting some new lady friends, the Red Hat Group is looking for ladies to join who want to do things. For information call 863-763-5836 or 863-357-1944.

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.

Obituaries

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

Deborah M. Bell, 54

OKEECHOBEE — Deborah M. Bell, died Monday, Dec. 8, 2008, at Raulerson Hospital. He was born Jan. 26, 1954, in Chicago, Ill., to Louis and Barbara Muys she was a homemaker of the Lutheran faith having come to Okeechobee from Wellington in 2005. She was 54.



Mrs. Bell is survived by her husband of 34 years, John W. Bell; daughter, Barbara L. Roy of Titusville; two sons, Gregory G. Bell and Anthony J. Bell both of Okeechobee; two grandsons, Slade Roy of Titusville and Cohen Bell of Okeechobee; mother, Barbara Muys of Batavia, Ill.; two brothers, Thomas Muys of Plainfield, Ill. and Jeffrey Muys of Roselle, Ill.; two sisters, Pamela Swistowitz of Burbank, Ill., and Joyce Ladewig of Batavia, Ill.

Graveside services will be 11 a.m. today at Evergreen Cemetery.

Friends may sign the guest book at www.bassoakeechobeehome.com

All arrangements are entrusted to the care of Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory. 205 N.E. 2nd St., Okeechobee.

Rex Milton Byrn, 71

OKEECHOBEE — Rex Milton Byrn, of Okeechobee, died Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2008, in Raulerson Hospital.

Born April 1, 1937 in Memphis, Tenn., he had been a resident of Okeechobee for the past 40 years. He enjoyed golf and fishing.

He is survived by his wife, Lei Byrn of Okeechobee; daughter, Regina (Tom) Knabe of Okeechobee; son, Ty Byrn (Rachel) of Okeechobee; and three grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, at 2 p.m. in the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel, 110 NE 5th St., Okeechobee.

All arrangements are under the direction and care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory.

Sign guestbooks at <http://www.legacy.com>

My Aunt's House seeks volunteers

My Aunt's House, Inc. a 501 (c) (3) organization is looking for two to three volunteers to work in our Closet any day, or days, Monday through Friday during the hours of 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. We are also looking for a volunteer to become the director and a board member of The Clothes Closet. The volunteer should communicate well with the public and should be able to seek support from city and county officials, business executives and other organizations. Work days and hours are flexible. Call 863-634-2306 for information.

Group providing animal rescue

Florida Wildlife Rescue Service of Okeechobee is currently providing rescue, pick up and transport of sick, injured, orphaned or otherwise impaired wildlife.

Anyone who finds a wild animal in need of help is encouraged to give us a call. A volunteer transporter, licensed by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, will be more than happy to help you and the animal.

This is a free service to the community and to wildlife.

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Vision Quest educational program may change

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County School Board met on Tuesday, Dec. 9, where they tabled an issue regarding the educational services at Red Road Academy after discussion between the board, administration and Vision Quest representatives.

According to the Superintendent Patricia Cooper and the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Ken Kenworthy they had been working to try to better the educational services at the facility which are contracted with the school district and Vision Quest. According to Dr. Cooper she believes it is in the best interest of the students to terminate the agreement with Vision Quest. The contract allows for termination with 30 days notice to Vision Quest.

Mr. Kenworthy explained that the district has been deemed as failing on quality assurance inspections by the state due to not having enough insight on the program to make it better. Administration at the academy has had a high turn over rate and this has made communication with the facility difficult as well.

The school board is respon-

sible for the educational services at the facility and Vision Quest is required by the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to provide classroom space for these services for their residents. Mr. Kenworthy stated that he has contacted Vision Quest three times this month and has not received any communication back.

This problem is not new as Dr. Cooper explained that there have been multiple attempts to correct the educational services from Vision Quest and there have been no results. This has been the case for at least two years.

Dr. Cooper recommended that the contract be terminated and that a new contract with G4S Youth Services, LLC be implemented for the educational services at the facility.

Vision Quest representatives stated they felt that they were not required to allow another entity to come into their facility to provide the educational services. Mr. Kenworthy has been working with DJJ and has been assured that their actions were appropriate for this situation and allowed by DJJ.

Ultimately it was agreed that the board would table the issue in order for a meeting to be held with the district, Vision Quest

and G4S Youth Services in order to come up with a transition plan and also to discuss any other alternate plans.

In other business the board approved the rescinding of a change order for the classroom addition at Osceola Middle school resulting in a deduction of \$41,479.63 which decreases the total contract amount to \$2,885,379.22.

In other business Brian Barrett, the energy manager, presented an energy management program covering the last 55 months. The cost avoidance from 2004 to the present has been \$1,383,140.37 which equals a cost avoidance of 17.71 percent. The district has been working on this cost avoidance through behavior changes that result in reductions in equipment runtimes and includes routine equipment maintenance, repair and replacement.

According to Mr. Barrett, the current year is on track to be one of the best years to date which seems to be a result from the current economy and the employees making a conscious effort to make sure they conserve energy within their school site.

They also approved an addition to policy regarding homeless students as required by Florida Statute which details definitions, rights and implementation of education in regards to homeless students.

The board also recognized

students from the Okeechobee High School Swim Team for their accomplishments as regional qualifiers and the OHS Volleyball Team for winning the district runner-up and regional quarter final championships. They also recognized the OHS Girls and Boys

Cross Country Team for state completion, becoming the Treasure Lake District and Regional Champions.

Carolyn Hubbard, paraprofessional at Everglades Elementary School was honored for her 15 years of service.

Coquina to warn against easement encroachment

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee news

The Coquina Water Control District Board of Supervisors discussed several miscellaneous items of business at their monthly meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 10.

The board discussed but took no action concerning possible pending litigation concerning various Viking property owners who feel they are exempt from paying the Coquina assessment.

Board attorney Tony Young

reported that he had received legal descriptions of property involved in a land swap with J 5 Ranch. The ranch is deeding Coquina right of way for roads along the edge of ranch property.

The attorney was directed to send registered letters to Viking property owners who have put fences and gates across Coquina easements advising them to remove these encroachments.

Drainage problems were discussed.

The board is still working

with FEMA for possible reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with damage from Tropical Storm Faye.

They also discussed the mowing contract and directed the attorney to review it for possible negotiation when it expires next year. The consensus was that no mowing would be necessary until spring.

At the next meeting, Jan. 14, 2009 the board will be looking at possible road repair projects and assessing their ability to pay for those projects.



Submitted photo

Donation to Martha's House

Members of Butch's Redneck Yacht Club donated \$3,000 to My Aunt's House "The Closet" to buy Christmas presents for 60 foster and disadvantaged children in Okeechobee. This is the fourth year the club has raised money for kids and their families through barbecues, fishing tournaments and other fund raising events. The fundraising team includes Debbie, Merrilee, Ralph And Abby. For information on club membership, please call 863-763-8262 or go to www.Butchsredneckyachtclub.com.

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Celebration honors Our Lady of Guadalupe

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be held on Friday, **Dec. 12**, at **Sacred Heart Catholic Church**, 710 S.W. Sixth St. An outdoor procession will take place in the parking lot before the 8 p.m. mass. There will be a special celebration beginning at 9 p.m. on the grounds of the church. There will be ethnic food and everyone is welcome. The annual celebration of Christmas Around the World will be celebrated on Sunday, **Dec. 21**, from 5 to 7 p.m. There will be a live nativity pageant, booths and Santa Claus, gifts for children and performances by Scottish bagpipers, Irish step dancers, Filipino performers and Mexican Serenade. Admission and parking are free. For more information call 863-763-3727.

The **First United Methodist Church**, 200 N.W. Second St., has planned holiday services. On **Dec. 14**, the Chancel Choir will present "Touched by a Child - Touched by a King" at 8 and 11 a.m. The same evening, a children's musical "Silent Night - The Birth of a Carol" will be presented at 5 p.m. with a spaghetti dinner at 6 p.m. and a youth drama "The Jingle Bell Mystery" at 7 p.m. On



Places of Worship

Dec. 24, the church will have a Christmas Eve Candle Light Service at 5 p.m. and a Contemporary Service at 7 p.m. For information call the church office at 863-763-4021 or visit the website at www.fumcokee.com

Oakview Baptist Church, 677 S.W. 32nd St., will be presenting a Christmas Cantata "Festival of Carols" on Sunday, **Dec. 14**, at 6 p.m. Oakview's senior adults will be travelling to the Broadway Palm Dinner Theater in Fort Myers on Friday, **Dec. 12**, to see Irving Berlin's "White

Christmas."

Okeechobee Community Choir, under the direction of Sandy Perry, will present its 10th annual Christmas Concert consisting of "One Incredible Moment," Handele's "Hallelujah Chorus," and other seasonal favorites, Friday and Saturday **Dec. 19 & 20**, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, **Dec. 21**, at 3 p.m. at **First United Methodist Church**, 200 N.W. Second St. The beautiful blend of 65 voices comprising this season's choir represents singers from 18 local churches: Buckhead Ridge Christian, Canal Point Baptist, Church of Our Saviour, Dunklin Memorial, First Baptist, First Baptist of Lake Josephine, First United Methodist-Okeechobee, First United Methodist-Stuart, Freedom Ranch, His House Fellowship Church of the Nazarene, KOA Community, Northside Baptist, Okeechobee Presbyterian, Peace Lutheran, Sacred Heart Catholic, Seventh-Day Adventist, St. Teresa of the Child Jesus Catholic and Westside Christian. Many selections will be accompanied on the glorious 1945 Reuter pipe organ. Soloists include: Justin Allen, Mike Brooks, Carolyn Burrell, Betty Clement, Reid & Erin Ellinger, Mary Hurley, Michael Hutchison, Kevin Kin-

naid, Lonnie Kirsch, John Olsen, Kenny Resmondo. Anton Silva, John and Chris Sufficool, Steve Walker, Steve Wegman, Kathryn Wilkinson, Victoria Williams and Mike Zierden. Michael Hayes, accompanist, Nicolle Wood, narrator, Shelia Brown, sound. A love offering will be taken. For more information call 634-7714.

The Cell Group of Okeechobee and Cell Pastors Freddy and Norma Cisneros invite everyone to a **Night of Answers, Miracles and Healing**. These special nights will be at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus, 610 S.W. Second Ave, starting at 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday. They invite

all to join them in praise and worship and listen to the word of God! For information please call 863-228-6324 or 863-228-0725. Email: ncisneros1973@hotmail.com

The Okeechobee News welcomes news from area churches for this column. Email okeeneews@newszap.com or call Pete Gawda at 863-763-3134, extension 4225.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Abandoned boats

These boats were blown ashore at Okee Tantie Campground and Marina during the 2004 hurricanes and abandoned by their owners. As a result of legal action, the county recently acquired title to the boats. They will soon be available to the highest bidder. A minimum bid will be established in an effort to recoup the county's costs which include the cost to move them to their present storage site at Okee Tantie. The successful bidder will have to move the boats from the park at their own expense.



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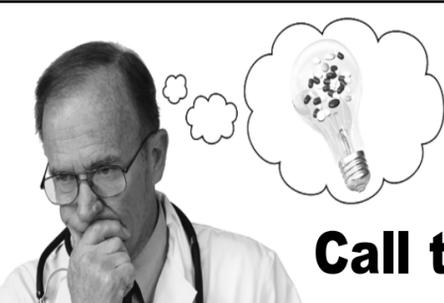
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Glades County commissioners reorganize

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Russell Echols was named Chairman of the Glades County Board of County Commissioners at their annual reorganization meeting Tuesday. Commissioner Butch Jones was elected Vice Chairman.

Commissioners also appointed Patricia Dobbins as Administrator of the Glades County Health Department. She had 18 years of experience as the executive over nursing care for the department. She noted she was very honored to be selected as the director.

Commissioner Bob Giesler said Glades County could not have made a better choice. He noted Dobbins has always been there when the County has needed her.

Ms. Dobbins said the development of a new health department

building and improving medical and health care for citizens will be her major goals.

"The Health Department and the County have a wonderful relationship. We've been trying to get a building here and we will continue that effort," she said.

The commission also approved a resolution for the Florida Department of Transportation to do some paved shoulder work on County Road 721 in Lakeport. The proposed work cannot fit on the existing county right of way. The agreement with the state will require the county to maintain the improvements. The work will include a paved shoulder along the south side of County Road 721 throughout Lakeport.

The commission also discussed a \$3,000 loan to the new Glades County Tourism Development Council. The money will be used to develop a Glades County

tourism website. The County will be repaid from bed tax revenues that are expected to generate about \$36,000 per year. The Commission tabled the matter until January so the County Attorney can check out the legal issues involved with such a loan.

The commission also appointed Bonnie Driggers, operator of the Lakeport Lodge, to the Tourism Council. She replaced Bill Redmon of the Glades Resort on the new Council.

The Florida Department of Revenue will host a seminar on Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 5:30 p.m. at the Moore Haven public library to answer questions from tourist tax collectors in the county. The seminar will explain how to collect and remit tourist development tax due to the state. The new bed tax goes into effect on Jan. 1.

The commission also authorized the Sheriffs Office to re-

place channel markers on Lake Okeechobee. FEMA gave the County \$37,500 to replace the markers in fiscal year 2005-2006. The low water on the lake prohibited the markers from being replaced. The Sheriff spent \$3,000 of the money to purchase a light for one of the channel markers. The lowest bid for the markers is \$55,000. The County agreed to take approximately \$16,500 from their boating safety fund to replace the markers.

Chief Deputy Duane Pottorff said markers are scheduled to be installed at Pearce Canal in Buckhead Ridge and in Lakeport.

Commissioner Giesler said if all the work can't be done right now, the county could give out part of the money now, and the rest when it is needed.

"If they can't do it, they can't do it, this is what they are quoting us right now," Chief Pottorff said.

Texas Aquatic Harvesting provided the quote to the County.

Commissioner Paul Beck said it appears this project should be funded by a boating safety grant. "They are going to nickel and dime us to death."

Mr. Pottorff said the longer the County waits the higher the quote will go. He noted no agency really wants to take responsibility for these markers.

Emergency Management Director Angie Snow said she intends to request more money from FEMA for several projects. She noted she can't make any promises about the success of the effort. She noted she had done this in the past and received some funds.

Pottorff said the markers are designed to hold up against a Category 3 storm.

Chairman Echols said the goal of these markers are to help boaters navigate the lake. He noted the county will save money by not having as many lost boaters on the lake.

Commissioners also voted to close county offices on Christmas Eve at noon. Non-essential em-

ployees will be off on Christmas Day and Friday, Dec. 26.

The commissioners will hold a special meeting on Dec. 18, at 11 a.m. The annual Christmas Party for Glades county employees is Dec. 18, at noon at the Doyle Center building.

The county commission hopes to award a bid for work on the Pearce Canal in Buckhead Ridge on Jan. 13. The Commission also learned the South Florida Water Management District is scheduled to vote on the U.S. Sugar buyout on Tuesday, Dec. 16.

Claudia McPherson, coordinator of Toys for Tots in Glades County is attempting to raise money to purchase bicycles for children. She noted that she has received a good response from businesses and individuals.

Commissioner Jones said Jan. 15, he will address the South West Florida Regional Planning council in Fort Myers and unveil a report on the amount of acreage in Glades County that is owned by governmental agencies.

Five Cs of Credit - Collateral

By Jon Geitner, Senior Vice President
Seacoast National Bank

In this continuing series of articles on the availability of money in today's economy, I will be discussing the second of the "5 Cs of Credit", Collateral. Probably one of the most familiar considerations to the average consumer, there are many variations a bank must consider in evaluating the appropriateness of the security for your loan.

Collateral comes in many forms. Typically, the collateral has a direct connection with the purpose of the loan such as when you borrow money to buy either a car or a boat. In both of these examples, the collateral "depreciates" or loses value over time. As such, the bank will structure the amount of the loan to try and maintain a pace equal to the value of the collateral by requiring some equity in the form of a down payment and keeping the term of the loan reasonable. For new purchases financial institutions will

ask for a copy of the purchase order to calculate equity. For used collateral your lender will refer to widely accepted knowledgeable sources of market value, such as NADA, to determine current worth. Contained in the research is a suggested loan value which the bank can then safely advance in anticipation of not allowing the loan balance to exceed the going price of the collateral.

Some forms of collateral tend to appreciate, or increase in value, such as real estate. Historically, this has generally been true, which is what makes the current economic downturn so challenging. We have seen losses in value of as much as 35 percent in the past two years. For the first time in recent memory, both equity and mortgage loans have balances larger than the underlying property is worth. This has been one of the contributing factors to the significant increase in the number of home foreclosures. As a result traditional loan to value ratios (LTV - the percentage of the value of the



loan as it relates to the value of the collateral) are decreasing. In the past, a good LTV might have been 80 percent of the appraised value where today 70 percent is being used.

Many lenders also consider the nature of the collateral as it relates to the loan. Is it a want or a need? Wants tend to be classified as boats, recreational vehicles, airplanes, ATVs, and motorcycles. These forms of collateral are usually structured with larger down payments and somewhat limited terms because they experience both rapid depreciation and limited aftermarket appeal. Other forms, such as a home or an automobile, receive more favorable

consideration and pricing because they are considered basic necessities in today's world.

Keep in mind bank's consider collateral very conservatively. It is used for leverage only as a matter of last resort when a payment is not made. No lender wishes to take the customer's possession away from them in order to liquidate it and repay the debt. It is both costly and adversely affects all parties involved. When the borrower has a stake in the game, in the form of collateral, there is a greater likelihood an earnest effort will be made to make payments, but the bank never wants to be placed in a position of having to look to the sale of that property to satisfy the obligation.

Editor's note: This column is open to submitted articles from local financial institutions. If you have a topic for an article to share your "Financial Cents," please submit by email to Okeeneews@newszap.com

Shatto promoted to Team Leader

Kathleen Shatto has been promoted to Commercial Lending Team Leader for the Big Lake Region of Seacoast National Bank which covers Okeechobee, Glades, Hendry, Hardee, Highlands and DeSoto Counties.

Ms. Shatto has been an employee of the Bank for over 11 years. For the past six years Kathleen has served as a Vice President and Commercial Lender for the Institution. In her new position, Ms. Shatto will be responsible for growing and maintaining the quality of the commercial loan portfolio within the Big Lake region markets. She will continue to originate and service all types of secured and unsecured loans personally or in conjunction with other officers; will have the responsibility to lead and manage subordinate officers' lending activities and serve as financial

counselor for business leaders in the community. She will work with the Regional President in the formation and execution of strategy to increase loan production and market share.

Her 14-year career in the banking industry is complimented by her 23-year background in the real estate appraisal profession. In 1985, she earned the senior Appraisal Institute designation SRA and was also N.J. State Certified. She holds an A.A. in Business Administration from Monmouth College, an A.S. in Financial Services from IRSC, and all six diplomas offered by the American Institute of Banking - Center for Financial Training.

Ms. Shatto is an active member of the Okeechobee community through organizational memberships and volunteer services for

several local charities and organizations. As a board member of Okeechobee Main Street, Kathleen serves as Vice President of the organization. A strong supporter of the March of Dimes, she has been named as one of the community's Top Individual Fundraisers for the past five years by the March of Dimes and is credited with organizing the Annual Bass Tournament fund raiser sponsored by the Bank to benefit the charity. Ms. Shatto is also an active member of the local American Business Women's Association (ABWA) - Women of Tomorrow Chapter here in Okeechobee and is an Inner Circle Member on the national level. She was named the 2008-2009 Chapter Woman of the Year and was recently recognized as a 2008-2009 Nominee as one of the National Top Ten Business Women for ABWA.

Kathleen is also a member of the Okeechobee Business Women's Referral Networking Group.

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Mon-Fri 9:30AM-5:30PM (863)763-8883 Saturday 9:30AM-3:00PM

If you could no longer purchase life insurance...

Would you have enough today?

THE FACTS ARE IN:
Over 60 million Americans do not have enough Life Insurance or **Do not have any** Life Insurance

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

Free Quotes Competitive Rates

Jim McInnes, Agent (863) 763-3101

Bank to offer FDIC insurance coverage regardless of dollar amount

Riverside customers benefit from FDIC's Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program

FORT PIERCE — Riverside Bank have announced that it will voluntarily participate in the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program (TLG) created by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). The TLG Program was created to strengthen confidence and encourage liquidity in the banking system. It provides full FDIC insurance coverage of all noninterest-bearing deposit transaction accounts, regardless of the dollar amount. The full coverage will last through Dec. 31, 2009.

"All deposits are FDIC insured up to the allowable limits," said Cindy Robbins, Riverside Bank President and COO. "But, the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program takes it a step further by guaranteeing the full amount of funds in noninterest-bearing deposit transaction accounts."

"The Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program is optional and not all banks will be providing the additional FDIC coverage to their customers. We have decided to participate, at no additional cost to our customers, simply because it's the right thing to do!"

The program's FDIC insurance coverage is over and above the \$250,000 in coverage already provided to customers. For example, if a customer has \$500,000 in a

noninterest-bearing transaction deposit account and \$250,000 in a certificate of deposit, the FDIC would fully insure the entire \$750,000.

Under the program, a "noninterest-bearing transaction deposit account" is defined as an account at an FDIC-insured domestic financial institution, like Riverside Bank, that does not accrue or receive interest and the institution does not require advance notice of a withdrawal. This includes ac-

counts at Riverside Bank such as the Lifetime Free Checking, Free Business Checking and NOW accounts if the interest rate remains at or below 0.50 percent. The program covers eligible accounts, regardless of ownership, including municipal, government deposits and other public funds.

For details about the FDIC's Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program, call Riverside Bank's Customer Care Center at 800-741-3283.

No hidden agenda.



Many newspaper owners have a hidden "agenda" — whether it is political, economic or to promote the publisher's cronies.

Not us. We're owned by a unique non-profit journalistic trust.

Our ONLY mission is to provide the information and understanding citizens need to make intelligent decisions about public issues. In doing so, we strive to report the news with honesty, accuracy, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.

How are we doing?

Let us know by emailing feedback@newszap.com or calling your editor.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Community Service Through Journalism

Florida Outdoors

NATURALLY...THE BEST IN R.V.'S!

- Full Line of New and Used RV's from Class A's to Light Weight Travel Trailers
- 14 Bay Service and Body Shop Center for ALL Your RV Service Needs
- Full Parts Department

TAKE A TRIP TO STUART and check us out

Bring in this ad and receive 10% off parts and service!

1160 SE Federal Highway — Stuart • 800-960-0321
www.floridaoutdoorsrv.com

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All personal items under \$5,000 ABSOLUTELY FREE!
Submit Your Free Classified Ad Today
at WWW.NEWSZAP.COM - Click on Classifieds

Published 3 weeks in all of our Florida papers: Coloosa 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

Found

CAT - White w/black markings. Found on 33rd St, Taylor Creek Isles. (863)467-1469

JACK RUSSEL MIX - Male, Not neutered. Found in vic. of Vining / The Prairie area. Call to ID. (561)779-1066

Lost

BULL - Black Angus. White on face. Approx. 1 yr. old. Lost in vic. of Quail Acres. Kids pet. (863)763-0739

Garage/Yard Sales

FREEDOM OUT-REACH MINISTRY YARD SALE
OKEECHOBEE, Sun., Dec. 14th 8am-?, 912 NW 2nd St. (2 blocks west of the Meat Shoppe on NW 2nd St.)

~HUGE SALE~
OKEECHOBEE - Sat., 12/13 & Sun., 12/14, 8am til 7. 1008 SW 2nd Ave., right behind of Lamb of God. Lots of Everything! Furniture, HH Items, Artwork, Golf Clubs, Collectibles, Etc.

Kissimmee River Est- 11 miles west on 70-17516 Brynwood Ln-Dec 11 & 12 8am-5pm- 22" & 36" TVs, digital Rcvrs,Hunt/fish equip,Trol motor,Boat seat,Clock,Fan's,Elect Appliances,Ab lounge & Much more

MULTI FAMILY YARD SALE SAT 12/13 7AM -? 405 SW 10TH AVE

OFF EAGLE BAY DR-1244 SW 24th Ave. Fri/Sat Dec 12 & 13, 8:30 am-2 pm.

OKEECHOBEE - 12/12 & 12/13, 7:30 to 12:00, Quail Acres, 11459 NE 3rd Circle, Baby items & toys, household items, boy & girl clothes, women's clothing, un-used gazebo, tools and a whole lot more!

TWO FAMILY YARD SALE-2660 SE 24th Blvd, TCI-FRI & SAT 8am-2pm-Household items, toys, Bowflex, and more.

Employment Full Time

CLASS A DRIVERS WANTED
Walpole Inc and Walpole Feed are looking for a few drivers in the Okeechobee area that are looking for more home time.
Minimum age 23, with proven history of safe OTR driving (min 1 yr)
Contact Mike Lense for details on a new and exciting driving career.
800-741-6500
or apply online
www.walpoleinc.com

Garage/Yard Sales

YARD SALE
OKEECHOBEE - Fri, Sat, Sun Dec 12th-14th, 8am-4pm, 1404 SE 7th Street. Collectible Dolls, Gift items, Treadmill, Scooter, Lots of Good stuff.

Don't Miss

This One
OKEECHOBEE - Sat. & Sun., Dec. 13th & 14th, 8am-?, 5800 S.E. Hwy. 441 - 1/4 mi. SE of Kings Bay Furniture, Household Items, Small Tools, Audio & Misc.
OKEECHOBEE - Thu-Sun, 8-5, 2380 SW 3rd Ct., HUGE, MULTI-FAMILY, Hundreds of brand new gifts in time for Christmas, Crafts, Tools, Silver, Home Decorator, Musical Instru., Games, Ant. books, Housewares, Baby.

Estate Sale

OKEECHOBEE, Fri., Sat. & Sun., Dec. 12th, 13th & 14th, 7am-4pm. 4041 SE 40th Terrace-Behind Rodney's Auction. THE SALE OF THE CENTURY! 4 Vehicles, Trailers, 7 storage sheds full! Loads of fishing gear. 5 Motorcycles (some need work). Property, 3 Mobile Homes, Jet Ski, 100's of Tools, Boat Parts., Much Much More! Bring Cash.

Park Wide Sale-Town & Country Park- 4425 Hwy 441 S. Fri & Sat Nov- 12&13

YARD SALE- 650 NW 102nd St. Behind IZZY'S Tires, Rain or Shine Fri & Sat 8am-?

YARD SALE- Fri & Sat 7Am-Noon Okeechobee Estates 1204 SE 8th Ave- Hunting, Bikes, Fishing, Golf & Family items.

YARD SALE-2001 SW 3rd Ave-Thur.Fri.Sat & Sun, 8Am-6Pm-Tools, clothes, antique barber chair & more.

Tall Guy- Secure, Profes., To meet Attractive Gal or Couples for Dining, Traveling, etc. Call (863)946-3123

LICENSED COSMETOLOGIST OR BARBER With own following needed in new shop in Okeechobee for more info call Cherl @ 467-0418 or 610-0191

Employment

200
Employment - Full-Time 205
Employment - Medical 210
Employment - Part-Time 215
Employment Wanted 220
Job Information 225
Job Training 227
Sales 230

Top Soil

JACK'S TOP SOIL Fill Dirt/Shell Rock & Bob Cat Work. Call 863-467-4734

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

Employment Full Time

CLASS A DRIVERS WANTED
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Minimum age 23, with proven history of safe OTR driving (min 1 yr)
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800-741-6500
or apply online
www.walpoleinc.com

Financial

300
Business Opportunities 305
Money Lenders 310
Tax Preparation 315

Business Opportunities

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

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

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

Services

400
Babysitting 405
Child Care Needed 410
Child Care Offered 415
Instruction 420
Services Offered 425
Insurance 430
Medical Services 435

Handyman Services

DEE'S MINOR REPAIR & Pressure Washing Cool Sealing, Painting, Carpentry & Much More! No Job Too Big or Small. (863)467-2917 or (863)261-6425 License # 5698 & #1126

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

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

Top Soil

JACK'S TOP SOIL Fill Dirt/Shell Rock & Bob Cat Work. Call 863-467-4734

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

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
Drapes, Linens & Fabrics 595
Fireplace Fixture 600
Firewood 605
Furniture 610
Furs 615

Tools

0725
CRAFTSMAN- 41 inch two piece tool box on rollers, has 14 drawers. \$500 OBO (863)634-2280

Agriculture

800
Christmas Trees 805
Farm Equipment 805
Farm Feed/Products 810
Farm Miscellaneous 815
Farm Produce 820
Farm Services Offered 825
Farm Supplies/Services Wanted 830
Fertilizer 835
Horses 840
Landscaping Supplies 845
Lawn & Garden 850
Livestock 855
Poultry/Supplies 860
Seeds/Plants/Flowers 865

Horses

HORSE & TACK AUCTION
DEC 13TH - 11A.M. SHARP
4793 Hwy 441 South-Ranch
Horses, Kids Horses, Cutting Horses Good Gentle Horses. New & Used tack
Concession Stand by: Florida High School Rodeo Team-Okeechobee Chapter For More Info Call:
Leslie (863) 634-7659

Appliances

LARGE KENMORE refrigerator-Black side by side, Indoor ice/water dispenser. \$275. (863)697-6570
Shop here first! The classified ads

Furniture

WHITE BROYHILL-BR Set, King/headboard,Dresser w/mirror,Armour \$350 for all (863)697-6570

Health & Reducing Equipment

ORBITREK ELIPTICAL- Asking \$300 OBO and a Red Ab exerciser (863)697-1247

Miscellaneous

CHRISTMAS TREE - 9 FT. Pre-lit, clear lights, excellent condition, \$100. (863)634-8124 Okeechobee

KINETICO WATER SYSTEM - Two years old New \$3500 Will sell for \$1500 OBO (863)763-7792

SILVER FOX GO CART- Fun Machine, Robin=6.5 air cooled 4 cyl, engine. ATV style suspension w/coil over-shocks, duel seat w/retractable safety belt, duel wheel torque conv drive disc brakes, brush bars , much more \$1400 (863)763-6888

BLACK & WHITE SHIH TZU PUPPIE 9 wks. old w/shots & health certificate. \$450 Must see! Call Melody @ (863)634-2110

MINI DACHSHUND PUPS - Dark brown, 2 M & 1 F. All shots/wormed. Very healthy. \$250 (863)801-6144

PURE BREAD BOXER PUPPIES- 2-White Males, 2-Fawn 1F, 1-M. Health Cert \$350. (863)634-1109

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

Television

LARGE 73" MITSUBISHI- Rear Projection bought in 2005, moved too large for living room, excellent cond, great picture & sound \$800 cash only call to see, great Christmas gift (863)801-4367

Television

0715
Join all the people who say, "I sold it in the classifieds."

Private Waterfront Rentals

From \$700 Month
* Key West 1/1 Furnished Cottage - Dade County Pine Hardwood Floors - adorable wrap around porch on TCI
* Cute 2/1 fully furnished, screen porch overlooks huge Cypress trees - Private & quiet - right on Taylor Creek
* Gorgeous setting on Taylor Creek, 2bd/2ba, fully furnished, washer dryer. Huge fenced in backyard-Concrete boat ramp.
* Beautiful sunsets with this 2/1 on wide rim canal, tile floors - washer/dryer, huge storage shed, big fenced yard. Tropical setting.
(863) 467-8683 • (772) 215-1680

Houses - Rent

0930
CBS- 2200 SW 3rd Ave. 3BR, 1BA, Near Wal-Mart, Nice yard. \$825. mo, \$2000 moves in (863)634-0512
DIXIE RANCH ACRES - 3br, 2ba, W/D hookup, \$1000/mo, 1st, last & sec. (561)723-6865
DOWN TOWN - 3500 sq. ft., 4BR, 2BA, Huge Family Rm. Water-Sewer & Garbage Pickup included. \$1000 mo. Call (863)634-7353
HOUSE - 2BR/1BA, inside city-limits, northwest section, \$600 mo., 1st & last, incl. yard & trash service. (863)467-2563
IN OKEECHOBEE CITY: 4 Br/2Ba, \$1100 mo + 1st, last, sec. & refs. Call Barry for more info. 772-216-1461
OKEE: 3/1 on 1/2 ac. Renovated, laundry, C/A/heat, screen porch, carport. \$975 mo, 1st mo. & dep. Call 305-458-8659
OKEECHOBEE - 509 NW 12th St, 3br, 2ba, recently renovated. \$800/mo. (863)634-0429 or (863)697-1426
OKEECHOBEE - New, 3br, 2ba, 2 acres in Edwards Sub Div., \$1200/mo. Call Charles (863)634-0584
OKEECHOBEE: 3br, 2ba, 1708 SW 2nd Ave. New paint, tile & carpet. Call 863-763-2416 or 863-447-0925

Office Space

0937
DOWN TOWN - 1,000 up to 3,000 sq. ft. All ready built out with offices/rooms. (863)634-7353 for details.
EXCELLENT LOCATION - 441 S. Commercial Office/Retail Space, 1154 sq. ft. Call 863-634-7728 for details.
Waterfront Rentals 0965
FULLY FURNISHED with dock, 2/2, BHR, seasonal or long term. \$700/mo. \$500 dep. Call 863-824-0981
WATERFRONT: 2BR, 1 1/2 BA Treasure Island. Fenced yd. \$765 mo. (772) 359-6584 mardevar@comcast.net.

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 1050
Out of State - Property - Sale 1055
Property Inspection 1060
Real Estate Wanted 1065
Resort Property - Sale 1070
Warehouse Space 1075
Waterfront Property 1080

Real Estate

1000
Bank Owned Land, Several parcels ranging from .5 to 40 acres call for info (561)346-5952 Carola Rathke, Keller Williams RE
CROOKED CREEK Corner Lot. 2.2 acres, \$95K OBO Call Cell 772-530-2095 or 863-467-6399

BEAUTIFUL SAMANTHA'S GARDEN APTS - In Town, 2br/2ba, W&D, \$850 mo. + \$500. sec. (863)634-5780
OKEECHOBEE, 2br, 1ba, Near town. \$825 mo. inclds water. Annual Lease. Call Kelly 863-697-1339
SPECIAL-MOVE-IN, 1/2 Month Rent for 1st Month w/\$500 Sec. 2/1,5 carpet, tile, fence- 1blk N. of Wal-Mart. (863)763-8878
CONDOS/TOWNHOUSES RENT 0920
DUPLIX in BHR, 800 Sq Ft- 1/1 Extr bk rm \$495/mo.Oncel lawn maint.(954)290-1861
KING'S BAY, 2/1, Pool, Tennis, new tile flrs., etc. \$750 mo. + sec. Water & Cable included. 863-697-6428
OAK LAKE VILLAS #17- 2/2, lg bdrms, W&D incld, \$800/mo, 1st, last & \$500 sec. (863)467-5965
OKEE BEST DEAL 2 BR, 2 BA, Liv. & Din. Rm., Util. Rm. w/hook ups & storage cabinets. Patio. Privacy fence. FREE trash & Lawn maintenance. No pets. \$690 mo. + \$500 dep. Call (417)848-3424

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Land - Sale

1040
VOLUSIA CTY- 82 Acres, great location, walk to intra-coastal, zoned C2 & R3, \$4M Carola Rathke Keller Williams 561-346-5952 Realty

Real Estate

1065
Trade - Newer 3/2/2 Downtown Stuart 1 mi. to beaches for house, barn & 2+ acres near Okee. (772)463-6630

Mobile Homes

2000
Mobile Home - Lots 2010
Mobile Home - Parts 2015
Mobile Homes - Rent 2015
Mobile Homes - Sale 2020

Mobile Home - 2005
Lot for Rent- 75 X 110 Mobile home lot, 4415 SE 23rd Ct, Okeechobee \$181.90 month (863)763-4892 or (863)763-5419 Anytime

Mobile Home

2015
Dew Drop Inn-Adult park-DWMH- 3/2 12x26 screen room, 20x26 carport, cent A/C/Heat, incl appl, unfurnished. \$900 mo.includes water/sewer,

Public Notice 5005 Public Notice 5005

AMENDED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE BY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, SHARON ROBERTSON, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Okeechobee County, Florida, will on the 31st day of December, 2008, at 11:00 A.M., at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 Northwest 3rd Street, Jury Assembly Room, Second Floor, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, in the City of Okeechobee, offer for sale and sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash, the following described property situated in Okeechobee County, Florida, to-wit:

THE EAST 1/2 OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF TRACT 2, SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH, RANGE 33 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 3A-D. INCLUSIVE OF THE OKEECHOBEE COUNTY PUBLIC RECORDS, SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT OF THE SOUTH 30 FEET THEREOF FOR ROAD AND DRAINAGE PURPOSES.

TOGETHER WITH A 2000 DOUBLE WIDE MOBILE HOME, BEARING VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS: 9P610235MA AND 9P610235MB

pursuant to the final decree of foreclosure entered in a case pending in said Court, the style of which is:

SEACOAST NATIONAL BANK, Plaintiff, vs. DENNIS RIMES and KAREN RIMES, his wife, Defendants.

and the docket number of which is: 2008-CA-387

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

Witness my hand and the official seal of said Court, this 8th day of December, 2008.

SHARON ROBERTSON, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Okeechobee County, Florida. By: Sandra Grech DEPUTY CLERK

Law Office of Cassels & McCall John D. Cassels, Jr., Esquire Post Office Box 968 Okeechobee, Florida 34973 303806 ON 12/12,19/08

AMENDED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE BY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, SHARON ROBERTSON, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Okeechobee County, Florida, will on the 31st day of December, 2008, at 11:00 A.M., at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 Northwest 3rd Street, Jury Assembly Room, Second Floor, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, in the City of Okeechobee, offer for sale and sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash, the following described property situated in Okeechobee County, Florida, to-wit:

THE EAST 1/2 OF LOT 10 AND ALL OF LOTS 11 AND 12 OF BLOCK 215, FIRST ADDITION TO OKEECHOBEE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, PAGE 6, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

TOGETHER WITH: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 12, BLOCK 215, FIRST ADDITION TO OKEECHOBEE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, PAGE 6, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND RUN EAST A DISTANCE OF 35 FEET TO THE CENTER OF CHEROKEE STREET, NOW CLOSED BY CITY ORDINANCE; THENCE RUN SOUTH ALONG THE CENTER OF CHEROKEE STREET A DISTANCE OF 145 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE NORTH BOUNDARY OF 4TH STREET; THENCE RUN WEST, ALONG THE NORTH BOUNDARY OF 4TH STREET, TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 12; THENCE RUN NORTH ALONG THE EAST BOUNDARY OF SAID LOT 12 TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

AND:

LOTS 1 AND 2, BLOCK 216, FIRST ADDITION TO OKEECHOBEE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, PAGE 6, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

pursuant to the final decree of foreclosure entered in a case pending in said Court, the style of which is:

SEACOAST NATIONAL BANK, as successor by merger to BIG LAKE NATIONAL BANK, Plaintiff, vs. ESTATE OF RUSSELL HOUSTON BARBER, a/k/a R.H. BARBER, Deceased, Defendant.

and the docket number of which is: 2008-CA-348

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

Witness my hand and the official seal of said Court, this 8th day of December, 2008.

SHARON ROBERTSON, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Okeechobee County, Florida. By: Sandra Grech DEPUTY CLERK

Law Office of Cassels & McCall John D. Cassels, Jr., Esquire Post Office Box 968 Okeechobee, Florida 34973 303801 ON 12/12,19/08

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LOT 16, BLOCK 10, ORANGE BLOSSOM RANCHES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 9, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

pursuant to the final decree of foreclosure entered in a case pending in said Court, the style of which is:

SEACOAST NATIONAL BANK, Plaintiff, vs. CHRISTY N. HARDEN Defendant.

and the docket number of which is: 2008-CA-347

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

Witness my hand and the official seal of said Court, this 8th day of December, 2008.

SHARON ROBERTSON, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Okeechobee County, Florida. By: Sandra Grech DEPUTY CLERK

Law Office of Cassels & McCall John D. Cassels, Jr., Esquire Post Office Box 968 Okeechobee, Florida 34973 303806 ON 12/12,19/08

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and the docket number of which is: 2008-CA-347

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and the docket number of which is: 2008-CA-347

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Law Office of Cassels & McCall John D. Cassels, Jr., Esquire Post Office Box 968 Okeechobee, Florida 34973 303806 ON 12/12,19/08

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No. 2008-CA-489

SAMMY HANCOCK, Plaintiff,

vs. **CABERNET I, LLC, a Florida Corporation, BETTY JO MARTIN, FIRST FIDELITY SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, a Florida Corporation, BANK ONE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, a Florida Corporation, VARNETT BANK OF OKEECHOBEE, n/k/a BANK OF AMERICA, METROPOLITAN MORTGAGE COMPANY, a Florida Corporation, PARRISH SEPTIC TANK, INC., and as to each of the foregoing persons, if alive or deceased, their unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, and all other parties claiming by, under or against these Defendants.**

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: BETTY JO MARTIN; FIRST FIDELITY SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, a Florida Corporation; and BANK ONE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, a Florida Corporation.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action for quiet title of the following described property:

Parcel Identification Number "1-20-37-35-0A0000012000" Beginning at the NE Corner of the SE 1/4 of NE 1/4 of NE Section 20, Township 37 South, Range 35 East, Run South a distance of 195 feet, Thence run West a distance of 177 feet, Thence run North a distance of 165 feet, Thence run East a distance of 177 feet to the Point of Beginning. Less and except a strip of land 15 feet wide on the East and South sides thereof, which is reserved for road purposes.

has been filed against you and your are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, to it on Sammy Hancock, c/o 1138 South Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34974 and file the original with the Clerk of the above styled Court within thirty (30) days from the date of the first publication, otherwise a judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Witness my hand and the seal of said Court on this day of 2008.

SHARON ROBERTSON, Clerk of Circuit Court By: /s/ Linda F. Young Deputy Clerk

302618 ON 12/5,12,19,26/2008

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION

NATIONAL CITY BANK, AS SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO HARBOR FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK, Plaintiff,

vs. CASE NO. 08 556 CA UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, TRUSTEES OF MARY J. GILL, DECEASED; DEKL W. BROCK, HEIR; DEKL W. BROCK, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF MARY J. GILL; DAVID B. GILL, HEIR; KATHERINE SIMMONS, HEIR; MARY CRUZ, HEIR; MARTHA ALLEN, HEIR; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF MARTHA ALLEN; IF LIVING, INCLUDING ANY UNKNOWNSPOUSE OF SAID DEFENDANT(S), IF REMARRIED, AND IF DECEASED, THE RESPECTIVE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANT(S); UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2; Defendant(s)

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, TRUSTEES OF MARY J. GILL, DECEASED; MARY CRUZ, HEIR; IF LIVING, INCLUDING ANY UNKNOWNSPOUSE OF SAID DEFENDANT(S), IF REMARRIED, AND IF DECEASED, THE RESPECTIVE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANT(S); UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2; Defendant(s)

Whose residence are/is unknown.

YOU ARE HEREBY required to file your answer or written defenses, if any, in the above proceeding with the Clerk of this Court, and to serve a copy thereof upon the plaintiff's attorney, Law Offices of Daniel C. Consuegra, 9204 King Palm Drive, Tampa, FL 33619-1328, telephone (813) 915-8660, facsimile (813) 915-0559, within 30 days of date of first publication, the nature of this proceeding being a suit for foreclosure of mortgage against the following described property, to-wit:

LOT 28B, FOUR SEASONS ESTATES, AN UNRECORDED PLAT OF PART OF SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 27 SOUTH, RANGE 36 EAST, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE 1/4 SECTION CORNER OF THE WEST BOUNDARY LINE OF SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 27 SOUTH, RANGE 36 EAST, RUN THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 24'08" EAST ALONG THE 1/4 SECTION LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 1905.30 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A POINT ON THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF FOUR SEASONS DRIVE; THENCE RUN NORTH 0 DEGREES 04'22" EAST PARALLEL WITH THE WEST BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID SECTION 17, AND ALONG THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF FOUR SEASONS DRIVE A DISTANCE OF 1388.00 FEET, THENCE RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 24'08" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 100.00 FEET, THENCE RUN SOUTH 0 DEGREES 04'22" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 100.00 FEET, THENCE RUN NORTH 0 DEGREES 04'22" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 100.00 FEET, THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 24'08" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 100.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE PARCEL HEREIN DESCRIBED.

THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PARCEL IS ALSO KNOWN AS LOT 28B OF AN UNRECORDED PLAT OF A PART OF SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 27 SOUTH, RANGE 36 EAST, LYING AND BEING IN OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

To include a:

1988 Merritt Livestock Trailer, VIN TW3642581A4 and 46191070

1988 Merritt Livestock Trailer, VIN TW3642581A4 and 46197824

A/K/A

7065 NE 11TH LANE OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974

If you fail to file your answer or written defenses in the above proceeding, on plaintiff's attorney, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or Petition. DATED AT OKEECHOBEE COUNTY this 8th day of December, 2008.

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: /S/ LINDA F. YOUNG Deputy Clerk

NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED ZONING RECLASSIFICATION

NOTICE: A PUBLIC HEARING will be held before the City of Okeechobee Planning Board/Board of Adjustment and Appeals on **Thursday, December 18, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.** or as soon thereafter as possible. The meeting will be held at City Hall, 55 Southeast 3rd Avenue, in the Council Chambers, Room 200, Okeechobee, Florida.

To consider a request to change the zoning district from Residential Multiple Family (RMF) to Commercial Professional Office (CPO) for Petition No. 08-011-R. The petition is being submitted by Muhammad Nooruddin on behalf of property owner(s) A.M.S.A. Holdings, LLC. The property is located at 111 Northeast 11th Street.

Legal description: Lots 17 to 19 of Block 18, Okeechobee, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 10 Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida, and is approximately 0.488 acres.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained from the City website www.cityofokeechobee.com, or contact the General Services Department, bclement@cityofokeechobee.com, (863) 763-3372 x 218. A copy of the entire application(s) is available at the General Services Department. The Planning Board will make recommendations to the City Council for consideration and final adoption tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 2009.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that if any person desires to appeal any decision made by the Planning Board/Board of Adjustments and Appeals with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, or hearing will 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. Media are used for the sole purpose of back-up for the General Services 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 Betty Clement, no later than two (2) working days prior to the proceeding at 863-763-3372 x 218; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call TDD 1-800-955-8770 (voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TTY).

By: Brian Whitehall, Zoning Administrator

Petition No. 08-011-R

302919 ON 12/3,12/08

NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED ZONING RECLASSIFICATION

NOTICE: A PUBLIC HEARING will be held before the City of Okeechobee Planning Board/Board of Adjustment and Appeals on **Thursday, December 18, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.** or as soon thereafter as possible. The meeting will be held at City Hall, 55 Southeast 3rd Avenue, in the Council Chambers, Room 200, Okeechobee, Florida.

To consider a request to change the zoning district from Commercial Professional Office (CPO) to Public Facilities (PUB) for Petition No. 08-008-R. The petition is being submitted by Colin Cameron, Attorney for ARC/Okeechobee Rehabilitation, on behalf of property owner(s) Okeechobee County. The property is located at 403 Northwest 2nd Avenue.

Legal description: Lots 7 to 12, inclusive, and the South 47 feet of Lots 1 to 6, inclusive, plus alleyway lying within the block, of Block 107, Okeechobee, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 5, Page 5 Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida, and is approximately 1.425 acres.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained from the City website www.cityofokeechobee.com, or contact the General Services Department, bclement@cityofokeechobee.com, (863) 763-3372 x 218. A copy of the entire application(s) is available at the General Services Department. The Planning Board will make recommendations to the City Council for consideration and final adoption tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 2009.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that if any person desires to appeal any decision made by the Planning Board/Board of Adjustments and Appeals with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, or hearing will 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. Media are used for the sole purpose of back-up for the General Services 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 Betty Clement, no later than two (2) working days prior to the proceeding at 863-763-3372 x 218; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call TDD 1-800-955-8770 (voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TTY).

By: Brian Whitehall, Zoning Administrator

Petition No. 08-008-R

302917 ON 12/3,12/08

NOTICE OF HEARING Okeechobee County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate

The Okeechobee County Special Magistrate will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, December 16, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. The public meeting will be held at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, located at 1728 N.W. 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida. For more information, contact Faye Huffman at the Planning and Development department, 499 N.W. 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, (863) 763-5458 ext. 3001.

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

Faye Huffman, Secretary to the Code Enforcement Special Magistrate

303724 ON 12/12,14/08

NOTICE OF CITY PLANNING BOARD MEETING

NOTICE: The City of Okeechobee Planning Board will meet as the Local Planning Agency on **Thursday, December 18, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.** or as soon thereafter as possible, to consider any proposed amendments, submitted by City Staff or citizens, to the adopted City Comprehensive Plan, which may include amendments to the adopted Land Development Regulations (LDR's). All amendments are forwarded with a recommendation, to the City Council for final consideration. The meeting will be held at City Hall, 55 Southeast 3rd Avenue, in the Council Chambers, Room 200, Okeechobee, Florida.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained from the City web site www.cityofokeechobee.com or contact the General Services Department, bclement@cityofokeechobee.com, (863) 763-3372 x 218.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that if any person desires to appeal any decision made by the Planning Board with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, or hearing will 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. General Services media are used for the sole purpose of back-up for the department.

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 Betty Clement, no later than two (2) working days prior to the proceeding at 863-763-3372 x 218; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call TDD 1-800-955-8770 (voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TTY).

By: Brian Whitehall, Zoning Administrator

302911 ON 12/3,12/08

NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENTS

NOTICE: A PUBLIC HEARING will be held before the City of Okeechobee Planning Board/Board of Adjustment and Appeals on **Thursday, December 18, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.** or as soon thereafter as possible. The meeting will be held at City Hall, 55 Southeast 3rd Avenue, in the Council Chambers, Room 200, Okeechobee, Florida.

To consider a request for a Comprehensive Plan Small Scale Future Land Use Map Amendment Application No. 08-007-SSA. The application is submitted by Muhammad Nooruddin, on behalf of property owner(s) A.M.S.A. Holdings, LLC. The application is to change the Future Land Use designation from Multi-Family (MF) to Commercial (C) for property located at 111 Northeast 11th Street.

Legal description: Lots 17 through 19 of Block 18, Okeechobee, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 5, Page 5 Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained from the City website www.cityofokeechobee.com, or contact the General Services Department, bclement@cityofokeechobee.com, (863) 763-3372 x 218. A copy of the entire application(s) is available at the General Services Department. The Planning Board will make recommendations to the City Council for consideration and final adoption tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 2009.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that if any person desires to appeal any decision made by the Planning Board with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, or hearing will 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. General Services media are used for the sole purpose of back-up for the department.

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 Betty Clement, no later than two (2) working days prior to the proceeding at 863-763-3372 x 218; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call TDD 1-800-955-8770 (voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TTY).

By: Brian Whitehall, Zoning Administrator

Application No. 08-007-SSA

302916 ON 12/3,12/08

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD POLICY

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the Okeechobee County School Board will consider adoption of the School Board policy listed below at its meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2009, at 6:00 p.m., in Room 303 of the School Board Administrative Office at 700 S.W. Second Avenue, Okeechobee. Copies of the proposed policy amendment are available in the School Board Office located at 700 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Room 303.

ADOPTION OF BOARD POLICY 5.27 - Homeless Students

1. This policy sets forth guidelines for identifying homeless students and providing them access to free public education, the opportunity to meet local and state academic achievement standards, and inclusion in state and district assessments and accountability systems.

2. Adoption of this policy is required by Florida Statute.

3. The legal authority for this policy is FS. 1001.41, 1001.42, and 1003.21. Laws implemented are FS. 1000.21, 1001.43, 1003.01, 1003.21, and 1003.22. And No 4. Child Left Behind Act of 2001, PL. 107-110.

This policy amendment will not affect individuals from an economic standpoint.

Patricia G. Cooper, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools

302542 ON 12/12/08

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 2008-CC-206

PATRICIA DURRANCE, as Manager of TOWN AND COUNTRY MOBILE HOME PARK, Plaintiff,

vs. **DONALD PETERS and FREDERICK PETERS, Defendants.**

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO DEFENDANTS, DONALD PETERS and FREDERICK PETERS:

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Eviction, Back Rent, and Damages concerning the following property in Okeechobee County, Florida:

Town and Country Mobile Home Park Lot 5 4425 SW Highway 441 South Okeechobee, Florida 34974

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Jeffrey A. Faddy, PA., the plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 8807 South West 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34974, on or before 12/24/2008, 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 or petition.

DATED on November 18, 2008.

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK By: /s/ Stasia L. Rhoden Deputy Clerk

301484 ON 11/21,28,12/05,12/08

NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED SPECIAL EXCEPTION

NOTICE: A PUBLIC HEARING will be held before the City of Okeechobee Planning Board/Board of Adjustment and Appeals on **Thursday, December 18, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.** or as soon thereafter as possible. The meeting will be held at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Avenue, in the Council Chambers, Room 200, Okeechobee, Florida.

To consider Special Exception Petition No. 08-012-SE, submitted by Kendall S. Phillips, Engineer for MidFlorida Credit Union, on behalf of property owner(s), Brothers Two Developers, Inc., to allow a Drive-through service within a Heavy Commercial Zoning District (Ref. Code Book Section 90-283(1)).

Property is located at 1100 South Parrott Avenue. Legal description: Lots 1 to 3 and 7 to 9 of Block 16, South Okeechobee, and is approximately 0.98 acres.

A copy of the entire application(s) and agenda are available in the General Services Office, RM 101 at City Hall or by calling Betty Clement at (863) 763-3372 x 218. Please be advised that the Board of Adjustment and Appeals will serve as the decision making body (quasi-judicial), on behalf of the City, to approve or deny Special Exception Petitions.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that if any person desires to appeal any decision made by the Board of Adjustments and Appeals with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, or hearing will 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. General Services media is for the sole purpose of back-up for official records of the department.

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 Betty Clement, no later than two (2) working days prior to the proceeding at 863-763-3372 x 218; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call TDD 1-800-955-8770 (voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TTY).

By: Brian Whitehall, Zoning Administrator

Petition No. 08-012-SE

302920 ON 12/3,12/08

NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED ZONING RECLASSIFICATION

NOTICE: A PUBLIC HEARING will be held before the City of Okeechobee Planning Board/Board of Adjustment and Appeals on **Thursday, December 18, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.** or as soon thereafter as possible. The meeting will be held at City Hall, 55 Southeast 3rd Avenue, in the Council Chambers, Room 200, Okeechobee, Florida.

To consider a request to change the zoning district from Residential Multiple Family (RMF)

Christian Team Trail fishing tournament held

By Teresa Mataushek
Okeechobee News

The Christian Team Trail monthly fishing tournament was held at Okee-Tantie on Saturday, Dec. 6 where they had quite a turnout. There was a total of 34 boats entered in the tournament.

Bill Rose and Craig Smith were this month's lucky winners, coming in first place with a total fish weight of 9.74 lbs. They were followed close behind in second by Leroy Bauer and Joe Wozar with

a total weight of 9.58 lbs.

Coming in third place with a total weight of 7.87 lbs. was Frank Boyer and Al Reed who were followed by Bob Owens and Fred George in fourth place with a total weight of 7.56 lbs; Ken Barber and John Barber in fifth place with a total weight of 6.90 lbs. and trailing in sixth place was the team of Jim Wilson and Danny Norton with a total weight of 6.17 lbs.

Big fish winners this month were Bill Rose in first place with

a big fish weighing in at 4.26 lbs. and second place for big fish went to Robert Burns and Dennis Burns with a weight of 3.98 lbs.

The endurance award went to Dave Stout and Geary Adams which gains them free entry into next month's tournament which will be held on Jan. 3, 2009.

The Christian Team Trails

holds a monthly tournament on the first Saturday of each month at Okee-Tantie. Cost is \$75 per boat. You can register at Oakview Baptist Church office before the tournament or at Okee-Tantie the day of the tournament. All tourna-

ments begin at safe light.

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 faxed to 863-763-5901. Refer all material to Teresa Mataushek.

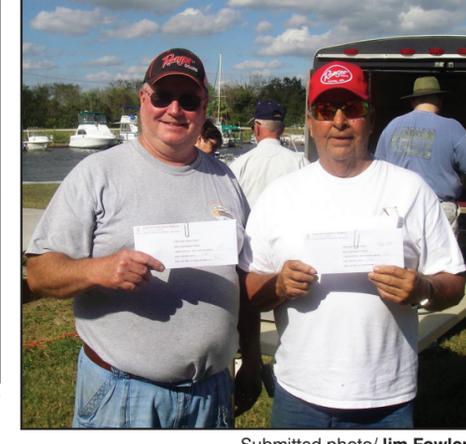


Outdoors

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



Submitted photo/Jim Fowler
Bill Rose was the 'Big Fish' winner at the Christian Team Trail fishing tournament held on Saturday, Dec. 6 at Okee-Tantie. His big fish weight was 4.26 lbs.



Submitted photo/Jim Fowler
Bill Rose and Craig Smith came in first place at the Christian Team Trails fishing tournament held on Saturday, Dec. 6 at Okee-Tantie. They had a total fish weight of 9.74 lbs.



Submitted photo/Captain Michael Shellen
Barbara Baker and her Grandson Chad from Okeechobee, went out with Captain Michael Shellen on Lake Okeechobee on Nov. 15, for Chad's 16th birthday in the hopes that Chad would catch a big bass. All together they caught 11 bass on Wild Shiners; however, Barbara was the one to catch the big bass. First she caught a 7 pound Bass and on the next cast she caught this beautiful 8 pound 1 ounce Bass, it was a great day! Have you recently caught a prize fish? Want to show the community about it? Email it to tmataushek@newszap.com and look for it in the 'Outdoors Column' on Fridays or bring it in to the Okeechobee News office.

OHS boy's hoops hold off Suncoast

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

David Jeune had 20 points and 14 rebounds to lead the Okeechobee High School Boys Basketball Team to a victory Tuesday night and impress a recruiter from Mercer University.

Okeechobee and Okeechobee needed every point as they held off a stubborn Suncoast squad, 57-55, to win their first district game of the year.

Coach Jon Enrico said he was disappointed in the team's recent efforts but said the team really showed what they were made of on Tuesday, "I was expecting more from them than they were ready to give. Defense is just heart and hustle. Everybody has heart and hustle," he said.

Okeechobee didn't score much down the stretch but they didn't have to. Corey White, 10 points, took an offensive charge, and deflected a Suncoast shot in the final minute to keep Okeechobee in front.

Duelle Gore had some big buckets down the stretch when Okeechobee needed the points. "We needed baskets and my teammates made big passes to me. I got open when we needed me," he said.

Okeechobee led 10-4 early thanks to five early points from White. Suncoast rallied to take an 11-10 lead, but Okeechobee responded with buckets from Jeune, Troy Harper and Ryan Osceola as they built an 18-11 lead after one quarter.

Two, three pointers by Jeune and Austin Willard built the lead to 25-17 midway through the second quarter and a dunk by Jeune gave Okeechobee a 32-21 lead. Suncoast scored the final six points of the half to trail only by five, 32-17, at the break.

It was back and forth in the second half. Okeechobee built a six point lead, 38-32, after a nice scoop by Willard, but Suncoast rallied to take a 47-44 lead on a three point basket. Harper's three

point field goal tied the score at the end of three, 47-47.

Defense was the name of the game in the fourth quarter. A three by Jeune gave Okeechobee a 54-49 lead with 5:45 left in the game. However the Brahms couldn't close out the game. The Brahms missed four free throws in the final minute to allow Suncoast a chance to tie or go ahead. That's when the defense made a play.

"We had to pick it up on defense," Gore said, "We acted like

that is the only reason were going to win games."

Enrico said he was frustrated by the missed free throws but that he'll continue to work in practice with the team. He noted the players must run, and do push ups and other exercises, when they miss free throws.

"Our motto is heart, hustle and have fun. Hopefully we can turn the corner now," he noted.

Okeechobee travels to Forest Hill on Friday. The Junior Varsity Brahms lost 51-41 to Suncoast.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Ryan Osceola drives to the basket during Tuesday's game with Suncoast.

Yearling pounds Moore Haven

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Time and time again during the first half of Wednesday's game between Yearling and Moore Haven, Yearling would get an easy opportunity at a basket. They executed more than their share of those opportunities and went on to defeat the Terriers, 44-13.

Center Alejandro Diaz had a field day as he grabbed rebounds and blocked Moore Haven shots. His outlet passes led to easy opportunities for Joey Santibanez, a game high 13 points, and Lavonte Spivey on the fast break.

Coach Lance Sluder said he got great efforts from all his starters and his bench players. "I was pleased with their effort," said the coach. "I hope they can carry the momentum into their next game on Monday against Osceola."

The Warriors visit the Year-

ling gym Monday for the first of two meetings between the two schools this season. The girl's game begins at 4:30 and the boy's game around 6 p.m.

Athletic Director Dylan Tedders said the teams are looking forward to the matchup with their cross town rival, "It should be a big game for us."

Moore Haven just didn't have the size and strength to deal with the Yearlings. They fell behind early, 10-2 and couldn't dig themselves out of that hole.

Yearling led 13-4 after one quarter and led by Diaz, four blocked shots, totally shut down Moore Haven's offense. A three pointer by J.T Osceola gave Yearling an 18-6 lead midway through the second quarter and they never trailed by fewer than double digits for the remainder of the game.

Diaz had a big game inside with double digit rebounds and blocked shots.

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NEW LISTING!
4001-M Buckhead Ridge lake access Mobile home with attached screened room. Nice and **\$98,000 MLS# 201911**

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5033-H Dark Hammock 2-story on 78+/- acres...over 4000 sq ft. large brick fireplace, barn/stable w/ tack & feed room...RV hook up...ponds, walk up attic, covered patio and porch, equestrian wash area. **MLS# 200344**

5037-H 3/2 CBS home w/ attached garage located in Basswood. Well taken care split bedroom plan, new water system, and pave driveway, appliances included. **MLS# 201827**

5043-M 4-Seasons MH on 1 fenced acre. 3/2 with fireplace, large screened rear porch, circle driveway, large garage/ workshop and upstairs storage. **MLS# 201860**

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ADORABLE ONE ROOM WINTER WEEKEND RETREAT. large corner lot with a beautiful view of the water and many trees. It has a nice carport. **MLS #200971, \$85,000.** Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.

NICE COUNTRY LIVING Bring your horses and have fun. Property has large extra lot. Main yard is fenced in. Beautiful grandfather oaks and many other trees. Plenty of storage space. **YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS OUT ON THIS ONE. PRICED TO SELL!!!!** **MLS #200723, \$175,000.** Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.

WATERFRONT BEAUTIFUL FULLY UPGRADED DWMH. Pella Windows with 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.

RIVER AND LAKE ACCESS Very nice well-kept DWMH on a canal that goes directly to the Kissimmee River. Well-established park. Close to town but not too close. Country living at its best. **MLS #200067, \$125,000.** Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.

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5+ acres w/2 CBS homes, beautifully maintained, 1 duplex/ 2 mobile homes. Property is truly paradise. Beautiful trees. Let the rentals help make YOU money. Call for your appointment! **#200864 \$1,250,000 #200864**

"WHAT A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE!"
2/2 DWMH in Seminole Cove. This place is bright and cheery with an open concept. Property also has a storage building. Community amenities include pool, clubhouse and free RV or boat storage. Easy to show. **#201397 \$83,900**

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This 3-2 mobile is just waiting for you. Great curb appeal, fenced with a 40 x 20 carport and 2 sheds. The inside has a split plan with the master suite having a garden tub. **(201365) \$112,500**

"TIDY ON TAYLOR CREEK"
Lovely 1991 Jacobson DWMH shows nicely, it is 3 BR, 2 BA, has a lovely Florida room with a sauna. It is furnished very well, and maintained in a great condition. **#200374 \$170,000**

"MOSTLY FURNISHED"



Submitted photo

Coaches appreciated

O.C.R.A. held the end of the year cheer celebration on Dec. 6. Coaches, Teresa Chandler-OCRA Cheer Coordinator, Stephanie Michell, Courtney Coyer, Marci Weseman, Amy Smith-Asst. Cheer Coordinator, Sharon Cannon, Jennifer Laforty, Jessica Douglas and Savanna Hunter from each team that participated were awarded a plaque as a show of appreciation. O.C.R.A. is a volunteer organization to benefit our youth and our coaches play an important role. Thank you to all who helped out!

Boys soccer wins at Martin County

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee High School's boys soccer team got a badly needed win Monday when they defeated the always tough Martin County Tigers 4-3 in Stuart.

Okeechobee had played two disappointing district games last week, losses to Suncoast and Forest Hill, and needed the win to get their team back on track.

Alan Najera had two goals for Okeechobee, (5-2-1). Eddie Guerrero had two assists. Marcos

Fonseca and Javier Garcia also had goals for Okeechobee. Goal keeper Pablo Caballero had three saves in net.

Sergio Solis had two goals and Jean Mino one goal for Martin County (3-7-1). Goal keeper Eduardo Sandoval stopped eight Brahman shots on net.

Coach Lonnie Sears said his team did a better job in reducing mental mistakes. He noted once they get those things out of the way, they should be unbeatable. "It was exciting, but we are

still making a lot of mistakes. The positive thing is we rallied. We scored two late goals to win the game," he noted.

Okeechobee scored two goals in the final 10 minutes of the match. Sears noted Martin County was very competitive. They have played very close matches this year. They only lost 2-1 to Wellington, which is considered one of the best teams in the area this year.

"They have skills and have played some top teams. They

were a good test," Sears said. Okeechobee is off until next Tuesday when they host district title contender Jensen Beach in Okeechobee.



Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsen

Breakaway Roping

Maci Culligan was among the contestants in the Florida High School Rodeo competition at the old Okeechobee Cattlemen's Rodeo Grounds on U.S. 441 N. on Saturday. High school teams from all over the state participated. For some short videos from the rodeo online, go to www.newszap.com, click on "Okeechobee" and then on "local issues."

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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.

Wade B. Harrouff, D.D.S.
License #DN10761

Graduate 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.

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

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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<p>'07 FORD TAURUS SE</p> <p>\$12,395</p> <p><small>TUNGSTEN CLEARCOAT, SPLIT BENCH, FULL PWR., TILT/CRUISE, 3.0L V6, 27 MPG HIGHWAY, #P3375</small></p>	<p>'05 FORD RANGER SC XLT</p> <p>\$13,895</p> <p><small>3.0L V6 AUTO., 30K MILES, HUGE VALUE! #P3363</small></p>	<p>'04 FORD MUSTANG GT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JUST ARRIVED!</p> <p>\$14,695</p> <p><small>CONVERTIBLE, SHADOW GRAY, AUTO., 32K LOW MILES, SHARP! #9064A</small></p>	<p>'05 FORD 500 LIMITED</p> <p>\$14,895</p> <p><small>SILVER FROST METALLIC, LEATHER, 3.0L 6 CYL., 27 MPG HIGHWAY, #81092A</small></p>
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