



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 99 No. 266

Friday, October 17, 2008

50¢ Plus tax

Briefs

Local Crystal Mine hosts 'Big Dig'

Bring your shovels, picks and buckets and join the "Big Dig" Fossil Dig and Mineral Show at the Ft. Drum Crystal Mine this weekend, Oct. 18 and 19, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Hot dogs and soft drinks will be available but coolers are welcome. Children under 7 are free. Come out and enjoy the great outdoors! For more information, please call 863-634-4579 or 863-634-0691.

Teen dance party planned

A teen dance party will be held on Sunday, Oct. 19, at the Pier II from 5:30-9:30 p.m. Admission is \$5. Ages 12-16 welcome. A live DJ will play the latest hip-hop for entertainment. The following refreshments will be available: Pizza - \$1; soda - 50 cent; chips - 50 cent; smoothies - \$2. All proceeds will benefit the American Red Cross Okeechobee County Branch. For more information call Teresa Chandler at 863-697-6819.

4-H plans Annual Barbecue

The Okeechobee 4-H Foundation will be holding their annual pork barbecue dinner with all the fixings on Monday, Oct. 20, in the Freshman Campus cafeteria. Tickets are on sale now for \$7 at the Extension Office or by calling 4-H members. Deliveries may be made for five or more dinners by calling in advance to 863-763-6469 or on the day of the event to 863-634-3327. You may dine in or pick up your dinner from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Drought Index

Current: 446
Source: Florida Division of Forestry
Local Burn Ban: None

Lake Levels

14.97 feet
Last Year: 10.08 feet

Sponsored By:
Pogey's Family Restaurant
1759 S. Parrott Ave.
763-7222

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

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Teachers approve new contract

Salaries increased 3.8 percent

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County Education Association (OCEA) presented the ratified contracts of the instructional and classified employees of the Okeechobee County School district to the School Board for adoption at their meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 14.

Approximately 90 percent of the OCEA membership voted on the contracts to ratify the agreement which was met between the OCEA and the district on Tuesday, Sept. 30.

The instructional contract was ratified with 284 members voting for the contract and 29 voting against the contract. The classified contract was ratified with 200 members voting for the contract and 21 against the contract.

The district and OCEA came to an agreement which increased

the total from last year's salary schedule for instructional employees by 3.81 percent or a total of new dollars of \$1,059,340. This includes a 2.55 percent step, additional supplements, insurance benefits, a district longevity stipend, increased first year starting salary to \$34,000 and an additional \$100 for each advanced degree stipend.

In regards to the classified employees, the total percent increase proposed from last years schedule is 4.47 percent which equals a total of \$388,782 in new

dollars. This amount includes their normal step and a 10 cent raise to base pay across the entire pay schedule, the creation of district longevity stipends and a diaper changing stipend.

For both Instructional and Classified employees longevity stipends will be paid to reward those who have been loyal to the district for a number of years and are in the top step of the salary schedule. Being in the top step means that they have 23 or more years of experience. However, this stipend will only be cal-

culated on Okeechobee County School District experience.

Instructional stipends will be distributed as follows: 0 to 5 years \$600; 6 to 10 years \$700; 11 to 15 years \$800; 16 to 20 years \$900; 21 to 25 years \$1000; and 26 years or more \$1100.

Classified stipends will be distributed as follows: 0 to 5 years \$300; 6 to 10 years \$350; 11 to 15 years \$400; 16 to 20 years \$450; 21 to 25 years \$500; and 26 years or more \$550.

See Teachers — Page 2

JROTC: Students support Saucier



Colonel Lawrence Saucier (back-right) attended the Tuesday, Oct. 14, school board meeting in uniform and listened as JROTC cadets threatened to quit the program if he was not re-instated. Many parents were also present supporting their children in that decision.

Students threaten to quit unless leader is reinstated

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

JROTC students in full uniform and their parents packed the room during the Okeechobee County School Board meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 14, and showed their unwavering support of Colonel Lawrence Saucier, who was also in attendance at the meeting.

On Wednesday, Sept. 17, Colonel Saucier was arrested and charged with failure to report a child abuse allegation, a first degree misdemeanor. He was released on a \$1,000 bond shortly after he turned himself in at the Okeechobee County Jail.

Colonel Saucier is currently on unpaid leave, according to

Ken Kenworthy, Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

Board attorney Tom Conely explained to the audience that "the board nor the superintendent want to do away with the JROTC program. We want to do everything we can to keep the JROTC program. This situation is in the hands of law enforcement and the board has no business discussing pros or cons about either accused parties."

In defense of the program, several parents and JROTC cadets spoke before the board conveying their beliefs that there was no program if Colonel Saucier was not reinstated within the program.

It was stated many times by many JROTC members that

"the colonel is the program and without him, there is no program."

Parents and students such as Anthony Crane, Deanna Davis, Dwayne Gilliland, Cory Kelly, Tom McDevitt, Thomas Skinner, John Maclean and Bill Davis all asked for the reinstatement of Colonel Saucier as soon as possible.

Bill Davis claimed that there will not be a JROTC program come the change of the semester because the cadets will quit. This theme was a repeated, as other students said they would quit if the board did not reinstate Colonel Saucier back into his position with the OHS JROTC.

See Students — Page 8

Bill Sherman re-evaluates tax loophole

Following public complaints, seven properties to lose ag classification

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

A tax loophole may about to be closed or at least tightened. It seems Okeechobee County Property Appraiser Bill Sherman has changed his mind about some properties that received agriculture classification.

Mr. Sherman said Thursday

that he was sending out new TRIM (Truth in Millage) notices to owners of seven properties that had previously been classified agriculture for tax purposes, reclassifying the land as nonagriculture.

"We may have been too liberal in granting agriculture exemptions," the property appraiser said. He added that he reconsidered the assessments after receiving a large number of questions from the public concerning agriculture classifications.

The granting of an agricul-

See Tax — Page 2

Worley runs for District 79 seat

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

It's the classic Hollywood battle where the little guy rises from obscurity to do battle with a giant, a force against which he has no visible chance of winning -- a veritable David vs. Goliath.

And playing the part of David is Ray O. Worley.

The Okeechobee resident has announced that he is running for the District 79 State House of Representative seat being vacated by Frank Attkis-

son, whose term is up. Mr. Worley is facing off against Osceola County resident, Republican Mike Horner.

District 79 includes Osceola, Okeechobee and a small portion of Polk counties.

See Worley — Page 2



Roy O. Worley

Rotary supports local Boy Scouts

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

Kurt Jansen, Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 955 spoke to the Okeechobee Rotary Club Tuesday about his 16 years working with the local boy scouts in Okeechobee.

Mr. Jansen has three sons who have been involved in boy scouts over the years and two of them have already received their Eagle badge and the last one is working on his.

Troop 955 has been involved in Rotary by volunteering their time to set up a water station along the route at their Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (L.O.S.T.) Bike-Run-Walk

where they shared in the fund-raising of this event with the Rotarians.

The Okeechobee Rotary Club was proud to present \$1,000 to Mr. Jansen on behalf of Rotary to help further the goals of these Boy Scouts.

The local troop participates in various fundraisers throughout the year to raise money for their camping trips and other expenses incurred when they go on trips to reach the goals of each of their merit badges.

They will hike on the levy around the lake next weekend and they camp locally on private land off of Dark Hammock Road and in the Kissim-

mee River State Park. They have a spot in the Kissimmee River State Park that leads to a pavilion which two scouts helped build while completing their Eagle project. They go to their summer camps in Jupiter and in Paisley, Florida. There are currently about 15 boys in Troop 955.

According to the Gulf Stream Council Boy Scouts web-site, the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated to provide a program for community organizations that offers effective character, citizenship, and personal fitness training for youth.

Boy Scouts strive "to devel-

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Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar
Rotarian Treasurer Kristy Crawford (left) presented a check for \$1,000 to Kurt Jansen for the Okeechobee Boy Scout Troop 955.

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Tax

Continued From Page 1

ture assessment is up to the discretion of the property appraiser. To complicate things, there are some court rulings which appear to be in conflict with state laws and the county's land development regulations appear to be in conflict with some land use practices.

Florida Statute 193.462 lists seven factors that may be taken into consideration when evaluating a request for an agriculture exemption. However, there is no minimum number of these factors necessary to qualify. Factor number seven states: "Such other factors as may from time to time become applicable." That appears to give a lot of leeway to the property appraiser.

Worley

Continued From Page 1

The 58-year-old Democrat said he's a little late in getting the word out about his campaign and is now pushing to let voters know about his candidacy.

"Financial consideration was one thing. I didn't want to reach out to get funding from anyone because I didn't want to be tied to them," he said. "The opportunity came up to do it and I felt like I was told to be there."

Mr. Worley went on to say that as vice president of the Florida Consumer Action Network (FCAN) he has seen situations where people were battling the bureaucracy with little to no help and decided to throw his hat into the political arena.

"I've been involved in cases with problems in dealing with government, power bills and insurance and there's really nothing we can do about it. I feel, as a legislator, I could do more for them," said Mr. Worley. "I really feel there's no one in the legislature coming from a true consumer's perspective. They're lawyers and such and are very subjective to big business and special interests. They've lost touch with the little people in the state."

He went on to say that with him in Tallahassee, it will help him "find ways to cut through all the red tape to help people and bring back good government."

Among the items on his platform Mr. Worley said the state has to look for new revenue sources such as tax on internet sales, and a possible sales tax increase. He also said he would like to see property taxes lowered, even though they seem to be the only reliable source of funding for the state's educational system.

He also is in favor of finding more renewable resources, pro-

In order to receive an agriculture classification, each year a property owner must fill out a DR-482 form "Application and Return for Agriculture Classification of Land." The form asks for the agriculture income from the property for the last four years. The form also asks for such things as the number of acres in various crops and the number of years these crops have been grown. In addition the owner is asked to give the number of acres devoted to livestock and timberland and the number of years these acres have been used for livestock or timberland. The owner signs a statement that the land in question is used for "bona fide agriculture purposes." The form goes on to define that term as meaning "good faith commercial agriculture use of the land."

The Florida law governing agriculture assessment states that the

property appraiser shall reclassify as nonagriculture any land that has been zoned to a nonagriculture use at the request of the owner. However, Micki Bandi of the property appraiser's office, says that means the property that has been rezoned must be re-evaluated the next year to see if it still qualifies for an agriculture assessment.

Two of the seven properties mentioned by Mr. Sherman are on U.S. 441 S.E. on the Rim Canal.

One property is 12.8 acres. In 2007, the taxable value of the property of \$892,978. On Jan. 15, 2007 the land sold for \$1.9 million. Because of an agriculture classification as improved pasture the current taxable land value is \$2,730.

Another Rim Canal property is 26.84 acres. In 2007 the taxable value was \$1,323,904. In 2008

the property was classified as improved pasture and taxed based on a value of \$4,377.

The other five parcels are located on the east side of U.S. 441 S., south of Great American RVs.

"There is no doubt about it they are using it for a tax dodge," Mr. Sherman was quoted as saying about agriculture assessment laws in an Oct. 1 Okeechobee News article. Apparently, the property appraiser, who was not afraid to take on Florida Power and Light in a tax dispute, is now attempting to close the ag classification loophole.

If someone disputes their property assessment, they may appeal to the value adjustment board which meets on Oct. 28.

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

should pay for itself."

He went on to say that different programs have to be found that can help fund merit raises for law enforcement officers.

"We're constantly at risk for losing our good deputies to other areas for higher pay," he said, in reference to the property tax amendment that passed earlier this year that will cut ad valorem taxes paid to counties. These taxes fund the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office as well as the Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue Department.

With Nov. 4 quickly approaching, a fund raising event will be held for Mr. Worley at Shooter's Billiards, 3240 S.E. First Way, on

Saturday, Nov. 18. The event will get under way at 2 p.m. and will feature a pool tournament and barbecue.

To donate to Mr. Worley's campaign or to learn more about him and his visions, visit his web site at www.Had-Enough-Yet.com.

Even though time is running short Mr. Worley said he looks forward to battling Goliath, winning that battle then finding ways to help the elderly and everyone currently living from paycheck to paycheck.

"It's all about helping my community and fellow community members. It's all been, for me, helping people," he said.

Teachers

Continued From Page 1

The diapering stipend for the classified employees who are assigned to duties of changing student diapers will receive a stipend of \$75 a month.

According to Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Patricia Cooper, "In speaking with Diane Falvo, she said that this is the best contract negotiated in the state." Mrs. Falvo is the Treasure Coast Service Unit Director for the OCEA.

According to Ken Kenworthy, Assistant Superintendent for In-

struction, the payroll department is currently working to establish all of the new pay rates into the system and to calculate the retroactive pay. The district is planning on having this complete in order to be able to send out payment to their employees with their Nov. 15, paychecks.

In addition the OCEA will be holding their next general membership meeting on Thursday, Nov. 13, at 4:30 p.m. at the Osceola Middle School media center. For additional information call the OCEA office 863-467-1564.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Chauna Aguilar can be reached at caguilar@newszap.com.

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 87. East northeast wind around 5 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 64. Calm wind.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 83. Calm wind becoming west southwest around 5 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 63. North northwest wind around 5 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 84. North northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 65. Northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81. East northeast wind around 5 mph.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery—Here are the numbers selected Wednesday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 0-1-9; **Play 4:** 1-8-5-3; **Lotto:** 7-12-17-19-42-53; **Fantasy 5:** 1-15-27-35-36; **MegaS:** 1-11-16-17 MB 7. Numbers selected Thursday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 2-5-6; **Play 4:** 6-9-6-3.

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Scouts

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op boys who are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit; have a high degree of self-reliance as seen in such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness; have personal values based on religious concepts; have the desire and skills to help others; understand the principles of the American social, economic, and governmental systems; are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand our nation's role in the world; have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people; and are prepared to participate in and give leadership to American society."

Boy Scouting is a year-round program for boys age 11 to 17. Boys who are ten may join if they have received the Arrow of Light Award or have finished the fifth grade. Boy Scouting is a program of fun outdoor activities, peer group leadership opportunities, and a personal exploration of career, hobby and special interests, all designed to achieve the Boy Scouts of America objectives of strengthening character, personal fitness and good citizenship.

The community, including parents, supports Scouting through the United Way, Friends of Scouting campaigns, bequests, and

special contributions to the BSA local council. This income provides leadership training, outdoor programs, council service centers and other facilities, and professional service for units.

Boy Scouts have three specific objectives, which are referred to as the "Aims of Scouting": character development; citizenship training; and personal fitness.

These are achieved with the following: ideals; patrols; outdoor programs; advancement; association with adults; personal growth; leadership development; and uniform. Each of these areas are covered by various badges that they have to earn in order to ultimately reach the Eagle badge level prior to becoming 18 years old.

Scout Law encourages scouts to be: trustworthy; loyal; helpful; friendly; courteous; kind; obedient; cheerful; thrifty; brave; clean; and reverent.

The Scout Oath is: On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

For more information about a local Boy Scout group please call 561-694-8585.

Tiger Cubs begin at seven years old or in the first grade. From seven to 18 years old, there is a group for each age level.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Chauna Aguilar can be reached at caguilar@newszap.com.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Dribbling the ball

Victor Pinedo (left) dribbles against Alejandro Nunez of Yearling.

Bond set for ex-VisionQuest staffer

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Bond for a VisionQuest employee who is accused of helping two 16-year-old girls escape from that facility has been set at \$80,000.

An arrest report states that Jeffery Lamar King, 21, drove the two teens to Lauderhill where they were apprehended at a suspected drug house on Tuesday, Oct. 14, by the Lauderhill Police Department (LPD).

King was arrested Tuesday and charged with two counts of

voluntary escape by an officer, two counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor, two counts of interference with child custody and two counts of child neglect/ endangerment.

King surrendered to Detective Rosemary Farless at the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) at 8:40 a.m. Tuesday.

The girls -- Alexis Danielle

Migoya and Cristina Maria Prieto -- were turned over to the Department of Juvenile Justice.

OCSO Detective Ted Van Deman said both girls were charged with escape. He went on to say that LPD officers "had to gas the house with pepper spray to get the girls out."

King, who lists his address as S. 55th St. in Philadelphia, Pa., reportedly left his VisionQuest post with the girls during the early morning hours on Sunday, Oct. 12, in his blue 2000 Mitsubishi Mirage.

In her arrest report, Detective

Farless states that King contacted the LPD around 1:24 a.m. on Tuesday. They then told him to return to Okeechobee to turn himself in, which he did.

Detective Farless said the two girls had been placed in the juvenile detention facility on such felony charges as grand theft auto, battery on a law enforcement officer and violation of probation.

It's still not clear if the two girls will be returned to the VisionQuest facility located on U.S. 441 N.



Jeffery Lamar King

Teen charged with hitting EYDC staffer

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A client at Eckerd's Youth Development Center (EYDC) was arrested and charged with hitting a staff member there.

Macanson Clermonvil, 17, N.E. First Ave., Pompano Beach, was arrested Wednesday, Oct. 15, and charged with the felony of battery on detention staff. He was then

booked into the Okeechobee County Jail.

As of newspaper deadline it was not clear if Clermonvil

was returned to EYDC or taken to the Department of Juvenile Justice Deten-



Macanson Clermonvil

tion Center in Fort Pierce.

An arrest report by Deputy Brian Cross of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) states that the victim was called to one of the cottages on the EYDC campus because the clients "were out of control and running throughout the cottage."

Rydale Burton, 25, was summoned to the Swann cottage to help other staff members around

8:42 p.m. Tuesday, the report said.

As Mr. Burton began counseling one of the other clients Clermonvil struck the staff member on the right side of the face with a closed fist, said the report. Deputy Cross went on to state that he could see some swelling in the jaw area of Mr. Burton's face.

Dad reportedly threatens stepson with pipe

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man was arrested after he reportedly threatened to hit his 25-year-old stepson with a pipe during a fight at their house.

James Lee Fountain, 50, S.E. 29th Court, was charged with the felony of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. He was also faces a misdemeanor charge of domestic battery. Fountain was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$2,500.

The fight apparently began

around 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 15, between Fountain and his wife.

At some point the woman's son became involved, said an arrest report by Deputy Mark Margerum of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO).

The report states that Fountain and his stepson became engaged in a physical altercation that moved from the couple's home into their yard



James Lee Fountain

and drove to the end of the road to wait for the deputy's arrival, stated the arrest report.

The deputy's report also states that Fountain had been drinking alcohol.

According to the report, no charges were filed against the stepson.

and drove to the end of the road to wait for the deputy's arrival, stated the arrest report.

The deputy's report also states that Fountain had been drinking alcohol.

According to the report, no charges were filed against the stepson.

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Arrest Report

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

• Ronald L. Campbell, 21, N.W. 33rd Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 7 by Deputy Dale Hardy on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - failure to re-deliver leased property. His bond was set at \$10,000.

• Priscilla Ann Newell, 23, S.W. 72nd Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 8 by Deputy Sergeant Shannon Peterson on a charge of battery on a person 65 or older. Her bond was set at \$2,500.

• Mike Charles Robertson, 45, S.E. 25th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 10 by Deputy Sergeant J. Royal on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with false imprisonment of a child. His bond was set at \$2,500.

• Willie James Rosier, 44, N.E. 13th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 11 by Deputy Brian Cross on a charge of felony do-

mestic battery. His bond was set at \$10,000.

• Mario Guerrero, Jr., 18, Martin Street, Detroit, Mich., was arrested Oct. 12 by Deputy Corporal Chris Hans on a felony charge of resisting a law enforcement officer with violence. He was also charged with the misdemeanors of affray and disorderly intoxication. His bond was set at \$3,500.

• Keith Allen Sharp, 17, N.W. 102nd St., Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 13 by Deputy Max Waldron on warrants charging him with the felonies of burglary of a dwelling (two counts), burglary of a dwelling while armed (one count) and grand theft-firearm (three counts). He was also charged with the misdemeanor of petit theft (two counts). His total bond was set at \$45,500.

• Jordan Shellen, 25, Lake Drive, Buckhead Ridge, was arrested Oct. 13 by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on a charge of possession of a controlled substance (methadone). His bond was set at \$5,000.

• Ricky Garza, 20, N.W. 45th Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 14 by Deputy Raul Marrero on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - burglary of a conveyance (11 counts), violation of probation - grand theft (six counts) and violation of probation - criminal mischief \$1,000 or more (two counts). His bond was set at \$5,000.

• William Adkisson, 52, Duane Palmer Blvd., Sebring, was arrested Oct. 14 by Deputy Lieutenant Keith Murrish on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$2,500.

• Evi Serrano, 26, N.E. 64th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 14 by Deputy Lt. Keith Murrish on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with failure to appear - grand theft and failure to appear - contempt - failure to appear at arraignment. He is being held without bond.

• Jeremy Lamont Jones, 21, N.E. 17th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 14 by Deputy Corporal Aric Majere on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - aggravated battery. He is being held without bond.

• Alberto Estiat, 27, Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 15 by Deputy Paul Jackson on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him

with violation of probation - grand theft. He is being held without bond.

• Tobias Whittaker, 27, N.E. 15th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 15 by Deputy Justin Akins on a warrant charging him with the felonies of sale of cocaine and burglary of a conveyance. He was also charged with the misdemeanor of theft. His bond was set at \$21,000.

• Avery V. Robinson, 19, S.W. 12th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 15 by Deputy Justin Akins on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the sale of cocaine and possession of cocaine with intent to sell. His bond was set at \$30,000.

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

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Email: dietdonny@yahoo.com

VOTE
Nov. 4
FOR
Margaret Garrard Helton
For County Commissioner

I will seek reasonable, responsible, and effective solutions to public issues. I hope to contribute to making Okeechobee County a better place to live.

Political Advertisement Paid for and Approved by Margaret Garrard Helton, Republican for County Commissioner District 5

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

FOOD: Here is another way to save money. There is an Angel Foods Miniseries program at the First Baptist church here in town. Anyone can purchase food, income doesn't matter, food stamps accepted, cash or certified checks only. I tried this for the first time this month, and the food is quite good. It is enough to feed four people for a month. You have to purchase one of the original boxes and then can purchase specialty boxes like a box of meat for grilling. The box we chose for extra was a box for grilling and it had steak chicken and pork and some sausage. Some of the steaks are about 1/2 inch thick which makes them look small but they are good quality. Oh the original box costs around \$30 but the senior box which is already prepared meals is a little less. The specialty boxes run about \$20 an up. Give it a try. To get an order form you have to go to the First Baptist Church in town. Not sure what the address is, but the site will give it to you. You do have to get your order in by a certain time and be sure to be there to pick it up during the time given or you will not be able to get it and you will have lost your money. They do not wait past the allotted time for latecomers.

CEMETERY: This is in response to a comment I saw a week or so ago. It concerned the rules in the Cemetery about overly decorative gravesites and the original poster was against the measures. I was in the Cemetery yesterday and I saw a grave with fake cobwebs affixed to a tree growing from the ground as a Halloween Decoration. Here is the gripe. Ten minutes later all those cobwebs were on at least eight graves that I could count. Go To The Cemetery. Look at the fences. Balloons, Flowers, Ribbons, all kinds of loose fitting paraphernalia all strewn about. This is Florida, very flat land with pretty gusty winds. Stuff will blow 'round.

TIPS: I would encourage the waitresses to be more polite and attentive to the customers' needs. I eat out on the weekends. I dont mind tipping a good waitress, but if she is poor and her friends or co-workers are more important, then her tip will reflect it. If my glass goes empty, well her tip will be empty. I have been to several places here in town that could use a few new faces to replace the ones that don't smile anymore.

RULES: I spoke with the Cemetery Supervisor and he was more than glad to hand me a set of rules and regulations for the cemeteries located in Okeechobee County. The rules and regulations apply to Evergreen, Bassinger, and Fort Drum Cemeteries. The rules and regulations were approved and adopted on June 26, 2003 and were placed by the Okeechobee County Board of Commissioners. You may look these up on the Okeechobee County's web site if I am not mistaken. They are published as a resolution and the number is 2003-21. When I spoke with Mr. Kersey, he gave me some insight and stated that there are many reasons that these rules are in place. We have lawn maintenance personnel who have to take care of the cemetery lots and sites and have a difficult time when they have to maintain the property that is decorated with statues and trinkets. If you wish to plant trees or memorials in the cemetery, you must have prior approval either from the County Commissioners or the Cemetery Supervisor. I sure would not want you to plant a tree that when grown would cause my family head stones to sink due to the root systems. We have some extremely windy days in Florida and I would be upset if something was blown from one site onto a site that I own and caused damage to my site. The cemetery manager is very accommodating and he is willing to help in any way he can to achieve beauty in the cemeteries.

WINTER RESIDENT: I always felt real happy to get back to that great place called Okeechobee. You people are a lot like folks should be everywhere. This will be my sixth winter season down there with y'all. I'm from a small town in the state of New Hampshire where it is already getting too cold at night.

AMENDMENT 2: Don't fall for the Poor Senior Citizens propaganda. Amendment 2 ONLY seeks to limit Marriages to one man/one woman as the State of Florida already does. Voting 'yes' protects a law that we already have from being changed by liberals.

TURN LANES: How about a little courtesy in the turn around or left turn lanes on U.S. 441. The first car to pull in has the right of way and should be the first to pull out. Time and time again, when I am in the turn around, waiting for the traffic to clear so I can go, someone will pull in next to me, and when it is clear, they hit the gas and shoot out into the road before I have a chance. More than once I had to hit the brakes to avoid an accident.

FOOTBALL: As long as the Brahms are winning, I don't care what the coaches wear. Whoever is making all these complaints about the coaches' shorts needs to watch the game and stop their complaining. The home team is winning. Be happy. And to the coaches, be assured most of Okeechobee is on your side and appreciates your hard work.

COACHES: In response to the calls about the coaches, when I go to a football game I am there to cheer on the team. Looking at the sidelines, I don't even know which ones are the coaches nor do I really care what they wear. We have some terrific football players and the vast majority of the crowd is there to watch the athletes. Who are you -- the fashion police?

TAXES: Have you really looked at the tax plans proposed by the presidential candidates? Both plans are nightmares. Obama's basically redistributes the wealth, which discourages people from working hard to earn more money. Why work for that raise if the government is going to take it all in taxes? He also wants to have a lot of government handouts, giving tax refunds for taxes that were never paid to begin with. It's a fancy way to increase welfare. McCain's plan makes health insurance premiums taxable, which is going to really hurt the middle class. McCain seems to want to give all the breaks to the big corporations. It seems to me that Obama's plan helps the poor and unemployed. McCain's plan helps the rich. Neither one of them is really looking out for the middle class, workers who are just barely making it now. Where is Mike Huckabee and the "fair tax" plan when we need him? Oh well, if his television program gets him enough name recognition, maybe he'll try again in four years.

KIDS: I called the Sheriff Department about the kids walking in the road in Basswood. Who else can we call? Please somebody help us.

GRACE CHRISTIAN: This is about the Christian School. I heard that they are struggling a little bit with some things financially and things. I just want the Christians of Okeechobee County to know that we need to pray for them. Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we need to pray for them and support them. My son goes there. I know not everyone can afford to send their children there. We do not make a lot of money, but we choose to scrimp in some areas so that he can get the education he does. It is a wonderful school. He has learned so much and is so far ahead of his peers. I know a lot of churches open little first, second and preschools and then after that they have to go to public school. We would much rather that not happen. We have had several Christian schools in Okeechobee County and this is our last one. It is part of our heritage and part of Okeechobee. We need to just pray and see what God does. We need to rally around them with our support and let them know that we love them there. God Bless.

MCCAIN/MEDICARE: There are 3.2 million Floridians covered under the Medicare at the present time. John McCain plans to cut \$1.3 trillion over the next 10 years. This should be a big concern to all of us. That is a heck of a lot of money. Medicare helps a lot of seniors and some do not have other insurance as a secondary. What is wrong with this \$1.3 trillion covered cut over the next 10 years? It will not only affect the people on Medicare now, but also the future Medicare recipients. Is this what we really want?

JOB CORPS: Thank you Job Corps -- you're wonderful.

DRIVE THRU: The county needs to do something about the entrance to the drive thru across from the high school. The first time that I get rear ended because some idiot in front of me decides to stop at the last minute to get a drink, and I get rear ended by somebody coming off of 441 and damages me, my stuff or my car, I am going to sue the county for it because they let them put the drive way so close to the street.

Guest Commentary

Turtle management is in good hands

By Rodney Barreto
Chairman, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

We Floridians react with great passion when we hear of threats to our natural heritage. That's a good thing when the threat is real, but it can be destructive when misinformation guides us.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is aware of an increased demand for freshwater turtles. Obviously, increased demand will require tighter management, and last month, the Commission deliberated the issue, heard public comments and adopted additional restrictions on turtle harvest. The FWC is on top of it, but the first step has to be giving its scientists time to figure out what

further rules are needed. It would be reckless to do otherwise.

Words and numbers have appeared in news media that paint a picture of an emergency that does not exist. The freshwater turtle population is not plunging into extinction. In fact, 90 percent of Florida's turtles that wind up in the food market or pet trade are from turtle farms — not from the wild. We read about thousands of pounds of turtles being shipped out of Florida to foreign markets every week, but those numbers are questionable.

Those who have lined up to demand an immediate halt to commercial turtle harvest and criticized the FWC for not making it happen have generated passionate emotional reaction, but there is no scientific evidence that such

a drastic measure is in order. On Oct. 23, an additional restriction will go into effect, further restricting the harvest of wild freshwater turtles. This new rule is sufficient to protect turtle populations while we take time to figure out what additional rules are needed. We don't have to shut down the entire industry to get there.

For centuries, turtle harvest required no regulation. As conditions changed over time, regulations became necessary, and they needed revision when conditions changed again. That's how conservation works. It is a moving target.

The situation calls for disciplined and clear thinking using science. Those are the tools the FWC uses to manage all the state's fish and wildlife, and the agency

has a distinguished record of managing even the most vulnerable members of Florida's wildlife communities such as bald eagles and crocodiles. It has earned its reputation for managing those resources with wisdom.

We welcome input and discussion, but spreading misinformation and exaggerating alarm are not helpful. We have a system that works very well, because its foundation is informed, objective people, armed with the best available science.

Let's address this issue calmly with our focus clearly fixed on the target — conservation. There would be consequences for aiming too high as well as aiming too low. People's livelihoods and living natural resources both are at stake.

Letters to the Editor

Help sought
Late in the month of August I had chest pains so I visited the doctor. He sent me to the hospital immediately. Two days later, I had a triple bypass operation on my heart. Two weeks later, I had to return to the hospital due to complications from the surgery. I am healing, but it is a slow process.

I have been laid off from my job for five months, receiving unemployment benefits. Unfortunately, the surgery caused my benefits to be cancelled. My bills are piling up. I live very simply, but it is difficult to survive with no

income.
I am looking for anyone who might have something to donate that can be auctioned off that they no longer need or want. My friends and family are planning a benefit auction and barbecue in the near future to help me pay some of these bills.

Okeechobee is a wonderful community, I hope they can help me get back on my feet.

Thank you.
John Whiddon and family
772-324-1277
863-763-6764

Community Calendar

Friday, Oct. 17

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

Just for Today Club of Okeechobee, 101 N.W. Fifth Street Okeechobee, FL 34972 (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **N.A.** Sickest Of The Sick (OP, SP) 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. It's an open meeting.

A.A. meeting from 8 until 9 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St. It will be an open speaker meeting.

Business Women's Referral Networking Luncheon will be held on the third Friday of every month at the Brahma Bull Restaurant, 2405 U.S. 441 S.E., at 11:30 a.m. for networking. The lunch will be at noon. Women should bring business cards and information to promote their business. The meeting provides networking opportunities for women in business and is open to the public. No membership is required. For information, contact Robin Delgado at 800-299-8878; or, by e-mail at info@flainjurylawyer.com.

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

Saturday, Oct. 18

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, Oct. 19

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



Submitted to the Okeechobee News/First Baptist Church

Fall Festival Fun

Courtney McCreary seemed to have had a lot of fun at last year's First Baptist Church Fall Festival. The church is sponsoring a Fall Festival again this year. It will be held Friday, Oct. 31 at the ROC. The free event will be geared toward children sixth grade age and younger. There will be a special area for preschool children and toddlers.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Seasonal visitor

This Halloween visitor was seen in an Okeechobee yard.

Public Issues Forums: Join the discussion!

newszap.com

Free Speech Free Ads

Board amends student progression policy

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County School Board had a busy evening on Tuesday, Oct. 14, where they approved amendments to school board policy concerning the Student Progression Plan and advertised for amendments to the Bullying and Harassment Policy.

Several different items will be changed within the progression plan including updates of information on Sunshine State Standards and School Improvement; revision of procedures and description of grading for kindergarten students; revision of grading scale for writing for third through fifth grades; addition of language to Instruction for English Language Learners section to outline the procedure for re-enrolling ELL students; addition of information on Florida Virtual School; addition of privacy rights of students and parents; addition of requirement for physical education instruction at the elementary level to be 30 consecutive minutes; addition of middle school course of study; revision of the graduation requirements for students who entered ninth grade in 2007 or after to allow a

practical arts course to fulfill the one credit fine arts or performing arts requirement; addition of the Electronic Personal Educational Plan (ePEEP) requirement for all high school students and the annual review of the plan; addition of designations required to be listed on the standard diploma; revision of title and classification of Exceptional Education Programs; and the addition of explanation of Access Points for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities, explanation of assessments for ESE students and description of benchmarks for ESE students.

Many of these items were mandated by Senate Bill 1908. Once approved and updated, the Student Progression Plan will be available online.

Concerning the Bullying and Harassment Policy a major revision to this policy was required in order to comply with new state statutes which require school districts to have a comprehensive policy in place by Dec. 1. A committee comprised of parents, students, community representatives and school personnel reviewed technical assistance documents provided by the Department of Education and drafted this policy.

The committee included: Cath-

leen Blair, Director of ESE; Renee Geeting, principal; Shirleen Graham, Martha's House; Pat Grant, migrant advocate; Mary Hurley, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services; Michael Joseph, guidance counselor Alternative Education; Ken Kenworthy, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services; Stephanie Locke, Martha's House; Shawna May, Technology Resource Teacher; iSafe Trainer; Tom Murray, teacher representing Okeechobee County Education Association; Sgt. Mark Roberts, Okeechobee County Sheriff's Department; Jill Rogers, Executive Director, Communities in Schools; Mike Santiago, Youth Pastor, School Volunteer, Community Liaison; Katherine Williams, OCSB Crisis Counselor; Rosemary Morgan, teacher at New Endeavor High School; Lauren Meyers, parent and School Advisory Council (SAC) member; Leah Suarez, parent and President of Central Elementary SAC; parents Renee Mims, Kathy Fox, Alice Murphy and Daron Washington.

In unrelated business the board also approved the increase in the GED testing fee schedule, effective with the January 2009 test. Revenue supporting the GED

testing operations and administration at the state and local level is generated exclusively from fees charged to individuals who take the GED test at one of the 85 approved testing centers.

The cost for the GED testing materials has risen by 67 percent since the last time the fees were increased in 1998. Due to the lack of increase over time, to address the growing deficit, the Department of Education has recommended the increase in fees from \$48 to \$70 for the full battery GED test; and from \$12 to \$14 for each individual sub-test. Individuals take individual sub-tests in the event that they pass certain portions of the exam and need to re-take others.

According to Sharon Suits, director of K-12 Accountability and Assessment, 20 people are allowed to take the exam at each month's administration. The GED is also given at OHS as an exit option for some students and at the county jail and local Department of Juvenile Justice facilities at other times throughout the year.

Currently the county administrators approximately 300 GED examinations per year. According to Mrs. Suits, the testing materials used to be provided by the state,

but now they are not. Administration and scoring costs are also incurred by the district.

In other business, the board will approved:

- revisions to personnel allocations; and
- personnel employment; additions to substitute teacher list; temporary employment; resignations, terminations and suspensions of employment; transfers

and leave requests;

- three student expulsions of an eighth grader, ninth grader and twelfth grader based on the superintendent recommendation;
- and School Advisory Council Appointments for each school in the district.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Chauna Aguilar can be reached at caguilar@newszap.com.

Loomis Bros. circus is coming to town

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

If you are looking for some entertainment in and around Okeechobee for the coming months, look no further. If your organization or business has some entertaining events coming up, please forward them to caguilar@newszap.com.

The **Loomis Bros. Best of the Best Circus** is coming to town from Bushnell, Fla. On Friday, **Oct. 24**, the Loomis Bros. Circus will be performing at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center, 4601 S.R. 710.

There will be two shows, one at 5 p.m. and one at 7:30 p.m.

The circus features three rings with performing elephants, tigers, lions, clowns, acrobats, aerialists, horses, dogs, jugglers and much more.

Doors open one hour prior to show time with elephant rides, pony rides, face painting, cotton candy, popcorn and soft drinks.

There are coupons available at many retail locations for free admission for a child under 12 years of age with the admission of an adult.

For more information please



Your Weekly Entertainment Guide

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

call 1-888-245-3116.

Bring your shovels, picks and buckets and join the **"Big Dig" Fossil Dig and Mineral Show** at the Ft. Drum Crystal Mine this weekend, **Oct. 18 and 19**, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Hot dogs and soft drinks will be available but coolers are welcome. Children under 7 are free. Come out and enjoy the great outdoors! For more information, please call

863-634-4579 or 863-634-0691.

Come enjoy a great night of Bluegrass Gospel and Traditional Bluegrass Music with **Tomorrow's News Bluegrass Band**. This is entertainment for the whole family **Oct. 17**, at 7 p.m. at the Okeechobee Shrine Club. The Bluegrass show is open to the public the cost is \$10 per person 12 and under free. Concessions will be available - NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES PLEASE - Plenty of seating and parking. For additional information contact Keith or Darlene Bass at 863-634-5815 or 863-763-1443.

The Order of the Eastern Star presents a **Mystery Dinner Theater** on Saturday, **Oct. 18**, 5 p.m. Okeechobee Masonic Lodge 107 N.W. Fifth Avenue, Okeechobee. Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased by contacting Mary Ann Holt at 863-634-0807. This includes a Country Fried Steak Dinner and the show, in which the audience participation is key to solving the "murder." Join us for an evening of great food and fun. Thank you, and should you have any questions, please contact Mary Ann Holt at 863-634-0807.

Martha's House will be holding their **Annual Volunteer Appreciation Domestic Violence Banquet** on Tuesday, **Nov. 21**, at the Okeechobee County Civic Center off of U.S. 98 North, at 7 p.m. Program consists of guest speaker Darlene Bruckler and Fran O'Ross who will speak of their personal and professional experiences regarding domestic violence in celebration of October being Domestic Violence Awareness month. All members of our community are invited for no charge for the meal. The only charge for admission is a donation of a paper good, such as toilet paper, paper towels, diapers, wipes, feminine products etc. Please RSVP 863-763-2893.

Halloween is in the air! Martha's House is opening a **haunted house** in their administrative building, 4134 U.S. 441 N, past Cemetery Road on the right from **Oct. 28** until Oct. 31. The haunted house will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8 p.m. until 10 p.m. and on Friday from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person with all proceeds going to Martha's House. For more information or to volunteer to help with the haunted

house call 863-763-2893.

Okeechobee Main Street, the City of Okeechobee and Okeechobee County are hosting the Fourth Annual **Halloween Celebration**. The community celebration will be held at the Agri-Civic Center on S.R. 70 East, on Friday, **Oct. 31**, from 6 until 9 p.m. (must enter via S.R. 710).

This year's Costume Contest will be in four age groups: 0-2 from 6:45 to 7:15 p.m., 3-5 from 7:15 to 7:45 p.m., 6-10 from 7:45 to 8:15 p.m. and 11-14 from 8:15 to 8:45 p.m. Registration for the costume contest will be at the Seacoast National Bank Booth.

Please help to provide a safe and fun Halloween for the children. They will have games and activities, a haunted house, a costume contest and treats!

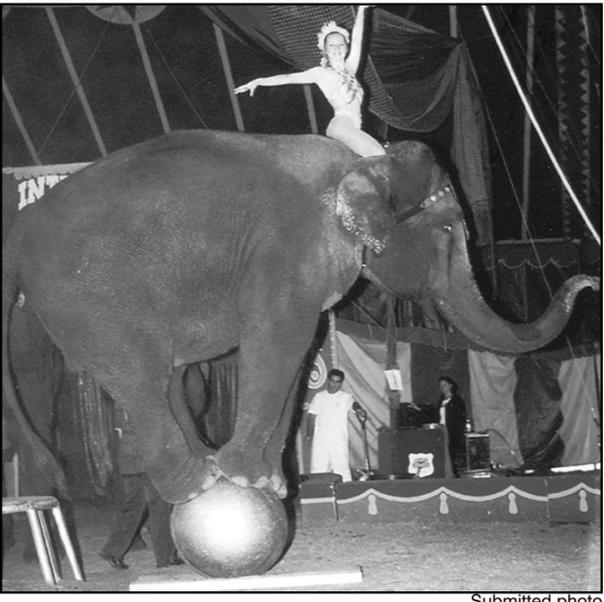
Event organizers welcome donations of treats and candy or monetary donations to purchase candy. Your business or agency is welcome to set up a booth for games or activities for the children. For more information, please contact Toni Doyle at 863-357-MAIN (6246).

IRSC McAlphin Center On-Stage, 3209 Virginia Ave, Fort Pierce is hosting **Lend Me a Tenor** by Ken Ludwig on **Oct. 17 and 18**, at 8 p.m. and Oct. 18, at 2 p.m.

Cleveland is about to be put on the operatic map in Ken Ludwig's wildly successful farce that is now one of America's favorites! You'll leave teary-eyed with laughter.

Tickets \$12.00 each. For more information contact the box office at 1-800-220-9915.

Do you want to see your events posted in the weekly entertainment column? Forward any publicly open events including entertainment such as: dancing, bands, comedians, theatre, special events, special community events, contests, etc to caguilar@newszap.com. Please forward all information about each event including: description of the event; location (address); date; time; cost; age appropriateness; and any other information that fits the specific event. For additional information contact Chauna Aguilar at 863-763-3134 ext. 4242. Your Weekly Entertainment Guide-Share your news and photos for this column by email to caguilar@newszap.com.



Submitted photo
Miss Irene riding high on Okha, the only elephant in America that walks on a ball. The Loomis Brothers Circus will bring Okha and many more attractions to the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center on Oct. 24.

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Fri., Oct 24th

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SHOWTIMES:

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Community Events

Lodge presents Mystery Dinner Theater

The Order of the Eastern Star will present a Mystery Dinner Theater on Saturday, **Oct. 18**, 5 p.m. Okeechobee Masonic Lodge 107 N.W. Fifth Avenue, Okeechobee. Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased by contacting Mary Ann Holt at 863-634-8087. This includes a Country Fried Steak Dinner and the show, in which the audience participation is key to solving the "murder". Join them for an evening of great food and fun. For more information, contact Mary Ann Holt at 863-634-8087.

League of Women Voters on radio show

Saturday, Oct. 18, at 7:30 a.m. on 91.7 FM and 100.3 FM will have Marilyn Wills, President, The League of Women Voters of Florida will be on to discuss the Six Constitutional Amendments on the November 4 ballot. For more information call 850-224-2545 or www.lwvfla.org or contact your local league.

Republican party to meet

The Republican Party of Florida will hold their monthly Board meeting on Monday, Oct. 20. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. and is held at the Republican Headquarters, 414 S. Parrott Avenue (next to Physicians Weight-loss) and visitors are welcome.

Obituaries

Christine E. Campbell, 91

OKEECHOBEE — Christine E. Campbell, died Monday, Oct. 13, 2008, in Raulerson Hospital. She was 91.



She was born Aug. 12, 1917 in Basinger to Charles and Jennie (Hazellief) Campbell.

She was retired from Okeechobee County Supervisor of Elections Office. She was born and raised in Basinger, and has been a lifelong resident of Okeechobee. She was a lifetime member of the Church of God of Okeechobee. She loved to read and spend time with her family.

Mrs. Campbell was preceded in death by Lamar Campbell, Ernest Campbell, Lillie Mae Rhoden, Evelyn Walker, and Corene Geiger.

She is survived by her daughter, Gwen (Gary) Marsh; granddaughter, Tammy (JR) Delahanty; great-grandchildren, Tuff and Kelly Delahanty; and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation was 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, October 16, 2008 at Bass Okeechobee Chapel. Funeral Services will be 10 a.m. Friday, October 17, 2008 at Church of God of Okeechobee. Burial will follow at Basinger Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Dunklin Memorial Camp or Church of God of Okeechobee. Friends may sign the guest book at www.bassocheebefuneralhome.com.

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

Clyde 'Bud' George Calloway Jr., 79

OKEECHOBEE — Clyde "Bud" George Calloway Jr., of Okeechobee, died Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2008, in the Hamrick Home. He was 79.

Born Dec. 27, 1928, in Cincinnati, Ohio, he had been a resident of Okeechobee for the past 15 years.

He served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II and the Vietnam War. He also owned a professional football team, the Indianapolis CAPS in Indianapolis, Ind., as well as a Thoroughbred Horse Farm in Indiana.

He served on the Board of Directors of the Indiana Thoroughbred Horse Association. In addition he had Thoroughbreds that raced in Church Hill Downs, Kentucky.

After moving to Okeechobee in 1991 he became a member of the Masonic Lodge 237 and the Eastern Star. He also maintained a booth at the Okeechobee Flea Market, "Bud's Better Buy".

He is preceded in by a wife, Mary Ellen Wright Calloway.

He is survived by wife, Joanne S. Calloway of Okeechobee; son, Tim Calloway of Indiana; stepson, Junior Wright of Clewiston.

A Memorial Service will be held 4 p.m. Sunday at the Okeechobee Masonic Lodge. A private burial will follow at a later date in Basinger Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Okeechobee, P.O. Box 1548, Okeechobee, Florida 34972

All arrangements are under the direction and care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee.

Condolences may be sent to www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

S.A.L. plan steak dinner

The Sons of the American Legion will sponsor their monthly ribeye steak dinner on Sunday, Oct. 19, from 3 until 6 p.m. at the American Legion Post 64. Dinner includes steak, baked potato, salad, roll, iced tea, coffee and dessert for a \$12 donation. Live entertainment will be provided for your entertainment. The public is welcome.

Cub/Boy Scouts selling popcorn

Fundraising season is here again and the local Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts of America, are trying to get support. They will sell popcorn every weekend until **Oct. 19**. They will have booths set up at different, local businesses every Saturday and Sunday. On top of the weekend setups, the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts will always have a flyer and order form with them to sell popcorn throughout the week. So, if you cannot make it out to one of their booths, you can always order it personally from one of the pack/troop members. All proceeds from the fundraiser will go to help pay for their summer camp expenses, supplies, badges and just general expenses for their groups. Parents and volunteers will be with the scouts at each booth to help sell the popcorn and provide information about the group. They are always looking for people to join. There are no sign up deadlines, you can join at any time during the year, so if you think that the cub scouts or boy scouts is something you are interested in, you can get information about it while you get some popcorn! Parents are welcome to become volunteers. They would also like to say thank you to all of the local businesses who are allowing them to set up in front of their stores. For more information on locations or joining, please contact Alison Hudson, Committee Chair - Troop 964, at 863-634-8628.

Oktoberfest Celebration

Sunday, Oct. 19, noon until 4 p.m. an Oktoberfest Celebration will be held. There will be games, fun and more games. The celebration will be held at the VFW Post 9528 in Buckhead Ridge. Authentic German food will be served for a donation of \$7. German music will be provided for dancing and your enjoyment.

E.O.E. 4509 holds special events

The Fraternal Order of the Eagles 4509 has several events lined up for the month of October. Events and dates are as follows: Oct. 18 - Sock Hop from 3 until 7 p.m.; Oct. 25 - Octoberfest; Oct. 31 - Halloween Costume Party at 8 p.m. For more information on these events please call Diana Huston at 863-357-2009.

FHREDI meeting planned

A public meeting of the Florida's Heartland REDI, Inc. Board of Directors and Florida's Freshwater Frontier, Inc. Board of Directors will be held on Monday, **Oct. 20**, at 10 a.m. at Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, 4509 George Boulevard, Sebring. For more information, please call Jim Otterman at 863-385-4900.

4-H plans Annual Barbecue

The Okeechobee 4-H Foundation will be holding their annual pork barbecue dinner with all the fixings on Monday, Oct. 20, in the Freshman Campus cafeteria. Tickets are on sale now for \$7 at the Extension Office or by calling 4-H members. Deliveries may be made for five or more dinners by calling in advance to 863-763-6469 or on the day of the event to 863-634-3327. You may dine in or pick up your dinner from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Rain Barrel Workshop planned

Rain barrels are a convenient and efficient way to collect rainwater. They provide a free source of water for irrigating your landscape and potted plants, and help reduce the storm water runoff from your yard! To learn more about Rain Barrels and to make your own Barrel, come to this informative workshop. The workshop is planned for Monday, Oct. 20, from 5:30 until 7 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Extension Service Office, 458 Highway 98 North, Okeechobee.

This is a hands-on program and every participant can take home the rain barrel he or she creates during the class! Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Call 863-763-6469 to sign up. The cost is \$25 and includes a rain barrel and conversion kit.

Amendment 2 to be discussed

First Baptist Church will be hosting an informative meeting on Amendment 2 on Tuesday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m. Harry Mihet, Senior Litigation Counsel with Florida Family Policy Council, that wrote the Amendment, will be here to speak and answer questions. Mr. Mihet's family came from Romania, where his father was a pastor for 17 churches, mostly underground churches. Come and not only hear about Amendment 2, but hear this man's great story. Amendment 2 will not effect the financial benefits of senior citizens, come hear the truth on this subject! The address of the church is 401 S.W. Fourth Street.

ABWA to hold meeting

The Women of Tomorrow Chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) will hold its annual Fall Enrollment Event on Oct. 23, at Beef O'Brady's from noon to 1 p.m. All working women are invited to come and see what we're all about. Barbara Godejohn will speak on women's health issues. For information contact President Karin Ammons at Cassell's and McCall 863-763-3131.

Machine embroidery group meeting

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, Oct. 25, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. in the Red Cross classroom, 323 N. Parrott Avenue. Bring your machine and lunch for a fun-filled day. This month we will be embroidering on a towel; supplies needed are self-adhesive stabilizer, water soluble stabilizer, your design of choice and a towel. For more information please call Joan at 863-467-0290 or Corry at 863-467-2231.

Free coffee at Guardian Ad Litem meeting

Starbucks on 12th Street and U.S. 1 in Vero Beach will host the GALP monthly coffee on Saturday, Oct. 25, at 10 a.m. The coffee is for anyone interested in knowing more about the Guardian ad Litem Program. Guardians ad Litem are trained volunteers who are court-appointed as child advocates and are involved in court proceedings, giving a voice to victims of child abuse. Volun-

teers are needed for Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin and Okeechobee Counties. Stop by for a free cup of coffee with a GAL Volunteer and find out how you too can Speak Up for an Abused Child. Our next volunteer training class starts Nov. 6. For more information, call toll-free 1-866-341-1425

Haunted Halloween night at DuPuis Management area

Looking for an evening full of fun. Visit the DuPuis Visitor center on Oct. 25, from 5:30 until 8 p.m. The night will be filled with hayrides, games, spooky crafts and candy treats. Learn about creepy critters like owls, rats, spiders and bats as you're guided through a haunted trail. This event is free of charge. Costumes are optional. To make reservations or for more

information call Kim Kanter at 800-432-2045 ext. 3339.

Orchid club to meet

The Okeechobee Orchid Club will meet on Monday, **Oct. 27**, at 7 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Extension Service. They will have show and tell at this meeting and request that you bring in an Orchid to show or bring in a problem Orchid for Harry to diagnose. Introduce your favorite Orchid and tell how it grows. At these meetings you will meet other Orchid enthusiasts and share problems and solutions, enjoy refreshments and networking and there will be an Orchid drawing as a fundraiser. Please bring questions and program ideas. Let them know what subjects and speakers are of interest. The Garden Club meets in the same location at 6 p.m. For more information call 863-763-6469.

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Friday **\$6⁰⁰**
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PG-13

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Service Club News in Brief

The American Legion Post #64

501 S.E. Second Street, Okeechobee
Office 863-763-2950 - Lounge 863-763-5309
We can accommodate meetings, weddings and parties of any size.

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

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

Tuesday: Open 11-8 p.m. Wednesday: Open 11-8 p.m. - "Taco Day" 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tacos - \$1.50

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

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

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

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

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

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

SAL Meet the third Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Am-Vets #2001

Am-Vets No. 2001 will hold a regular informational meeting on the first Saturday of the month at the Buckhead Ridge VFW Post #9528, 2002 U.S. 78 W., at 10 a.m.

Applications for new members are available. Call Helen James at 863-824-7644 or Lou Eder at 863-357-0467.

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

Eagles Aeries #4137

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

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

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

available.

Every Thursday: washer toss at 1 p.m.
First and third Thursday: Auxiliary at 6 p.m.; Aeries at 7 p.m.

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

Saturdays and Sundays: music at 7 p.m.

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

Okeechobee Masonic Lodge #237

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

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

Order of the Eastern Star - Chapter #128

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

B.H.R. Moose Lodge

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Saturdays: dinner starting at 6 p.m.

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

Saturday of the month.

Karaoke at 6 p.m. on Oct. 12 and 26 with Phil Eddings.
Oct. 21 at 8 p.m. will be Moose Membership meetings with enrollment of new prospective members.

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

Moose Family Center #1753

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

Every Sunday breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dinner and music almost every Saturday night.

VFW Post #4423

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

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

Mondays: 50-cent hot dogs. Tuesdays: Washer toss at 1 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Men's Auxiliary Meeting 3

Monday of every month 7 p.m.

Big Screen TV and Pool Table

VFW Post #9528

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

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

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

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

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

Membership meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month beginning at 10 a.m. The House Committee meeting is on the fourth Saturday.

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

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

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

VFW Post #10539

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

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

Monday: Card Bingo at 6 p.m.

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

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

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

Friday: Music, kitchen open

from 5 until 8 p.m.

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

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

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

For further information call 863-763-2308.

Shrine Club

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

They are now open three days a week.

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

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

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

Cypress Hut Eagles #4509

The Cypress Hut Fraternal Order of Eagles post #4509 located at 4701 U.S. 441 S.E. is now open to members Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m., Sundays from 1 to 10 p.m. Information can be found by visiting www.foe4509.com, or calling 863-467-1154.

Food is served several evenings a week.

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

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

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

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

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Sports News in Brief

Premier basketball fundamentals camp

The nation's premier basketball fundamentals camp is com-

ing to Okeechobee High School starting at 9 a.m. on Oct. 25. The National Association of Basketball Coaches is proud to announce Coach Jon Enrico has been se-

lected to run their official skill development camp. The camp runs for four weekends, for two and a half hours per session. This camp focuses on proper fundamentals and technique and will improve any camper's basketball ability. The \$99 tuition includes a premium basketball, a SkillsChamp t-shirt, and a personal website that tracks your camper's progress and provides additional driveway drills to help sharpen your camper's skills. To sign up go to www.skillschamp.com.

ties are available for this event.

Registration takes place at 7 a.m. the day of the event. The "Best Ball" tournament will begin with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. Following the competition, a luncheon for the awarding of prizes for accomplishments achieved during the tournament will take place. Best of all, a brand new vehicle from Accardi/Milrot Jeep Chrysler in Okeechobee will be provided for a "Hole In One" on the par 3, hole 2. Additional prizes will be awarded for competition on the remaining par three holes. Cost to compete in the event is \$50 per player or \$200 per team. Cost includes breakfast and lunch; green fees; and cart.

OHS Bowling Report

The Okeechobee High School Brahms hosted Ft. Pierce Westwood Tuesday, Oct. 14 at Stardust Lanes. The Brahms took game one by 72 pins. The second game went in favor of Westwood by 71 pins. Game three would decide who would win the match. The Brahms proved they were the better team by winning game three by 87 pins. Ricardo Herrera led the Brahms in game 1 with 192. Game two was also led by Ricardo Herrera. And you guessed it, Ricardo Herrera also led the Brahms in game three with another 192.

hosted Ft. Pierce Westwood at Stardust Lanes, Tuesday. The Lady Brahms jumped all over Westwood early in game one and never looked back winning by 143 pins. Game two was a little closer, but the Lady Brahms prevailed, winning by 71 pins. Westwood managed to win game three but the Brahms won the match. Brittany Herndon and Amanda Rathbun led the Brahms in game one each shooting a 168. Danielle Racine shot a 168 in game two to take high game honors. Brittany Haggard led the Brahms in game three with a 138.

Raulerson Hospital is proud to sponsor the United Way of Okeechobee, third annual "Greater Open" Golf Tournament on Oct. 18, at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club. Funds raised through the United Way of Okeechobee, stay in Okeechobee County. Sponsorship opportuni-

ties are available for this event.

Registration takes place at 7 a.m. the day of the event. The "Best Ball" tournament will begin with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. Following the competition, a luncheon for the awarding of prizes for accomplishments achieved during the tournament will take place. Best of all, a brand new vehicle from Accardi/Milrot Jeep Chrysler in Okeechobee will be provided for a "Hole In One" on the par 3, hole 2. Additional prizes will be awarded for competition on the remaining par three holes. Cost to compete in the event is \$50 per player or \$200 per team. Cost includes breakfast and lunch; green fees; and cart.

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The Lady Brahms also

Both teams improved on their division records to 4-3.

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Raulerson hosts benefit golf tourney

Raulerson Hospital is proud to sponsor the United Way of Okeechobee, third annual "Greater Open" Golf Tournament on Oct. 18, at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club. Funds raised through the United Way of Okeechobee, stay in Okeechobee County. Sponsorship opportuni-

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Students

Continued From Page 1

Thomas Skinner presented the signatures of over 200 businesses and local citizens in support of Colonel Saucier.

Cadet Deanna Davis stated that, "if the colonel does not return to the program, then many of us will not either." She went on to explain how the colonel has affected the lives of the JROTC cadets and instilled in them the idea of "doing what is morally right even if no one else is looking."

Another parent, John Maclean spoke of a general lack of support from the administration and district following the incidents concerning the JROTC instructors. According to Mr. Maclean there was no moral or informational support extended to the students after their leadership was taken out of the classroom.

Mr. Maclean said the JROTC program is important to OHS in promoting leadership and moral values. He claimed things such as the Gay Straight Alliance Club and the fact that the district allows pregnant teenagers to attend school and "flaunt their loose moral values" are related to the reason OHS is a D rated school.

Many of the students said the colonel had always been there for them and they saw him not only as a leader, but as a father to their "JROTC family." Cadet Dwayne Gilliland said that he regularly tells all of the JROTC members and instructors "I love you," on a daily basis.

Those speaking to the board seemed to disregard the fact that the matter is actually in the hands

of law enforcement and the justice system.

Chairman Joe Arnold explained, "I cannot reinstate an employee without an investigation being complete. I understand that leadership and discipline are important, but we also have to be disciplined and follow our policies as well. Reinstating a person prior to a complete investigation is not good business."

"It concerns me to hear the members of the JROTC say that they will quit the program if they lose the specific leadership," said board member Kelly Owens, She said the students are the program, not any specific leader or instructor.

"You have to know that you make who you are. It is your choice how you manage that and you need to make Colonel Saucier proud whether he is there or not," she said.

Mrs. Owens also explained that her father and her husband are veterans. She and her husband were also firefighters. Because of this, she explained to the cadets that when involved in a military, law enforcement or any other type of related career, one cannot determine their fate upon the existence of a specific leadership that they have come to believe in. The fact is that in the military, your leader can be gone in an instant.

One JROTC parent, George Roberson, disagreed with the crowd.

Mr. Roberson, a 26-year military veteran himself, explained that he does not agree with the parents that the students should quit the program.

"My son will not quit this

JROTC program. In the military, it is the military way that when a man goes down, then the military will put someone else in their place. That is the way the military works," stated Mr. Roberson. His son is currently a JROTC cadet and is hoping to attend West Point. Mr. Roberson sees the JROTC program as valuable experience that will help his son reach his future goals.

While, Mr. Roberson did share his support for the colonel, but said the program can and should go on even if he is not reinstated.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Ken Kenworthy said the district is very proud of the students for exercising their right to address the Board.

"It is very difficult to speak to a group of adults in a public forum and I applaud them for expressing their opinions; a right our military fought to provide for us. The Board, Superintendent and High School Administration are supporting the program and have no intention of shutting it down. I believe the Board and Board Attorney made it clear that no employment decisions will be made until the legal issue is resolved. It is our hope that the students recognize the importance of the JROTC program and decide to stay enrolled."

A well-run JROTC program is many times the focal point of a high school, he said. Although this situation is a setback, the district has faith in the students, parents and administration that this program will recover and ultimately help the cadets achieve their personal goals, he continued.

On, Wednesday, Oct. 15, Dr. Cooper and Principal Toni Wiers-

ma met with cadets at Okeechobee High School. Mr. Kenworthy explained that "the cadets are committed to the program and even asked if they could begin recruiting at the middle schools to increase enrollment. Those in attendance walked away from the meeting feeling encouraged. They seemed determined to persevere during this difficult time which is an admirable quality of any potential soldier or citizen."

Dr. Cooper is coordinating efforts for the cadets to begin recruitment at the middle school level during the scheduling events at the two middle schools.

Efforts are already under way to find one new JROTC instructor. Due to the resignation of Jose Maldonado, the district has already advertised the position and has received applications. Pending upon scheduling with these applicants, the district foresees beginning interviews as soon as next week.

Colonel Saucier's arrest was in conjunction with the investigation and arrest of Jose Maldonado, who was charged with six criminal charges dealing with sexual misconduct allegations made by a 16-year-old student.

According to the Detective Van Deman, in a previous interview, during the investigation it became

known that Colonel Saucier had been aware of the allegations and did not report the suspicions to either the school administration of the Florida Abuse Registry, which is required by law.

"He was aware of the crimes for about two weeks and still did not disclose the information to the proper sources," Detective Van Deman added.

The alleged incident with Maldonado occurred on Aug. 10, after an ROTC traffic detail at the Mud Fest. The student told deputies that Maldonado exposed himself and propositioned her in his office at school and later in his vehicle before dropping her off at her residence.

JROTC Operations Officer Chief High School Branch 6th Brigade Anthony Proulx explained that due to the recent events, everything is in the hands of the civilian law enforcement authority.

JROTC is a Department of Defense sponsored program. Due to the cost sharing of the Army and the school district, the Army retains certain authorities of review of JROTC programs to ensure that they are operating according to the contract with the district.

The Army provides the curriculum for the program which includes a very diverse type of instruction. According to Mr.

Proulx, the curriculum includes military science; military history; earth science and geography; first aid; drug demand awareness; public speaking; service learning; and leadership which includes the Drill and Ceremony aspects of the program.

JROTC programs are strictly forbidden to participate in any tactical maneuvers. They are not a program aimed at training future military officers. The mission of the program is to "motivate young people to be better citizens."

According to Mr. Proulx, "this means that members of the JROTC do not have to be planning on going into the military, they are not training officers necessarily in JROTC. They are instead training future leaders."

Mr. Proulx explained that if a guilty verdict is received in either case, the Army would withdraw JROTC certification which would prevent them from teaching in a JROTC program in the future. JROTC instructors are not required to have Department of Education certification, only Army certification and therefore would be unemployable if the JROTC certification was withdrawn.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Chauna Aguilar can be reached at caguilar@newszap.com.

Disaster assistance available for farmers

TALLAHASSEE—Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson has announced that agricultural producers in 59 of Florida's 67 counties are eligible for federal disaster assistance as a result of damage from Tropical Storm Fay in late August.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has designated 36 counties impacted by the storm as primary disaster areas and 23 others as contiguous disaster areas, and counties in each category are eligible for disaster aid.

"We are very appreciative of the Bush Administration's decision to honor our request in having these counties declared disaster areas so that farmers and ranchers impacted by the storm can seek the disaster assistance that many of them need to rebuild their businesses," Commissioner Bronson said.

On Sept. 3, Commissioner Bronson asked Governor Char-

lie Crist to seek federal disaster declarations for the impacted counties that were battered by high winds, excessive rainfall, flooding and tornadoes associated with Tropical Storm Fay as it relentlessly hammered Florida between Aug. 19, and Aug. 24.

Agricultural producers in the 59 counties are eligible to be considered for Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans, and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), which was approved as part of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008.

FSA is currently developing regulations and software for the SURE program, so while FSA emergency loans are the only program available immediately, Commissioner Bronson said he anticipates that additional resources will be available to those producers with losses as soon as the SURE program is implemented.

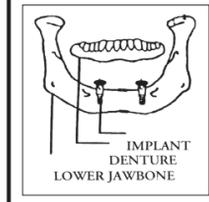
FSA will consider each application on its own merits, and local FSA offices can provide impacted farmers with further information.

Counties receiving the primary disaster declaration were: Alachua, Baker, Bay, Bradford, Brevard, Charlotte, Clay, Collier, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Glades, Hamilton, Hendry, Highlands, Holmes, Indian River, Jefferson, Lee, Leon, Madison, Marion, Martin, Nassau, Okeechobee, Putnam, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Suwannee, Union, Volusia, Wakulla and Washington.

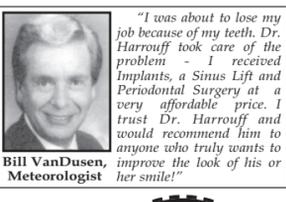
Counties receiving the contiguous county disaster declaration were:

Broward, Calhoun, Citrus, De Soto, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Hardee, Jackson, Lafayette, Lake, Levy, Liberty, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Polk, Sarasota, Sumter, Taylor and Walton.

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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.

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.

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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Berger Clinic joins University Medical Clinics

University Medical Clinics is pleased to announce that The Berger Clinic, an Internal Medicine/Primary Care Physician's office based in Okeechobee, Florida has joined University Medical Clinics. Jay S. Berger, MD, and his team of health care professionals have been serving the health care needs of the people of Okeechobee for over twenty years. Along with continuing to operate his practice, Dr. Berger becomes the regional Medical Director for University Medical Clinics in Okeechobee.

In commenting on this strategic business agreement, Doctor Berger said, "Our relationship with University Medical Clinics is a win - win for our patients and the people of Okeechobee because it brings expanded health care services to our community". Dr. Samuel Sadow, Chief Executive Officer of University Medical Clinics, said, "The stellar reputation of providing quality care for many years in the community makes The Berger Clinic a perfect fit for University Medical Clinics. We are excited to be able to work with Jay to expand the accessibility of affordable, quality healthcare

to the people of Okeechobee." **About The Berger Clinic:** The Berger Clinic provided quality Primary Care/Internal Medicine to the people of Okeechobee for over twenty years. Along with Primary Care and Internal Medicine, The Berger Clinic also specializes in Pain Management and the diagnosis and treatment of Spine disorders and injuries. **About University Medical Clinics:** University Medical Clinics is a Florida based company founded by health care professionals in 2007 with Medical Centers in

Brevard, Indian River, Saint Lucie and Okeechobee counties. The company is a full service Primary Care/Internal Medicine Physicians Group providing a full range of health care services, including but not limited to; preventive health care, health and wellness programs, diagnostic services, Orthopedics, Pain Management, Cardiology, Oncology, and many other specialized health care services. The company's vision is to provide affordable, accessible, quality health care solutions to the adult residents of Florida.

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Cars eligible for Farm Bureau rebate program

Florida Farm Bureau members can receive \$500 cash savings on the retail purchase or lease of new 2008 and 2009 Dodge Avenger, Charger and Caliber automobiles. Those models have been added to the list of eligible vehicles that also includes Ram 1500/2500/3500, Dakota, Durango, Neon, Stratus Coupe/Sedan, Caravan/Caravan CV, Grand Caravan/Grand Caravan CV, Magnum and Nitro. SRT models, Viper, Challenger and the Sprinter van are not included in the incentive program.

The Dodge \$500 Farm Bureau Bonus program is part of a broad menu of member benefits that includes banking and insurance services, medical discounts, discounts on travel, lodging and theme park admissions, child safety seats, Florida Agriculture magazine, discounts from Grainger and the Farm Bureau Buyers Club. A complete list of

benefits is available on the Federation's Web site, <http://FloridaFarmBureau.org>. Farm Bureau's mission is to increase the income of agricultural producers and improve the quality of rural life. Anyone can become a member. The Florida Farm Bureau Federation is the state's largest general-interest agricultural association with about 140,000 member-fam-

ilies statewide. Headquartered in Gainesville, the Federation is an independent, nonprofit agricultural organization.

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"This is a significant expansion of members' Dodge vehicle choices," said Florida Farm Bureau President John L. Hoblick. "It expands a popular program that has saved our members hundreds of thousands of dollars." Individuals who have been members of the Florida Farm Bureau for at least 30 days can obtain a bonus certificate from their county Farm Bureau entitling them to the \$500 rebate. The rebate, which can be combined with any national consumer incentives, is available only to Florida Farm Bureau members in Florida. The incentive cannot be combined with the Dodge ON THE JOB Commercial Incentive Program, Chrysler Employee Advantage, Dealership Employee Purchase, Friends Program, College Graduate Program or certain other printed certificate programs.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Soccer victory
 Hunter Pritchard opened the scoring with a first half goal for Osceola Middle School in their Wednesday victory against Yearling Middle School. The Osceola Warriors enjoyed their sixth straight victory Wednesday, wrapping up an unbeaten soccer season, the first in Osceola Middle School history. For a story and more photos, see page 12.

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Public Notice 5005

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

TO: LEROY E. FELT Whose residence is: 16880 NW 38TH AVE, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972...

IF ALIVE, and if dead, all parties claiming interest by, through, under or against LEROY E. FELT...

ARLENE NEALIS As Clerk of the Notice of Action, Complaint and Lis Pendens were sent to the defendants and address named above...

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act...

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

IN RE: ESTATE OF JAMES V. COURSON, Deceased NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of JAMES V. COURSON, deceased, whose date of death was August 16, 2007...

NOTICE OF HEARING Okeechobee County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate

NEW LOCATION The Okeechobee County Special Magistrate will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, October 21, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

INVITATION TO BID Notice is hereby given that Okeechobee County Florida, hereby requests sealed bids to provide the following:

Sealed bids must be submitted on the proper bid form in a sealed envelope bearing the name and address of the proposer and the words "HVAC MAINTENANCE-JAIL FACILITY, BID NO. 2008 - 17" marked clearly on the outside...

Sharon Robertson, Clerk Okeechobee Board of County Commissioners 296672 ON 10/17/08

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SUDOKU

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9x9 grid for a sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

ANSWER: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Public Notice 5005

REQUEST FOR BIDS GOODS AND SERVICES The Okeechobee Utility Authority (OUA) will receive sealed bids, for the purpose of securing the following:

* Lawn Mowing Services Detailed bid documents are available upon request from the office of the Executive Director...

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

IN RE: FORFEITURE OF \$11,671.00 US CURRENCY NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: JERRISON LAVOY MASON 2312 SW 19th Lane Okeechobee, Florida 34974

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action for forfeiture has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense...

SHARON ROBERTSON Clerk of Circuit Court By: Kathy Arnold DEPUTY CLERK

PUBLIC NOTICE The Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners will hold its regular session on Thursday, October 23, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

Any person declining to appeal any decision made by the Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings...

NOTICE OF HEARING Okeechobee County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate

NEW LOCATION The Okeechobee County Special Magistrate will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, October 21, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

INVITATION TO BID Notice is hereby given that Okeechobee County Florida, hereby requests sealed bids to provide the following:

Sealed bids must be submitted on the proper bid form in a sealed envelope bearing the name and address of the proposer and the words "HVAC MAINTENANCE-JAIL FACILITY, BID NO. 2008 - 17" marked clearly on the outside...

Sharon Robertson, Clerk Okeechobee Board of County Commissioners 296672 ON 10/17/08

Fun By The Numbers Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off...

9x9 grid for a sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

ANSWER: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Public Notice 5005

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

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF PRISCILLA SWARTZ, Deceased NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of PRISCILLA SWARTZ, deceased, whose date of death was December 7, 2007...

Attorney for Person Giving Notice: JEFFREY A. FADLEY, P.A. Fla. Bar No.: 035667

Person Giving Notice: Adam M. McKay III 2995 Highway 174 Edisto Island, SC 29438

How fast can your car go? It can go even faster when you sell it in the classifieds.

Skeet shoot planned for Nov. 1

Be a big shot with Big Brothers Big Sisters By Teresa Mataushek Okeechobee News

Get off to a rolling start at 8 a.m. at the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) skeet shoot at Quail Creek Plantation on Saturday, Nov. 1.

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

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

Sponsor participation levels are: Banner Sponsor - \$1,000. Includes: team of four, banner on course, recognition at the awards ceremony, mention in pre-event press releases, and mention in the newsletter and annual report; Signature Sponsor - \$500. Includes: team of four, sign on course, recognition at the awards ceremony, and mention in pre-event press releases; Station Sponsor - \$150. Includes: Sign on course and mention in pre-event press releases.

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

Big O Hike Plan now for November. It is time to organize your schedule so that you can take the time off during Thanksgiving week to attend the Big "O" Hike around Lake Okeechobee.

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



Outdoors

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

manage to finish the 9 days. So plan now and get in shape for November. For further information, call Paul at 561-963-9906.

Kids Day Fishing Festival

Sunday, Oct. 26 head on down to the Agri-Civic Center for the 23rd Annual Lee McAllister Memorial, free Kids Day Fishing Festival. The festival is sponsored by the Taylor Creek Bass Club along with support from several local businesses.

From 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. a Bassmaster Casting Kids Competition will be held. Following instructions given by members of the Taylor Creek Bass Club and a practice period, all girls and boys ages 7-10 and 11-14 are invited to test their fishing skills at flipping, pitching and casting to targets. Rods and reels will be provided to the kids. The winners will receive a medal, a new rod and reel and an automatic advance to the state competition.

At 1 p.m. a live fishing competition will begin at the Agri-Civic Center's back pond. Trophies and prizes will be awarded in each age group. Age groups include:

4-6, 7-10 and 11-14. Entry forms and drop boxes are available at several local schools, tackle shops, businesses and restaurants. Entry forms have also been printed several times in the Okeechobee News.

Participants are encouraged to pre-register by drop box or by mailing forms to Taylor Creek Bass Club, c/o Dave Stout, 814 S.E. 25th St., Okeechobee, FL, 34974 before Oct. 19. Pre-registration lets the club know how many children to plan for. The club will provide cane poles and bait. The children will also be treated to free hot dogs and drinks. A parent or guardian must accompany each child. For more information call Dave Stout at the Taylor Creek Bass Club, Inc. at 863-467-2255.

Florida Mottled Duck study

Researchers with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) captured and radio-marked 47 Florida mottled duck females earlier this month. This marks the beginning of a three-year project funded in part by Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

"Ducks Unlimited is proud to support this research project," Craig LeSchack, Director of Conservation Programs for DU, said. "This research will identify certain habitat needs of mottled ducks and, therefore, allow us to better shape our conservation programs for this important species."

The Florida mottled duck is a unique subspecies of the mottled duck found only in peninsular Florida. The Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) south of Lake Okeechobee supports a large number of mottled ducks and is considered an important habitat area for this species. Researchers with the Waterfowl Management Program of the FWC are collecting information on the habitat use, movements and survival of female mottled ducks within the EAA as part of the ongoing comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Florida mottled duck.

Researcher releases Mottled Duck after radio-marking.

Ronald Bielefeld, FWC wa-

terfowl biologist, is leading the study. "The information we're collecting will allow people involved with land and wildlife conservation in this area to better predict the effects of their activities on the mottled duck, and to focus their conservation efforts where they will be most effective," Mr. Bielefeld said.

The hydrology and vegetative structure of the EAA was dramatically altered by agriculture. Currently, substantial and lasting changes are being made to the wetland and associated upland habitats in the EAA as the result of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project. How mottled ducks use the habitats of the EAA over their annual cycle, and how they will adapt to relatively rapid and large-scale changes over the longer term is not well understood. By radio-marking and following approximately 80 female mottled ducks each year, the researchers hope to answer some of these questions.

"We are now tracking the birds we marked earlier this month," Mr. Bielefeld said. "Soon we will be trapping birds in suburban areas of West Palm Beach east of EAA. All of them will be tracked throughout their annual cycle to monitor habitat use and survival."

Researchers will track the radio-marked birds throughout their annual life cycle. With more than a million supporters, Ducks Unlimited is the world's largest and most effective wetland and waterfowl conservation organization with more than 12 million acres conserved. The United States alone has lost more than half of its original wetlands - nature's most productive ecosystem - and continues to lose more than 80,000 wetland acres each year.

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. Please include names of those in photo and a brief description of what is going on in the photo. 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.

OHS golfers advance to regional

By Charles M. Murphy Okeechobee News

Richard Donegan and Corey White both shot 79 to lead Okeechobee High School to a second place finish at Tuesday's District 17-2A golf tournament at the Saints Country Club in Port St. Lucie.

As a result, the OHS Boys Golf Team will advance to the Region 6-2A tournament next Tuesday at the Bayside Country Club in Palm Bay. It will be Okeechobee's first

visit to the regional in nine years.

"I was pretty ecstatic," Golf Coach Mark Ward said afterward, "After nine years, we've had individuals reach the regional, but never had a group prevail. It's great to see the attitudes and how the kids have jelled together."

It took everyone to get the job done Tuesday. Martin County was head and shoulders above the rest of the field as they have gone undefeated all season. In fact, six of their players finished in the top 10 on the day and all qualified for

the next step. Martin County shot 300 as a team, 12 shots over par.

Okeechobee and Sebastian River tied for second at 327. The tie forced a one hold playoff where all five of the players on the team got to play a par 3, and each score would count.

Okeechobee had three of their five players hit the green and the team shot 17 on the par 3. Sebastian River shot 19, and fell into third place.

"It was a pressure situation. I told the kids they are already in the regional but Corey White said we want that trophy," Ward noted.

Ward praised the Brahms only senior for his leadership this

year. He also maintains the success this year should carry over to future teams.

"It is a nice little red carpet to follow. I think the opportunity to see golfers at the next level will pay big dividends," he noted.

The top teams from Palm Beach County north to Melbourne will compete in next Tuesday's tournament. It will be held at the Majors Golf Club at Bayside Lakes.

"Anytime you win it's an awesome feeling," Ward noted, "The parents and the kids are excited. Hopefully this will carry over into the classroom and their other endeavors."

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS 1 Alan of "M*A*S*H" 5 1690s witchcraft town 10 Squeeze (in) 14 Robin, for one 15 Actress Verdugo 16 Prefix with dynamic 17 Airline to Israel 18 Connect to the Internet 19 Is unable to 20 Hawthorne collection of previously published stories 23 U2's lead vocalist 24 On ___ sandwich specification 25 Ono/Lennon album 30 Sleep disturbance 31 Far beneath the surface 32 Three, on a sundial 35 California college Harvey ___ 36 Like bundled hay 38 Queue before Q 39 Houston-to-Miami dir. 40 Surrender 41 ___ trot: excited 42 1967 Finney/Hepburn film 46 Kind of jacket named for an Indian leader 47 Million or billion ending 48 Fanny Brice song that was a Streisand hit 53 Belg.-based peacekeepers 54 German thanks 55 Three-piece suit piece 57 Longhorn State school near the Mex. border 58 Ocean traveler 59 Trade show 60 Physiques, briefly 61 "Yipes!"

- 29 Born, in nuptial news 33 Tiny bit 34 MP3 player 36 Confuse nose at 37 Busyness 38 In addition 40 Pone ingredient 41 German mister 43 "Uh-oh" 44 Failed suddenly, in slang 45 Whom seekers seek 46 "Cool!" 48 Turn up one's nose at 49 Reagan's first secretary of state 50 Tolstoy's Karenina 51 Alluring 52 Channel for armchair athletes 56 Stubbing victim

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

Grid for crossword puzzle answer with letters filled in.

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers indicating starting points.

YMS Volleyball team is undefeated

By Charles M. Murphy Okeechobee News

Yearling Middle School was spurred on by a near capacity crowd Wednesday as they overwhelmed in county rival Osceola, 25-9, and 25-8 in girls' volleyball to finish off an unbeaten season.

It was a totally dominating performance for the Lady Yearlings as they won on all phases of the game, serves, net play and digs. Coach Bruce Conrad came away impressed with the execution of his team.

"I'm just sad the season's over," Conrad noted. This year, due to budget cuts in Martin County, there was no Treasure Lake Conference tournament.

Kyla Hargrave had a big game in the first game with two kills and a kill in the second game. Coach Conrad praised her for the season she had.

"I really could name everybody but they all played well this year," Conrad noted.

Yearling was helped by playing tough competition. Tuesday, the girls played a five set match with Heartland Christian, a high school team, and came away

victorious. Conrad said after that game, he expected his team to do well against Osceola.

"Last night we had played so great, I think that helped us today," he added.

Maci Thomas had one ace, four kills, and one dig. Kyla Hargrave had three aces and three kills. Sarah Hurst had three aces and seven assists.

Yearling girls celebrate their big victory over Osceola with high fives at the net.



Osceola completes unbeaten soccer season



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Juan Medina of Yearling (left) and Victor Pineda of Osceola compete for the ball during Wednesdays match.

By Charles M. Murphy
 Okeechobee News

Jorje Botello was greeted with the popular Gatorade bath as this team celebrated their sixth straight victory Wednesday which wrapped up an unbeaten soccer season, the first in Osceola Middle School history.

Osceola couldn't have celebrated against a more important opponent, as they defeated arch rival Yearling, 3-0, on the Yearlings' home field.

"I'm definitely very pleased. It took us three years to build the team, and I'm glad to see I become reality," Botello noted.

Osceola went up against an inspired opponent in a rematch of a soccer match two weeks ago where Osceola won 6-0. This victory was a lot harder. Yearling played very good defense and had some opportunities in the first half. Osceola took over in the second half as they possessed the ball more and kept the ball in Yearling's side of the field.

"It's always going to be a rivalry game for us. They played much better defense and that was good," Botello noted.

Hunter Pritchard, Diego Rodriguez and Alex Delacruz had goals for Osceola. Goal keeper Jose Bucio withstood a couple of shots in the first half to record a shutout.

"We didn't want this to be a game where our team came in thinking they were going to win," Botello noted, "It was a game of class. They made some adjustments and we got through it. It was a real good game. It is more competitive that way."

Osceola only led 1-0 at the half as Pritchard scored on a goal on a kick from about 25 yards away. Rodriguez and Delacruz hit point blank shots in the final 20 minutes to give the Warriors some breathing room.

Members of the unbeaten Warrior team include Madison Hamner, Cain Elliot, Preston Marfill, Adel Elhindi, Cesar Sanchez, Austen Holmes, Diego Rodriguez, Paul Jackson, Delfino Garcia, Gavin Wilinski, Hunter Pritchard, Victor Pineda, Jose Bucio, James Steiert, Ben Vuleta, Jake Menendez, Caitlyn Jolly, Alexandra Delacruz, and Atalo Palacios.

Botello will move on to coach the Brahmans girls' varsity soccer team this winter.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Osceola goal keeper Jose Bucio scrambles for a loose ball as Yearling's Jose Bucio and Osceola's Francisco Bucio converge on the net Wednesday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Luis Martinez of Yearling winds up to kick the ball down field.

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WATERFRONT PROPERTY. Well maintained DWMH. Beautiful backyard nicely landscaped with waterfall, bridge over stream running through backyard. Many mature trees. Two nice sheds, fish cleaning station with dock. Large private well stocked lake. Circle driveway. **MLS #201595, \$94,900. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.**



WELL BUILT CBS HOME on beautiful waterfront corner lot. Fenced in area on side yard. Has a mural painted on the wall by Egretta Wells '81. Great starter home. Needs a little TLC. Vacant lot included in sale. **MLS #201596, \$120,000. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.**



WATERFRONT This is a waterfront on a large lot. It has mature oaks and a nice boat dock. The home is a well maintained home and ready to move in. **MLS #201606, \$150,000. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.**

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Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Jose Bucio of Yearling pursues a free ball as Cain Elliot watches during Wednesday's match with Osceola.

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"GATED COMMUNITY" Very well maintained '86 DWMH with Florida Room and attached carport. This is a great place to live, community pool, clubhouse lots of activities to look forward to. Once you visit you will want to stay forever! Easy to show. **#94607 \$59,900**

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"PICTURE PERFECT" Picture Perfect Home - Upgraded bath and kitchen. Shows like a model home. Hot tub on screened porch. Extra parking on side of home for RV or boat. Garage is AC. Furniture is optional. Come take a look! **#201420 \$175,000**

"NATURE WELCOMES" Nice 3/2 on 5 acres with pond, barn for horses. Fenced and crossed fenced. Home has security system and 6x6 walk-in-closet that is a Hurricane "safe" room. Split floor plan, open living. Marble bathrooms. Very private, no neighbors just deer turkey. **#94361 \$290,000**

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"NEED SOME PEACE & QUIET!" 3/2 24x48 DWMH w/12x36 Attached Screen Room. Tool Shed Plus Horse Barn on 4.920 Acres fenced and cross fenced for horses. Large fenced front yard with gate in driveway. DW home interior being remodeled by owner. **#201172 \$185,000**

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5033-M GORGEOUS 3BR/2.5BA HOME with tile floors throughout, generator hook-up, and hurricane shutters. Property includes a barn with capacity for up to 11 stalls, 2 bedroom guesthouse, in-ground enclosed screened pool, and much more to offer. All sits on 47+/- acres. Assumable 1st Financing. Seller will pay closing cost! Call office for further details. **MLS# 201620**



FORECLOSURE

1000-H: In town 3/2 CBS home with attached carport, laundry room and screened back porch. But hurry won't last long! **\$96,900 MLS# 201642**

5018-H: 4BR/2BA At Corners Gables. Split BR plan, att. garage & open nice back porch. **Seller will pay 10,000 towards closing cost**. Call for further info **MLS# 201467**

FORECLOSURE

5028-H: Foreclosure banner-Basswood CBS home on 3 Lots with screened in-ground pool and fenced back yard. **MLS# 201510**

5029-M: Spot in the Sun 2005 DW MH on 1/2 acre. Nice & clean, ready to move in. Nice back yard/two storage buildings & trees. **MLS# 201534**

ACREAGE/LOT

•FORECLOSURE 5+/- acres @ NE 112th Ave **MLS# 201094**
•5+/- ACRES @ NE 24th St. **MLS# 201364**
•2+/- ACRES @ NW 164th CT, Edwards Subd. **\$90,000 MLS# 93740**
•5+/-ACRES Sunset Strip Airpark @ SW 13th St. **MLS# 201396**
• 2 SIDE BY SIDE 4+ ACRE PARCELS IN OKEECHOBEE LITTLE FARMS **MLS# 200262**
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Local bowler celebrates 97th birthday

Still holds a 95 average

Dorothy Sweazy, of Okeechobee, formerly of Fermont, Ohio, celebrated her 97th birthday on Oct. 10. She celebrated a day early with the Thursday morning Coffee League at Stardust Lanes. She bowls on Kate's Pet Parlor team regularly each week. She

has been a member for 12 years. She started her bowling career with a "learn to bowl" class which her daughter, Bonnie Kimsey, was teaching at Brunswick Imperial Bowl in Dania, Fla., approximately 31 years ago, which would have made her about 66 years old. She bowled with her original 12 pound ball up until 2006 at which time she dropped down to a 8 lb. ball. Dorothy and her husband,

Noble, bowled several years with their son, Lee and daughter Bonnie, in Ft. Lauderdale, all in the family league. She has been bowling in the Thursday Morning Coffee League since 1996. She is and has been an inspiration to the ladies on Thursday morning and all bowlers. On her 90 year birthday she bowled a 180. Her starting average in the league was 130 plus. She currently carries a 95 average.



Submitted photo
Dorothy Sweazy (center) celebrated her 97th birthday with her friends. Two of the people there to help her celebrate were her daughter (left) Bonnie Kimsey and Jo Jackson (right) along with many friends and fellow bowlers.



Submitted photo
Dorothy Sweazy celebrated her 97th birthday her friends on the Thursday Morning Coffee League.



Submitted photo/Bobbi Poole
Meet the Ladies
The Okeechobee High School Lady Brahms Bowling Team, Danielle Racine, Reba Spiess, Tameko Homick, Brittany Herndon, Brittany Yager, Victoria Woodruff, Brittany Haggard, Kathrine Vinson, and Amanda Rathbun stand with Coach Howard at the bowling lanes.

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NEW PRICE! CBS 3/2/bonus room/carpport, 3167 TSF circular drive, WATER-FRONT, wood deck, 1 ACRE, special renovating financing available. **\$225,000** #204C Call Cindi Fairtrace (863) 697-0433

DELIGHTFUL TREAT ON 1.25 ACRES! You will feel right at home in this stunning home, hardwood floors/carpet, 2051 TSF, wood cabinets, shed. **\$215,000** #202D Call Cindi Fairtrace (863) 697-0433

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