



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 100 No. 16

Friday, February 6, 2009

50¢ Plus tax

Briefs

Calendar Photo Contest open

Calling all shutterbugs! The South Florida Water Management District's Okeechobee Service Center is seeking Lake Okeechobee, Lake Istokpoga and Lower Kissimmee River Basin area digital photographs for the 2010 Lake Okeechobee Area calendar. Winning images will be published as the featured monthly photos. Entry forms and contest rules are available on our website at: www.sfwmd.gov/okee -- select "Info & Education." This contest is open to amateur photographers only; individuals may submit up to three digital photos until July 31, 2009. Please call 863-462-5260 with any questions.

AARP offers income tax filing help

The AARP Tax-Aide program was created to help low- and middle-income taxpayers prepare and file their income tax returns with the IRS, free of charge. Every year, from February through April 15, trained and certified volunteers help prepare federal tax returns. Tax-Aide volunteers will be available in Okeechobee County at the American Legion Hall, 501 S.E. Second Street, on Mondays and Tuesdays, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Feb. 9 through April 15. For more information about the AARP Tax-Aide program online, go to www.aarp.org.

Early Learning Coalition meets

Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin & Okeechobee Counties, Inc. - Okeechobee County Provider/Advisory Council will meet Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009 at noon at the American Red Cross, 323 North Parrott Avenue. The Bylaws/Personnel Committee will meet at 2 p.m.

Drought Index

Current: 652
Source: Florida Division of Forestry
Local Burn Ban: None

Lake Levels

13.28 feet
Last Year: 10.05 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

Index

Classifieds.....	10-11
Community Events.....	6
Crossword.....	11
Obituaries.....	6
Opinion.....	4
Service Club Briefs.....	11
Speak Out.....	4
Sports.....	12-13
Sudoku.....	10
Weather.....	2

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

newszap.com
Free Speech Free Ads



New radio system badly needed

Old emergency radio system leaves deputies in 'dead zones'

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Emergency personnel in Okeechobee County literally can be "on their own" when answering calls due to the 30-year-old countywide radio system currently in place.

And while county officials debate on what type of new system they will choose, deputies

from the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) often find themselves in "dead spots" where they have no radio communication.

"I don't want to delay because we're dealing with lives," said OCSO Major Noel Stephen. "We have rural areas being populated and our antiquated system is not geared to pick up those areas. There are more areas than I really feel comfortable with, and it causes me great concern."

The current debate being carried on by members of the Okeechobee County Board of

County Commissioners has been boiled down to a choice of two new radio systems — Florida's Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) or Motorola.

While cost is a sticking point in this debate, so is the decision on which system best fits the needs for Okeechobee County. Both systems will cost in the area of over \$6 million, but a federal grant will pick up the tab for 75 percent of the SLERS system. It has yet to be determined just how much of the Motorola cost — if any — will be paid for by the federal grant.

"We don't know yet how much (of the Motorola cost) will be picked up by the grant — probably no more than \$4.5 million," said Maj. Stephen. "Both options are viable for Okeechobee County. If there is no funding for Motorola, then SLERS will be the best thing for us to do."

He went on to say the initial cost of the Motorola system is about a million dollars less than the SLERS system.

But whatever the county decides, it must be done soon. One of the grant requirements is that the funding must be spent by

Aug. 31, 2010. It is also required that the system be up and running by that date. Maj. Stephen said it could take up to six months to install and implement either system.

As for fitting the needs for Okeechobee County, either system is infinitely better than the long-strings-and-empty-tin-cans system currently used.

One of the biggest points of discussion between the two systems is lease vs. outright ownership. To get on the Motorola sys-

See Radio — Page 5

Freeze: Temperatures drop



The temperature dropped throughout Okeechobee County Wednesday night. A sprinkler left on at this Okeechobee residence left the fence and trees covered in ice.

Winter strikes for the 3rd time

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

For the third time since Jan. 1 winter struck central Florida. Many people are no doubt hoping that winter will abide by the old saying "Three strikes and you're out."

The lowest Wednesday overnight temperature recorded at the Okeechobee County Airport was 30 degrees. However, (as George Carlin once said) nobody lives at the airport. In other parts of the county where people do live, lower temperatures were recorded overnight Wednesday.

It got down to 28 degrees at Spot in the Sun east of the city on S.R. 70. An employee at the South Florida Water Management District Service Center on S.R. 70 across from the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center reported 25 degrees. The

official NOAA weather station at the Sheriff's Office Marine Unit at Okee-Tantie reported a low of 26.2 degrees.

The lowest temperature recorded at Williamson Cattle Company on U.S. 441 N. was 26 degrees. However, Sonny Williamson said the temperature only remained that low for about one hour -- not long enough to cause serious damage to his citrus grove. He said he only received a very low level of damage. If the temperature remains below freezing for an extended period of time, it can cause serious damage to citrus trees.

Mr. Williamson said it was too windy Wednesday night to run his irrigation system -- a common practice on cold nights since the water temperature is slightly higher than the air temperature.

On Thursday afternoon the Okeechobee County Extension Service had not received any reports of extensive damage to crops. Horticulturist Dan Culbert stated that most of the damage had already been done by the previous cold spells.

Around town, many people wrapped up their plants in large cloths to keep them from freezing.

Around the state citrus crop damage was not as bad as it could have been.

"We feel like we dodged the proverbial bullet," said Michael W. Sparks, executive VP/CEO of Florida Citrus Mutual, the state's largest citrus grower organization. "There will probably be spot damage here and there but in terms of large scale problems, we came through okay."

See Winter — Page 8

Festival starts on Saturday

Speckled Perch Festival: parade, fun and food

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce 41st annual Speckled Perch Festival will start tomorrow, Saturday, Feb. 7, and Sunday, Feb. 8, in Flagler Park from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. each day.

The Speckled Perch Parade begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

There will be three parks full of arts and crafts booths of many different types including: homemade wood carving; jewelry; yard decor; a large leather display; homemade jams, jellies; "The Pickle Lady"; and also handmade knives. There are also many non-profit organizations attending the festival who have a multitude of information to share with you about their cause.

As always, each park will have live music. Park 2 will get

See Festival — Page 8

City meeting sets record for brevity

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Elected officials are often noted for their wordiness. However, the Okeechobee City Council set a new record for

brevity at their Tuesday, Feb. 3 meeting. The council meeting lasted nine minutes and five seconds from gavel to gavel. Mayor Jim Kirk said the old

See Meeting — Page 8

Pryor signs with Florida State

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Lonnie Pryor always wanted to be a Seminole and now his dream is coming true.

Pryor selected Florida State on national signing day Wednesday and celebrated at a large party at Beef O'Brady's Restaurant that was attended by his family, friends, supporters, and former teammates.

"I'm feeling good. It feels good to be around people who love you and support you," he said.

Pryor had always considered FSU as his top choice. He did the obligatory visits to other

schools, including Louisiana State University in the past year, but always knew he'd be playing for Bobby Bowden and the Seminoles.

"I have always dreamed about it, going there and playing football. It was a dream that came true for me," he noted.

Pryor ended an exceptional year with a selection last week to the Class 4A All State Football team. Brahman offensive lineman Tony Kibler was also named to the first team all state. Pryor was also named all state as a junior.

Most people who have

See Pryor — Page 2



Lonnie Pryor (center) celebrates his achievement with high school administrators Toni Wiersma (left) and Debby Gillis.

Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Glades Drive A Little... Save A Lot!
LINCOLN Mercury
525 NW Ave L Belle Glade
561-992-4000
www.gladesmotors.com
Nobody But Nobody Undersells
Glades Lincoln Mercury

Pryor

Continued From Page 1

known Lonnie over the years are not surprised that he has been this successful early in life. Former Brahms Defensive Coordinator Tyrone Smith said Pryor is the best player he has ever coached. That includes college players at West Virginia State. He said Pryor was an excellent student on the field who caught on to everything, and then taught other players.

"He could of played anywhere on that football field. Now he's ready to start at FSU as a running back. Don't be surprised to see him play significantly this year."

Former Brahms Head Coach Chris Branham was not able to attend the signing ceremony due to a death in his family. He has long sung the praises of Pryor and what he has meant to Okeechobee football.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Lonnie Pryor and his dad Charles Pryor were the guests of honor Wednesday night.

OHS Principal Toni Wiersma said Pryor has always been a leader and she predicted great things for him, "We are just so proud of him. We are proud of his character and everything that he represents," she said. "We know he will go far and do well. This is a great day for Okeechobee High

School but more importantly for Lonnie."

Pryor's father Charles was also in attendance for the signing ceremony. He attended all of Lonnie's football games and was a huge supporter of his son's goals.

Pryor's cousin Shameka Pryor said she was overjoyed that Lonnie was going to play at FSU. "It's a lovely day today," she said. "I feel so good that Lonnie is making it."

Another cousin, Tamara Pryor said she also shared Lonnie's excitement for playing at FSU, "I'm very proud of Lonnie," she said. "I'm so happy for him. I just love him."

Pryor will report to FSU on June 19th and will begin conditioning and workouts with the football team soon afterward.

He said he expects to play as a freshman and should be able to compete for a starting job in the backfield.

Pryor was ranked by rivals.com as the 15th best running back in the nation. He was rated the 28th best prospect in Florida. He ran for 5,091 yards in his career and scored 48 touchdowns. He ran for 2,295 yards and 20 touchdowns during his senior season.

Okeechobee had back-to-back playoff appearances while Pryor was on the team.

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Areas of frost before 8am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 66. Wind chill values as low as 29 early. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 43. East northeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 71. Calm wind becoming east between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 50. East northeast wind around 5 mph.

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

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Wednesday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 8-5-5; **Play 4:** 4-9-7-5; **Fantasy 5:** 1-13-15-18-20; **Mega Money:** 8-23-30-39 MB 19; **Florida Lotto:** 2-9-11-17-23-49; **Powerball:** 7-24-30-32-44 PB18 x4. Thursday, **Cash 3:** 7-3-8; **Play:** 0-0-7-1.

Post your opinions online
Newszap.com

Say I Love You This Valentine's Day

14-K Gold Store

411 S.W. PARK ST. • 763-8883

Southern Style

Women & Teen Clothing

STOREWIDE SALE
Feb. 4th - Feb. 14th

10% to 50% Off
Select Jewelry ~ Buy 1, Get 1 Free!
Plus Additional Sweetheart Deals!

2854 SW 3rd Terrace (Next to Alibi's)
Okeechobee
(863) 763-1707

Monday - Friday: 9am - 6pm Saturday: 10am - 4pm

At Your Service

Okeechobee News

Published by Independent Newspapers, Inc.

To Reach Us
Address: 107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D Okeechobee, FL 34974
Website: www.newszap.com

To Submit News
The Okeechobee News welcomes submissions from its readers. Opinions, calendar items, stories ideas and photographs are welcome. Call (863) 763-3134 to reach our newsroom. Items may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed.
E-Mail: okeeneews@newszap.com
Sneakout: (863) 467-2033

To Place A Display Ad
Phone: 863-763-3134
E-Mail: okeeadsales@newszap.com

To Place A Classified Ad
Call 877-353-2424 to place a classified advertisement from home.
Fax: 877-354-2424
E-Mail: classads@newszap.com

Billing Department
E-Mail: billteam@newszap.com

Newszap!
Online News & Information
Get the latest local news at www.newszap.com

To Start or Stop A Paper
Phone: (800) 282-8586
E-mail: readerservices@newszap.com
The Okeechobee News is available three times a week via home delivery and is on sale at rack and store locations throughout Okeechobee County. Call the office to find out if your home is within our present home-distribution boundaries.
Call 800-282-8586 to report a missed newspaper or poor delivery.
Additional copies of the newspaper are available for 50 cents Wednesday and Friday and 75 cents for Sunday at the office. Home delivery subscriptions are available at \$18.00 for three months.
Okeechobee News
USPS 406-160
Published Sunday, Wednesday and Friday by Independent Newspapers, Inc. 107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D Okeechobee, FL 34974
Periodicals Postage Paid at Okeechobee, FL 34974
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Okeechobee News Circulation Administration PO Box 7011 Dover, DE 19903

THE DEALS

ELLI'S

Winter Sale
February 2nd - 15th

25% off

ALL JACKETS, SHIRTS, WILDFIRE BELTS, AND CAMO CLOTHING, SELECTED BELTS, HATS, FOOTWEAR AND JEANS.

Visit one of our three locations today to save

907 NW Park St. Okeechobee 863-763-2984
1011 E Oak St. Arcadia 863-494-6088
27995 US Hwy Dundee 863-439-6655

www.eliswesternwear.com

1 VOLUME FORD DEALER ON THE TREASURE COAST! **

SUNRISE FORD LIQUIDATION SALE

ALL PRE-OWNED VEHICLES MUST GO...REGARDLESS OF PROFIT!

PRE-OWNED VEHICLES	
'06 FORD FOCUS ZX4 PUEBLO GOLD, FULL POWER, ALLOYS, CD, LOW MILES, GREAT MPG! #B9061A	\$9,885
'05 SUZUKI XLT 4 DOOR, V6, TOP OF THE LINE MODEL, AUTO., ALLOYS, ALL POWER, SAVE BIG! #81075B	\$10,999
'00 CHEVY 3500 LS CREW CAB DUALY, V8, LEATHER, AUTO., EXTRA CLEAN, LOW MILES, #1188A	\$11,395
'03 FORD RANGER XLT SUPERCAB 4 DOOR, V6, AUTO., WHITE, LIKE NEW! #P3413	\$11,995
'08 HYUNDAI ACCENT EXTRA CLEAN RIDE, HIGH MPG, AUTO., CD, POWER, 12K MILES, #P3334	\$12,500
'06 FORD EXPLORER XLT EXTRA SHARP, STONE GRAY, ALL POWER, NEW TIRES, SERVICED AND PRICED TO MOVE! #R3406	\$12,969
'06 FORD FOCUS WAGON ZXW SES 29,800 MILES, LIGHT TUNDRA GREEN, #P3425	\$12,955
'06 DODGE RAM QUAD CAB SLT LOADED, 18" ALLOYS, EXTRA SHARP, MIDNITE BLUE, LIQUIDATION PRICED! #8401A	\$13,955
'04 HONDA PILOT EX 4 DOOR SUV, 53K MILES, DESERT TAN METALLIC, #9059A	\$13,995
'05 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE ALL POWER, LEATHER, MOONROOF, CLEAN ONE OWNER TRADE, BLACK METALLIC, PRICED TO SELL! #8749A	\$13,999
'06 BUICK RENDEZVOUS CXL IMMACULATE, NEW CAR TRADE, TAN, LEATHER, ALL POWER, LOW MILES, PRICED TO SELL! #8956B	\$15,595
'07 FORD MUSTANG COUPE V6, AUTO., ALL POWER, BRIGHT WHITE, BALANCE OF WARRANTY! #P7905A	\$15,779
'06 FORD RANGER SUPERCAB XLT RARE 4X4, ALL POWER V6, APPEARANCE PACKAGE, BRIGHT BLUE, #P3377	\$15,999
'06 FORD FUSION SEL V6, AUTO., ALL POWER, SUPER SOUND, LEATHER, ALLOYS, MOONROOF, #P3358A2	\$15,999
'04 TOYOTA TACOMA PRERUNNER DOUBLE CAB, V6, AUTO., 30K MILES, DESERT TAN, #P3362	\$16,995
'08 HONDA CIVIC TAN METALLIC, MOONROOF, NAVIGATION, ALL POWER, AUTO., MUST SEE! LOTS OF WARRANTY LEFT! #9042A	\$17,985
'06 FORD F-150 XLT HARD TO FIND CREW CAB, ALL POWER, KEYLESS, ALLOYS, SILVER/GRAY, HURRY! #R3419	\$18,479
'06 LINCOLN LS SPORT WHITE PEARL, MOONROOF, NAVIGATION, 32K MILES, #R3433	\$18,895
'06 FORD EXPEDITION KING RANCH COPPER METALLIC, SADDLE LEATHER, ALL POWER, MOONROOF & MORE! #8541A	\$22,988
'07 CHEVY TAHOE Z71 PEWTER, LOW MILES, CHARCOAL LEATHER, MOONROOF, NAVIGATION, 3RD SEAT, NICEST IN TOWN! #P3399	\$28,990

0% APR* HURRY!
UP TO 60 MONTHS
ON ALL NEW 2008's!

NEW FORD RANGERS		17 AVAILABLE
NEW FORD FOCUS		25 AVAILABLE
NEW FORD MUSTANGS		27 AVAILABLE
NEW FORD F-SERIES		37 AVAILABLE
NEW FORD ESCAPES		21 AVAILABLE
NEW FORD EXPLORERS		9 AVAILABLE
NEW FORD EDGE		17 AVAILABLE
NEW FORD FLEX		13 AVAILABLE

SUNRISE FORD

"From Our Family To Yours For Over 75 Years."

5435 U.S. 1 South, Fort Pierce • 1/2 Mile South of Midway Road on U.S. 1 • Ft. Pierce 461-6000
CALL TOLL FREE OUTSIDE ST. LUCIE COUNTY 877-251-FORD (3673)

2007 PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Mon.-Fri. 8am-8pm
Sat. 9am-5pm
Se Habla Español

OKEECHOBEE RD.
MIDWAY RD.
ST. LUCIE WEST

Sunrise Ford

Traffic death numbers down for 2008

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Preliminary figures indicate that the number of traffic fatalities last year in Florida was the lowest they've been in the last eight years.

Preliminary data released by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) on Jan. 26 indicates that 2,986 people lost their lives in traffic crashes in Florida in 2008. That number is down 7 percent from 2007 when 3,221 people died.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) there were nine traffic fatalities in Okeechobee County in 2008. That number was

also down from 2007, when there were 14 people killed locally.

Figures from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) indicate that there has been one traffic fatality in Okeechobee County as of Monday, Feb. 2. By that same date in 2008, two people had lost their lives in vehicle crashes locally.

DHSMV officials, however, stress that the 2008 totals are still preliminary findings. The final count will not be released until later this year when the department publishes its annual Traffic Crash Statistics Report.

It is anticipated that the number of traffic deaths in Florida will go up.

FHP Lieutenant Tim Frith said his agency focused on some programs that, he feels, helped to keep those numbers down. Lt. Frith said Wednesday, Feb. 4, their programs aimed at aggressive drivers and teen drivers have been very successful.

Funds through an FDOT grant has paid big dividends in the FHP aggressive drivers program.

"Our (Dodge) Chargers we applied for last year have made a significant difference," said Lt. Frith.

He went on to add that the FHP awareness program that focuses on inexperienced teen drivers and occupant protection gives teens a good idea how easy it is to

be thrown from a vehicle.

Lt. Frith said this program has been at many area schools including Okeechobee High School, South Fork High School, Fort Pierce Westwood and in Palm Beach County schools.

Another contributing factor to the lower death total, added the FHP trooper, was less traffic on state highways.

"There's no doubt higher gas prices kept driving down," he said. "It was quite obvious traffic

was down last year."

The DHSMV said the last time yearly traffic fatality totals were under 3,000 was in 2000 when there were 2,999 deaths. The department was also quick to point out, however, that while the numbers are similar for 2000 and 2008, Florida's population has grown by more than 2.8 million -- an increase of nearly 18 percent.

The DOT report indicates that as of Feb. 2 there have been: two traffic fatalities in Glades County;

two traffic fatalities in DeSoto County; one traffic fatality in Hendry County; four traffic fatalities in Martin County; and, two traffic fatalities in St. Lucie County.

That same report also indicates that more motorists lost their lives in Dade County in 2008 than in any other county in the state. There were 271 fatalities there, which was followed by Broward County in second place with 227 traffic deaths.

'Resting' man facing drug charges

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

When Deputy Mark Shireman saw a pickup truck stopped on a roadway with the engine running, he became curious. He became more curious when he approached the F-350 pickup and saw a man slumped over in the seat.

When the deputy woke Justin Blake Chavers by shaking him, he noticed a trail of dried blood from the man's nose and an abrasion over his left eye. There was also a strong odor of alcohol, stated the deputy's report.

When Chavers, 19, S.R. 70 W., could not perform different actions in a field sobriety test

he was arrested on a charge of driving under the influence. He was later arrested on felony drug charges when he was taken to the Okeechobee County Jail.

According to Deputy Shireman, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), while Chavers was being searched by a corrections officer at the jail he was found to be in possession of two different types of pills.

Chavers was then charged

with possession of a controlled substance - methadone and possession of a controlled substance - xanax. His bond was set at \$13,000.

Deputy Shireman stated in his report that Chavers bloodied his nose and scraped his forehead earlier by falling out of his Ford pickup truck.

Chavers had stopped on the roadway because he wanted to rest prior to his going home, stated the deputy's report.



Justin Blake Chavers

Cop: Man deposited forged checks

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A local detective has arrested a man and charged him with bilking a local bank out of more than \$800 by opening a checking account with a check supposedly signed by his dead grandfather.

Kevin Kress, 33, S.E. 21st Court, was arrested Monday, Feb. 2 on charges of uttering a forged instrument (two counts), criminal use of personal identification information of a deceased individual (two counts) and grand theft. Although he has been booked into the Okeechobee County Jail, bond for Kress had not been set

as of newspaper headline.

An arrest report by Detective William Maerki, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), states that Kress opened both a checking and savings account at a local bank on Thursday, Jan. 29. He opened the accounts with a \$946 check bearing the names of John or Gladys Kress. The instrument was drawn on the Laurens State Bank in Laurens, Iowa, the



Kevin Kress

report stated.

The detective said John and Gladys Kress are both dead and are the grandparents of Kevin Kress.

When Kevin Kress opened the account he was given \$446 in cash, \$450 was deposited into a checking account and \$50 was placed into a savings account, according to the report. He was also issued some temporary checks.

Detective Maerki went on to state that on Sunday, Jan. 25, Kevin Kress wrote a check for \$22.26 to a local business. Then on Monday, Jan. 26, the Iowa native went through his bank's drive through facility and cashed another temporary check for \$390, the detective added.

The OCSO detective went on to allege that Kevin Kress took a check from his mother that was drawn on an annuity account and deposited it into his checking account. The amount of this check was not indicated on the detective's report.

According to the detective's report, Kevin Kress reportedly opened accounts at three local banks with forged checks. All of the checks were signed with his grandfather's name, added Detective Maerki.

continue to actively investigate the case. They have released the composite photos of two men that reportedly were seen with Myers on the night of her disappearance at a night club in Fort Pierce. Authorities described one suspect as a white male with a baseball cap. The second suspect was described as either Hispanic or American Indian, with a dark complexion.

St. Lucie County Sheriff's Detective Ron Wentz is the lead investigator in the case. He can be reached at 772-461-7300.

Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers takes confidential tips on the case. The hotline number is 800-273-6477.

Father committed to finding daughter's killer

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Jan. 11, was the third anniversary of the day that Dori Ann Myers disappeared.

The St. Lucie County resident's home in Lakewood Park was burned to the ground that morning. Her vehicle was stolen, and was found hours later at a public boat ramp in Lakeport.

Rewards are \$6,000 in connection with the crime.

"I'm as much in the dark today as I was at the beginning," her dad, Dale Curry said this week, "Investigators promise me they won't ever turn this into a cold case and that they will keep working on it until it is solved."

The family offered \$5,000 for the arrest and conviction of a suspect or suspects. Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers has offered a \$1,000 reward.

Curry said people in Okeechobee could have information that might lead to an arrest in this case, "Anything is possible." It happened so late at night that the chances of seeing anyone aren't very good, but you never know," he added.

Curry said lawmen canvassed Okeechobee and Glades Counties for leads. At one point there was a report that Myers had been on the Brighton Indian Reservation. None of the leads ever led to anything more concrete.

Curry said he thinks the people that abducted his daughter had to know the Lakeport area pretty well because the boat ramp, where the car was found, is not well known.

"For them to drive straight to there, you have to know that area pretty good. It had to be someone local. Things point strong in that direction, unless they just blindly stumbled upon it," he said.

Curry and his daughter Donajean Kapp have worked hard to keep attention on the case. Kapp maintains a website that is devoted to her sister and the search for her killer or killers. The web page is <http://dammad.vpweb.com>

St. Lucie County investigators

would like to volunteer or make a donation, call Gundula Hargraves at 772-567-5700, or visit our website at www.exchangecastle.org.

Okeechobee to host 'memory field'

Flags draw attention to deaths from child abuse

In 2007, 167 children in the state of Florida - including many local children - died as a direct result of child abuse and neglect. Further, more than 6,000 children fell victim to abuse. CASTLE, the leading organization on the Treasure Coast and in Okeechobee dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect, and Seacoast National Bank have joined forces to present the "Memory Field."

Each week from Feb. 13 through March 13, a traveling field of 167 white flags, each representing a child who died as the result of abuse, will be planted at locations in Okeechobee, Stuart, Port St. Lucie and Vero Beach.

The Child Abuse Awareness Campaign will begin in Okeechobee's Flagler Park, Feb. 13-20.

"The visual impact of the Memory Field is so deeply moving, it leaves you speechless," said Susan Bergstrom, senior vice president and marketing director for Seacoast National Bank and board member of CASTLE. "It is our hope that Seacoast's sponsorship of the Memory Field will help raise awareness of the services that CASTLE provides to families in these communities, and we invite everyone to visit the field in their community -- it's something you simply won't forget."

Flag sponsorships are available for \$100 each, and blue ribbons symbolizing support for the prevention of child abuse may

be purchased for \$10. Both are available for purchase at all Seacoast National Bank branches in Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee counties with proceeds benefiting CASTLE. All sponsorships are also available at each CASTLE location. For further information, call CASTLE at 772-465-6011.

CASTLE is a United Way partner organization and is supported by the area Children's services councils as well as UFF. CASTLE facilities are located in St. Lucie County, 772-465-6011, Martin County, 772-781-4510 and Indian River County, 772-567-5700. For further information, or if you

Valentine's Sweetheart at: Dinner Dance at: Okeechobee Shrine Club

Hwy 78 • Feb 14th 2009 • Hwy 78

Happy Hour 5pm • Dinner 6pm

• Chicken or Ribs • Baked Potato • Baked Beans • Cole Slaw • Rolls • Dessert • Coffee or Tea

\$15 Per Person

Dance to the music of: *Jim Elder*

PUBLIC WELCOME!

CALL FOR RESERVATIONS 863-763-3378

newszap.com
Free Speech Free Ads

Sell it quick with an online classified ad!

DONUT CONNECTION Join us 4 Breakfast

OPEN 5 AM Daily

Be a Hero in the office church or school!
24 Donuts plus 10 cups of coffee
\$19.95

Eggs, Bacon, Ham, Sausage, Croissants, Bagels, Muffins, Flavored cream cheese and much more!

Buy 6 donuts Get 6 donuts FREE

BEST Coffee In Town

989 S. Main St. BELLE GLADE (adjacent to Wendy's & KFC)
3547 US Hwy. 441 S., OKEECHOBEE (next to Publix)

Say Goodbye to Nasty Viruses and Slow Running Computers

Best Prices By Qualified Technicians
We Come to You for Free

Comptech
A Smarter Computer • Your Only Choice

(772) 418-0096

Visit www.buytechless.com for savings

BABY CONTEST BEAUTY PAGEANT
Newborn to 15 Years • Boys & Girls
FEBRUARY 22, 2009 • OKEECHOBEE

Savings Bonds Awarded

EVERYONE RECEIVES A TROPHY

For Brochure/Info Call **321-631-8484**

or email cutekids@bellsouth.net
www.americascutekids.com

COLOUR ME CRAZY
107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite G • Okeechobee
Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9am - 7pm Sat. 9am - 5pm
(863) 467-3031

Full Service Family Salon

Unlimited \$25 per Tanning month

Lotions up to 50% off!

\$5⁰⁰ off 1 Month Tanning w/Coupon

WATER'S EDGE DERMATOLOGY

Ted Schiff, M.D., Dwayne Montie, D.O., Mark Leach, R-PA, Sharon Barrineau, ARNP, and John Minni, D.O. lead the Water's Edge Dermatology team of skin care professionals. They will provide you with high quality medical and cosmetic skin care services in a personal and caring environment.

NEW PATIENTS WELCOME

OKEECHOBEE 467-6767
301 NE 19th Drive (Next to the hospital)

CLEWISTON 805-0030
112 S. WC Owens Ave.

www.wederm.com

Adult and Pediatric Dermatology

- Acne • Psoriasis • Eczema
- Skin, Hair & Nail Disorders
- MOHS Skin Cancer Surgery
- Skin Allergies and Rashes
- Laser Vein Treatments

Anti-Aging Treatments

- Botox® • Juvéderm™
- Radiance® • Thermoage®
- Restylane® • Perlane®
- Permanent Make-up

Removal of:

- Hair • Moles • Brown Spots
- Warts • Tattoos • Skin Tags

WATER'S EDGE DERMATOLOGY

MEDICARE AND MOST INSURANCE ACCEPTED.

Ted Schiff, M.D. Dwayne Montie, D.O. Mark Leach, R-PA Sharon Barrineau, ARNP John Minni, D.O.

Speak Out/Public Forum

Speak Out has moved online, where it is quicker and easier to share your ideas and converse with others. Go to www.newszap.com, click on the community name and your local or state Public Forum. There, you can create new topics or comment on existing topics. What follows is a sampling of some of the discussions currently taking place. Thanks for participating!

Bailed out executives -- salaries restricted

OBAMA: President Obama has announced strict limits on pay to executives of bailed-out financial firms Wednesday, slamming Wall Street top dogs as "shameful" for accepting billions in bonuses last year. Do you like the idea?

LOWER: I think Obama's announcement that they be capped at \$500,000 is too much money. They should not be paid more of our - taxpayer - money than we pay the president. He doesn't make \$500,000.

NO BONUS: I completely agree with the idea to cap bank executives pay at \$400,000 for any banks that accept bailout money, until the bank repays the taxpayers money to the government. Why should they make more than the president of the United States? Why reward those who caused the financial crisis by making bad loans and gambling with their investors' money. It is criminal that some used the first round of bailout money to give themselves bonuses. Shame on them indeed!

CONGRESS: I believe that Congress should "pave the way" by paying back the pay increase they just allowed themselves to get, and perhaps taking a pay cut of their own.

TAXPAYERS: Congressmen and women are beholden to the voters. We can pressure them to freeze their pay. The same cannot be said for the executives. They are beholden to no one for this bailout money. Thus, a cap would be fair.

OVERPAID: If the overpaid Executives could show that all employees received equitable bonuses/salaries during the same time, maybe then I would not look so dis favorable upon them but that's not the case. Plain and simple, they were greedy and contributed to the failing businesses why should they continue to receive exuberant salaries and bonuses at tax payer expense? Although they are in the private sector, if they receive bail-out money ... cap them!

Congressional salaries -- time for a freeze?

SALARIES: The nation's financial picture has been grim for months, but don't worry about lawmakers on Capitol Hill. They just got a \$4,700 raise. The 2009 annual salary for rank-and-file senators and representatives is \$174,000, up from last year's \$169,300. The legislative pay hike comes as major U.S. employers shed jobs by the tens of thousands. Many worker salaries have been frozen or cut. Their benefits often have been slashed. Families are pinching pennies and watching retirement accounts evaporate. Shortly after taking office, President Barack Obama froze the salaries of top White House staff, citing the country's financial hardships. Those in Congress, meanwhile, are getting bigger paychecks as they debate an \$819 billion effort to jump-start the economy, extend unemployment benefits and increase food stamps.

HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE: I completely agree that Congressional pay should be frozen until the economy turns around. Congress helped cause this problem by deregulating the banking industry. The company I work for froze salaries a year ago. We have to make due with no raises while expenses continue to rise. So should the Congressmen. Maybe if they knew how it felt, they would be inspired to do something about it.

CUT THEIR PAY: Freezing salaries doesn't go far enough, they need to cut them rather than freeze them. The crooks don't need any more than \$100,000 a year anyway.

Obama's promise of ethics reform

TAX CHEATS: I am troubled by the consideration of several tax cheats and lobbyists for posts in the new administration. Obama's choices are becoming a distraction from the major issues and only undermine his claims from the campaign trail. I see Daschle (tax cheat #2) has withdrawn himself from consideration. I hope Obama handles this a little better for the sake of the more important matters.

CHECK THEM OUT: And another one has removed herself from the lineup Ms. Nancy Killefer (nominated to be the government's first chief performance officer) said she didn't want her bungling of payroll taxes on her household help to be a distraction.

TAXES: Too bad all these people who performed the duties of household help did not know enough to work for their clients as independent contractors and pay the taxes themselves. When householders bring someone in to do the domestic duties, few of them have the time for messing around with it. When I was cleaning houses, I paid all my own taxes and other expenses and my householders were relieved that they didn't have to worry about it. I always had more work than I could do.

APPOINTMENTS: What I don't understand is why they don't have these candidates for appointment to high office investigated thoroughly before they even mention the possibility of an appointment. Couldn't the FBI do a background check before they mention any names to the media? It's embarrassing how many of these nominees wind up being tax cheaters or hiring illegal aliens.

Okeechobee's lost revenue

SPEEDERS: On my way to work today I saw two different people run red lights, one on 98 & 1 on NW Fifth. Every day I see speeders, light runners, no turn signals, etc. Can you just imagine the revenue that could be generated if only half of these people were ticketed. Why aren't there more cars out in the mornings and afternoon when the traffic is the heaviest?

TICKETS: I know the sheriff's office is stretched to the limit due to budget cuts. And I wonder how cost effective it would be to hire more traffic officers. However, some places have automatic machines that record anything passing above the speed limits and take the picture of the license plate. Then they just send the owner of the vehicle a speeding ticket. If it's your car, you are responsible for the speeding ticket. Maybe they could try something like that. They would make a fortune on State Road 70 in the afternoon. And if they ticketed all the speeders on State Road 710, they could probably pay for raises for the whole department.

Frustrated with government

NO SUPPORT: I am so frustrated with our government right now. I am a single mother of one special needs child. I work two jobs and go to school full time to support my child and my child's father only makes a child support payment when he feels like he is getting ready to go to jail. Even with my two jobs I don't make enough to pay all the bills, provide food for my child and pay full price for my child's medications every month. Trying to take my ex-husband back to court has been a nightmare because since I make too much (\$17,500/year!) to receive any type of assistance. The Child Support Enforcement won't help me and I have to pay all the court fees to file a claim which I can't afford. I tried to get my child on Healthy Kids but they say I have to pay them \$130 a month for a premium when I'm already paying \$130 a month for my child's medications. So, if I pay them for the premium then I will still have to pay \$15 more for the deductible, so where is the relief? Here I am doing what I thought I was supposed to do, work hard, continue my education and support my child the best I can, but when I need help getting the child support owed to me, I hit a wall. When I try to get my child health insurance that I can afford, I hit a wall. With the struggle that I have gone through trying to get some help I have found that there is no justice for the single working mothers in America.

Guest Commentary

Pay cut for Legislators proposed

By Mike Horner
Florida House of Representatives
79th District

As a new member of the Florida House of Representatives, I received a crash course in budget cutting during our recent special session. The Florida Legislature had to make difficult decisions and reduce State programs to balance the budget. I believe we were wise to cut budgeted expenditures instead of listening to some who called for higher taxes.

Unfortunately, the special session was only the prelude to even greater expense reductions that we must consider this spring during the Regular Session. I will continue to advocate for further cuts, encourage greater efficiency in our state government, and fight against any efforts to increase taxes on Floridians.

In these difficult times I believe the Legislature should lead by example. Therefore, the first bill I have filed is a permanent 5 percent cut to legislative pay. This cut will have a minor effect on our budget but I think it sends an important message. If I believed it would pass, I would recommend an even greater cut. However, a 5 percent reduction might just be approved.

Although the average Floridian in my district earns \$30,042 annually, some will argue that legislators are underpaid - we make \$30,366 per year. Some say that our modest pay scale prevents

those who are not wealthy from running for the office. But even if one believes legislators are underpaid, surely you must agree that teachers, Florida Highway Patrol troopers and corrections officers are even more deserving of greater pay than lawmakers.

Furthermore, I maintain that Florida has a citizen legislature for a reason. We legislators are expected to hold real jobs outside of elected office and perform our duties as a public service. This keeps us better connected to those we serve. In addition to the pay cut, I am co-sponsoring legislation that would end the practice of "double dipping" through the State's DROP, Florida Deferred Retirement Option Program. We must end the questionable practice of elected officials and high paid bureaucrats abusing the DROP by raking in two paychecks and receiving exorbitant compensation.

This recession is difficult on all Floridians and the state budget will have to shrink by necessity. I believe we have an obligation to find a silver lining in this cloud and take steps to make government more efficient and responsible that would not ordinarily be considered. The bills I will be sponsoring and supporting this session will be those that save money, create efficiencies, improve our economy and restore the public trust.

If you have suggestions on how your State Government can be more accountable and frugal please email me at mike.horner@myfloridahouse.gov.



Submitted photo/Raulerson Hospital

Drawing winner!

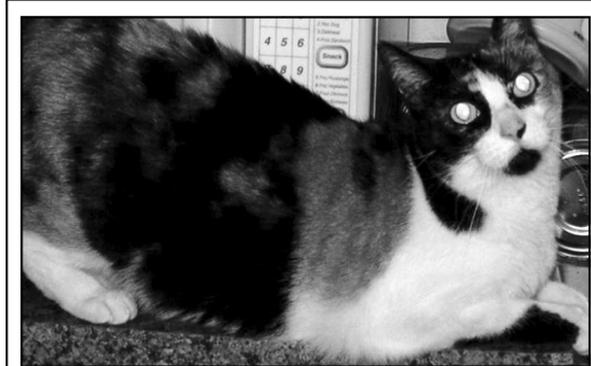
Sandra Miller is the Safety Fair drawing winner for the free Manual Physical Therapy evaluation, treatment and Reliv nutritional products offered by the vendor Preya Persaud, Physical Therapist of Okeechobee.



Submitted photo/IRSC

Scholarship recipient

Indian River State College nursing student Adan Cortez (center) is presented with The Ethel "Hutchie" Altobello Scholarship in the Christa Weiss Nursing Lab at the Williamson Conference and Education Center on the IRSC Dixon Hendry Campus in Okeechobee. The fund was established to assist Okeechobee students who are majoring in nursing at IRSC. The Ethel "Hutchie" Altobello Fund was created in honor of Hutchie's passionate career as a nurse. Cortez is the first recipient of this honorable award. (left to right) IRSC Foundation Director, Ann L. Decker, Dixon Hendry Campus Provost Sam Smith, scholarship committee member Frank Irby, and Melissa DePriest of the IRSC Foundation presented the scholarship to Cortez.



Submitted photo/Humane Society Pet Rescue FL, Inc.

Pet of the Week

Tiffany is as sweet as she is beautiful! She is a large female Calico mix, about 6 years old. She is spayed with all her shots and is ready to go to a new loving home! Call 863-763-4333 or 863-532-1110 for more information. See more of adoptable pets on: www.petfinder.com/shelters/FL846.html



Courtesy photo/www.tommymarkham.com

Looking Back

This photo from Okeechobee's past shows the Kissimmee River using its many branches south of State Road 70 in Okeechobee County after the 1947 hurricane. The photo illustrates the need at the time for flood control.

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.

Advertising Director: Judy Kasten

News Editor: Katrina Elksen

National Advertising: Joy Parrish

Circulation Manager: Janet Madray

- Independent Newspapers, Inc.
- Joe Smyth, Chairman
- Ed Dulin, President
- Tom Byrd, Vice President of Newspaper Operations
- Katrina Elksen, Executive Editor

MEMBER OF:



© Okeechobee News 2007

For More Information See At Your Service On Page 2

Community Calendar

Friday, Feb. 6

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

Highlands Social Dance Club welcomes the public to their dance every Friday, from 7 until 10 p.m. at the Sebring Lions Club on Sebring Parkway, one mile east of U.S. 27 in Sebring. Tickets are \$5 for members and \$6 for guests. For information, call 863-471-0559.

Just for Today Club of Okeechobee, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee, (Behind Napa Auto Parts) N.A. Sickest Of The Sick - Open Discussion/Speaker at 8 p.m. The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.

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

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

The Highlands Social Dance Club will begin its 27th season on Sept. 7, hosting ballroom dancing every Friday at the Sebring Lions Club on Sebring Parkway, one mile east of U.S. 27. For information call 863-471-0559 or 863-385-6621.

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, Feb. 7

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

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

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

Just for Today Club of Okeechobee, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee, (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **A.A.** weekend noon Open Discussion meeting; **N.A. Sickest Of The Sick** Group 7 p.m.; **N.A. No-where Left To Go** Group Open Discussion meeting 8 p.m. The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.

Sunday, Feb. 8

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

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

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

Public Issues Forums: Join the discussion!

newszap.com
Free Speech Free Ads

Radio

Continued From Page 1

tem the county will have to buy in the area of 500 radios — both handheld and in-car. With SLERS, the county would lease the same number of radios at a cost of \$9 per radio, per month.

With the SLERS system, Okeechobee County would also have to purchase a parcel of land and build a tower in the southwest section of the county which would then give them two towers. On the plus side, once that tower is in place it will be maintained by the state for as long as the county is on the state system.

If the county elects to go with the Motorola system, the current tower in the north section of the county will suffice once some upgrades are made.

Speaking of upgrades, with the SLERS system all upgrades are automatic and at no charge to the county. That is not the case with the Motorola system where the county will have to pay for any and all upgrades.

A big plus for the Motorola system is that radios on this system are the P-25 models which are the top of the line. Radios on the SLERS system do not have all the capabilities of the P-25 models. However, the state is working toward making its system P-25 compatible.

Another plus for the SLERS system is that a deputy in Okeechobee County can talk to any other county or state agency in Florida simply by switching to that agency's frequency. The Motorola system cannot do this as simply as the state's system. But no matter which system is chosen, Okeechobee will still be able to communicate with other agencies.

Another plus for the SLERS system is that under the proposed contract with the state of Florida, M/A-Com, a unit of Tyco Electronics, will provide maintenance and repairs to all new units. M/A-Com is also contractually obligated to respond to any outages in two hours and have the unit restored

in six hours. With the Motorola system, there is no charge while the handhelds and mobile radios are under the three-year warranty. Once that warranty has expired, these repair costs will be borne by the county. For the rest of the Motorola equipment, the company will issue a one-year warranty beginning when the system is accepted by the buyer.

It should also be mentioned that no matter which system is chosen, the cost will be shared by the Okeechobee County School District, the Okeechobee Utility Authority and the Okeechobee City Police Department if they all join onto the county's system. Each of these agencies will have the same radios as the sheriff's of-

fice and will be on that system

Because there are different advantages to each system please see the companion stories that present both the good and bad

of each system, as well as comments from other agencies that are either already on a system or will soon be.

Motorola system attractive to county

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Since 2006, Major Noel Stephen, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), has been trying to get a new radio system for his department. And it appears those efforts will soon be rewarded.

Okeechobee County is in the process of choosing a new countywide radio system. Their choices are Florida's Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) or the Motorola system.

Unlike the SLERS system, the county would have to purchase the Motorola system at a 10-year cost of around \$6 million. The county would also be financially responsible for all updates and upgrades, tower maintenance, and out-of-warranty maintenance costs for their radios and consoles.

But, on the plus side, the county would not have to buy land and build a new tower. Maj. Stephen said the current tower would be utilized after some upgrades were made.

"Motorola is a known manufacturer and we would have our own self-contained system that would be owned by Okeechobee County," he explained.

He went on to say that there is also the possibility that the county could receive some help via a federal grant. However, it's not known yet if the Motorola system qualifies for that funding.

What makes the Motorola system so attractive is that the county would be getting P-25 model ra-

dios that have the capability of sending data from the dispatch center to deputies on the street.

According to Maj. Stephen, this means if a deputy has someone stopped then an OCSO dispatcher can electronically send the deputy a photo of the person whose name he just called in. The system would also have the capabilities of sending photos of homes from the Okeechobee County Property Appraiser's web site.

And, the P-25 system cannot be picked up by scanners.

Also, it would give the OCSO interoperability with Martin, St. Lucie, Osceola and Highlands county — a regional concept, said Maj. Stephen.

And, with this interoperability those other counties would share in the cost of the system, the major added.

Maj. Stephen did add, however, that the Motorola system may not be an option.

"We currently have funding from the state for the SLERS system, and they are looking at evaluating the Motorola system and what funding is available with that," he said. "If the funding is not there, then Motorola is not an option."

Maj. Stephen said his department often calls the Martin and St. Lucie County sheriff's offices for specialized units such as the bomb squad, biohazards people and helicopters.

For Lake County, the Motorola system was a better fit for their needs than the SLERS system.

"Motorola gave us a solution that met our requirements," said

Greg Holcomb, director of communications for Lake County.

Mr. Holcomb said his county will go live on the Motorola system in June or July.

Lake County purchased their system for \$32 million, said Mr. Holcomb. That includes towers and shelters. They bought over 3,000 radios (mobiles and handheld) and will have nine public safety answering points that are touch screen consoles.

All of their radios will be P-25 models.

He said they will utilize 18 towers, and their system will cover a 1,200-square-mile area and serve 18 different agencies.

"We purchased the system outright and did a \$10 million low end loan," he said in a telephone interview. "We spent a good part of a year doing planning, discussing and putting things out. Even after we selected a vendor we spent a good deal of time figuring out what we needed to do."

"The county could not have used the existing SLERS system and provide public safety for Lake County due to towers and such. SLERS won't give the fire coverage we need — at least not in Lake County," he added.

Another drawback to the SLERS system, he said, was its use by many different agencies.

"SLERS is used by multiple agencies, so you could have an instance where a state incident is actually tying up a frequency when a county agency needs it," he explained.

As for warranty, Mr. Holcomb said his county will have "basi-

cally just an install contract." He said the radios will have a three-year warranty. The rest of the equipment will be warranted for one year beginning at the time of acceptance.

"We'll do a lot of repairs in-house," he said.

He said the county will likely extend its subscriber warranty, and the infrastructure will be on a yearly contract.

As for upgrades, Lake County has entered into a software agreement and will get the most current upgrades once a year. The county will, however, have to pay for any hardware upgrades.

"An agency needs to look at who they communicate with on a daily basis and are required to contact on a daily basis for public safety communications," said Mr. Holcomb. "You really have to look at giving the right tools to the right individuals to do their job."

For the already stated reasons and more, the Motorola system will fill that bill for Okeechobee County, indicated Maj. Stephen.

"I think Okeechobee will benefit from either system, but if we can get the funding for Motorola it will serve us better in the long run," said Maj. Stephen. "It will give us direct operability with neighbors on all sides with whom we routinely request resources and move data and other technology. With the regional concept, maintenance will be shared by five counties."

And with the regional concept, Maj. Stephen said there will be in-house technicians to take care of the system.

SLERS may be feasible for county

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

"All in all it's the best system for our community, our needs and operation," said Major Richard Jones of the Glades County Sheriff's Office of the statewide radio system in use there.

Okeechobee County is currently in the process of putting in a new countywide radio system and have narrowed their choices to two — Florida's Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) or a Motorola system.

Currently on a 30-year-old, rag-tag VHF system, the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) is desperately in need of a new system and with SLERS they will have a new system that is likely to be more financially feasible for the county.

The statewide system will cost the county just over \$6 million, but a federal grant will pick up approximately 75 percent of that cost. The county would also have to buy land and erect a 300-foot free-standing tower in the southwest section of the county.

According to Okeechobee County Deputy County Administrators it is anticipated that the three-legged tower will cost somewhere between \$400,000 and \$700,000. The grant will also pay about 75 percent of that cost.

However, once the tower is in place it will be maintained by the state at no cost to the county.

According to OCSO's Major Noel Stephen, space on these towers can also be rented to other entities which can help with some of the cost.

If the tower is blown over in a hurricane, the state is contractually required to be on site within

two hours of the storm passing and they must have Okeechobee County back in operation within six hours.

"M/A-Com (a unit of Tyco Electronics) is a vendor across the state that does all their work," explained Maj. Jones. "If repairs are being made you're not getting a bill, but you still may be able to communicate by using other sites. The state stuff is monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week by a network operations center in Orlando. If I go down, sometimes they know it before I do."

The GCSO major went on to say that with the SLERS system no in-house technician is needed.

"All you need is a manager - an overseer," he said.

The county would also be obligated to pay a lease fee of \$9 per radio, per month. This means that for deputies, the county would pay a total monthly fee of \$18 per radio — \$9 for a handheld radio and \$9 for the car radio.

It is also anticipated that the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), Okeechobee County School District and the Okeechobee Utility Authority (OUA) will join Okeechobee County on the new system and would share in the cost.

According to OCPD's Major Bob Peterson, the city would need two base stations, 35 mobile radios — which includes patrol units as well as the City Fire Department and the City Street Department — and 27 handheld units.

OUA would need approximately 50 radios and a base station.

Maj. Jones said they are leasing over 100 radios from the state.

"We cover 757 square miles in Glades County, have five tower sites and we haven't hit a million dollar investment since day one," said Maj. Jones of the SLERS system.

Glades County has been on the state system for four years.

Another big plus for the state system is that all upgrades and updates are free, as well as maintenance.

"The upgrades are given to us because we're paying monthly air time to use the system," said Maj. Jones.

It is anticipated that the system usage fee over a 10-year period will cost Okeechobee County \$756,000.

But there is no cost for: service dispatch, network monitoring and security infrastructure board repair, software service or factory technology support.

Maj. Jones said when they signed their contact the state guaranteed that the SLERS system would be in existence for 20 years.

The SLERS system, an 800 megahertz (MHz) system, would also allow OCSO deputies to talk to any state agency or any other law enforcement agency in the state of Florida by simply switching to that agency's frequency. This is unlike other systems which only allow the user to talk as far as their tower will reach.

If an agency is not on the state's system, OCSO personnel will still be able to speak to them by making use of additional radio patches, said Maj. Stephen.

Which also brings about a potential problem. Since the system is used by every state agency and many county agencies, there

is the potential of verbal traffic, or chatter, on a channel which could make it difficult or impossible for other agencies to utilize that channel.

"This is called cueing," said Maj. Jones. "We're in an area where we don't have a lot of state users on our system. But say you have five talk groups on a tower site, every time someone cues up their radio they have to use a talk site so they are tying up two channels on a particular site. But we've never had an issue with that."

"The state is making improvements to the system so we're not getting the cuing effect of the tying up of all those stations," he added.

Maj. Jones said his department currently uses tower sites in Belle Glade, Moore Haven, LaBelle, Highlands County and Okeechobee County. If Okeechobee County puts a tower in the southwest section of the county that will give the GCSO nearly 100 percent coverage.

"But, we do have issues daily," he said. "Someone may be in a bad area and may get garbled communication. But, that would happen on any system that doesn't have eight new towers in an area."

Finally, the SLERS system is encrypted. This means that radio traffic cannot be picked up by someone sitting in their living room and listening to a scanner.

"That's one of the rules," said Maj. Jones.

Glades County is currently operating on six channels but can go up to eight. Maj. Jones said the sheriff's office utilizes four channels, while fire and EMS operates on the other two.

Speckled Perch Steak House
105 Hwy 98 N • Okeechobee
863-763-9983
OPEN: Tues - Sat 4:30pm - 10pm

THE KING HOUSE BUFFET
Chinese Food To Dine In & Take Out

Specializes in Szechuan, Hunan, Cantonese, American & Japanese Style Cooking
6 BUFFET BARS
150 Items & Salad Bar

Receive a FREE gift on your Birthday!

Lunch: \$6⁹⁹ Dinner: \$8⁷⁹
Fri & Sat: Seafood Dinner \$11⁴⁹

Japanese Sushi
FRI. & SAT. SEAFOOD BUFFET:
Crablegs • Squid • Oysters • Crab Meat • Salmon • Mussel • Baby Clams • Frog Legs
BBQ Spare Ribs

3399 S. Hwy. 441 Publix Shopping Center
OKEECHOBEE, FL • (863) 357-7777

Brahman Theatre
Feb. 6th thru Feb. 12th
For Info, Call 763-7202

THEATRE I "GRAN TORINO"
Fri. @ 7:00 & 9:00. Sat., Sun. & Wed. @ 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00. Mon., @ 3:00 & 7:00. Tues & Thurs. @ 7:00 & 9:00.

THEATRE II "PAUL BLART: MALL COP"
Fri. @ 7:00 & 9:00. Sat., Sun. & Wed. @ 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00. Mon., @ 3:00 & 7:00. Tues & Thurs. @ 7:00 & 9:00.

THEATRE III "PINK PANTHER 2"
Fri. @ 7:00 & 9:00. Sat., Sun. & Wed. @ 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00. Mon., @ 3:00 & 7:00. Tues & Thurs. @ 7:00 & 9:00.

Tickets: Adults - \$5.50 • Children 12 & under - \$4.50
Senior Citizens - \$4.50 all movies • Matinees - \$4.00

MONDAY NIGHT is \$1.00 per person @ 7:00 PM

One more reason to
FINANCE YOUR VEHICLE WITH STATE FARM BANK®.

Finance your vehicle with State Farm Bank and receive Total Loss Debt Cancellation*. If your vehicle is totaled, and the insurance payment doesn't cover what you owe, State Farm Bank will cancel the remaining loan balance. See me for more information.

Gretchen H Robertson
State Farm Agent
309 NE 2ND ST
Okeechobee, FL 34972
Bus: 863-763-5561 Toll Free: 800-741-2228

Member FDIC
Equal Housing Lender

STATE FARM INSURANCE **Bank.**

*Subject to satisfaction of the terms and conditions of the Total Loss Debt Cancellation provision. This is not an insurance policy.

statefarm.com®

PHYSICIAN'S WEIGHT LOSS CENTERS CELEBRATES THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY!

30 YEARS OF WEIGHT LOSS SUCCESS!

51 MILLION POUNDS LOST!

MORE SUCCESS IN OKEECHOBEE!

ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL
30% OFF PROGRAM FEES AND \$30 IN PRODUCTS*
When you enroll by 2/28/09

JARROD
77 LBS AND STILL LOSING!

HEATHER
75 LBS AND STILL LOSING!

Financing Available **Call to schedule your FREE consultation today!** Gift Certificates

Physicians WEIGHT LOSS Centers®
414 S. PARROTT AVE SUITE B
OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34974
863-357-9967
LET'S MAKE A NEW YOU!
*SEE CENTER FOR DETAILS

ATTENTION: FARMERS & RANCHERS

Now In Stock
Your Winter Supplement Feeds for Cattle

Protein Blocks, Energy Blocks, All Natural Blocks, Round Bales, Liquid Feed...

Walpole Feed & Supply Co.
763-6905
Hwy. 98 N. • Okeechobee

If you could no longer purchase life insurance...

Would you have enough today?

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

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

Free Quotes Competitive Rates

Jim McInnes, Agent
(863) 763-3101

Community Events

Author to speak on 'Wacky' history

Native Floridian, Author and veteran reporter for the Palm Beach Post News will present, "Florida's Wacky History and Why You Should Care." The program will help to answer questions on some of the state's peculiarities on Friday, **Feb. 6**, at 7 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Public Library. The program is provided by the Florida Humanities Council and is free and open to the public. Okeechobee Friends of the Library will provide light refreshments after the program. Come and join us for this entertaining and enlightening program.

Church to hold benefit yard sale

Lakeport Christian Church on Highway 78 in Lakeport will hold a huge yard sale on Friday, **Feb. 6**, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. and on Saturday, **Feb. 7**, from 8 a.m. until noon. For more information, please call Barbara at 863-946-1472.

Social Dance Club meets

The Highlands Social Dance Club hosts ballroom dancing on Friday, **Feb. 6**, from 7-9:30 p.m. at the Sebring Lions Club on Sebring Parkway. Music will be provided by the Big Band Sound of The Golden Era. Free ballroom dance instruction from Walt & Sue is available at 6:30 p.m. Dance the night away to waltzes, cha-chas, foxtrots, rumbas, jitterbug and other ballroom favorites. All Club dances are open to the public. Appropriate dress required. Admission is \$5 for members and \$7 for non-members. For more information call 863-471-0559.

Scrapbooking crop planned

The "Croppin' Crew" will sponsor an all-day scrapbooking crop on Saturday, **Feb. 7**, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the First Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. All levels of scrapbookers are welcome. Please bring a covered dish if you care to participate in our pot luck luncheon. Card-making goes hand-in-hand with scrapbooking and Debbie Payne has some awesome card-making/stamping ideas; she will be giving a hands-on demonstration at 1 p.m. Call for items needed for the class. For more information call Joan at 863-467-0290 or Corry at 863-467-2231.

Children's Services Council meeting

The Children's Services Council will meet on Thursday, **Feb. 12**, at 5 p.m. in Room 303 of the Okeechobee County School Board Office, 700 S.W. Second Ave.

Obituaries

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

Raymond K. Chandler, 84

OKEECHOBEE — Raymond K. Chandler, of Okeechobee, died Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009, in Raulerson Hospital. He was 84. He had been a resident of Okeechobee for 25 years and enjoyed fishing and casinos. He served in the U.S. Navy for four years during World War II. He was a 63 year member of Local Painters Union 841 of Akron, Ohio, A Master Mason of Adoniram Lodge 517 and a member of the Royal Arch Masonic Lodge 209 of Akron, Ohio. Born on July 18, 1924, in Wadsworth, Ohio to Raymond and Myrtle Chandler, he was recently preceded in death by his wife, Gloria and also preceded in death by three brothers and three sisters. Mr. Chandler is survived by three sons, John Chandler of Stuart, Jeff Chandler of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio and Ronnie Chandler of Akron, Ohio. Also surviving are four daughters, Helen Beal of Sebring, Shirley Chandler of Port St. Lucie, Bea Genc (Sinan) and Pattie Chandler of Parkersburg, W.Va.; and one sister, Janet Pitman of Akron, Ohio. He is also survived by several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Although no services will be scheduled, all arrangements are under the direction and care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory.

Yard sale to benefit OHS Latin Club

The OHS Latin Club will be hosting a yard sale and bake sale to raise funds for the students who are traveling to Rome, Italy in April 2009. The sale will be located in the parking lot of the Tractor Supply Co. store on S. 441 in the Publix Shopping Center starting a 7 a.m. on Saturday, **Feb. 7**. Please come out and help support the students in their efforts.

Masonic Lodge holds breakfast

The Masonic Lodge, 107 N.W. Fifth, will hold an All You Can Eat breakfast on Sunday, **Feb. 8**, from 8 until 11 a.m. Tickets are \$5 each. Menu includes: eggs, bacon, sausage, grits, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, juice and coffee. The public is welcome.

Church of Our Savior sponsors trip to Germany

Church of Our Savior is sponsoring a trip to Oberammergau, Germany in July of 2010. Every ten years this exquisite little town presents the Passion play commemorating the last few hours of Jesus's life to celebrate their town's being spared the plague. Monday, **Feb. 9**, at 6 p.m. a representative from Collette Tours will present the itinerary with films, brochures and additional information. The meeting will be held in the office located in the brown building west of the church at 200 N.W. Third Street. For more information call 863-357-1713.

Landscaping with Native Plants

In Florida we are lucky to have many native plant species which are very ornamental. Including low-care native plants in your landscape is a way to reduce maintenance as well as beautify. Native plants are also attractive to Florida birds and butterflies. During this workshop you can design your space and create a list of native plants you want to complement your own landscape. Leave with a detailed plan for your garden and a Florida Friendly native plant.

The workshop will take place on **Feb. 10**, from 1-2:30 p.m., or 5:30-7 p.m.

Okeechobee County Extension Service
458 Highway 98 North, Okeechobee

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Call 863-763-6469 to sign up.

Healthy Start Coalition BOD to meet

The Board of Directors (BOD) of the Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition will meet on Wednesday, **Feb. 11** at 11:30 a.m. in their office, 575 S.W. 28th Street within the New Endeavors School Building. This meeting is open to the public. For more information call Executive Director, Kay Begin at 863-462-5877.

'Ideas and Opportunities' business seminar

Do you have a business idea or business opportunity? Come to the Florida Gulf Coast University - Okeechobee Branch Small Business Development Center 'Ideas and Opportunities' Seminar.

The seminar set to be held on Thursday, **Feb. 12**, from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. at IRSC will deal with considerations in new business start ups including:

- Pricing
- Target market identifications
- Proper marketing selection
- Expense and funding issues
- Market analysis

The seminar is free to attend and is sponsored by the Small Business Development Center Networks at Florida Gulf Coast University and Indian River State College.

Reservations for the seminar are required. Please contact Sean Moore at 863-517-0097 or email spmoore@fgcu.edu. Program outline and further descriptions available along with online registration at <http://cli.fgcu.edu/cob/sbdc>.

Church to present 'Fireproof' movie

Cornerstone Baptist Church will present, "Fireproof," a marriage strengthening movie for couples on Saturday, **Feb. 14**, at 6:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided. The church is located at 18387 441 North. Please call the church office to reserve childcare space. There is no charge for the movie or childcare. For more information, please call 863-763-3338.

Shrine Club hosts Sweetheart Dance

The Okeechobee Shrine Club, on S.R. 78 W., will host a Sweetheart Dance on Saturday, **Feb. 14**. Happy hour will begin at 5 p.m. and dinner will be served starting at 6 p.m. The menu consists of chicken or ribs, baked potato, baked beans, cole slaw, rolls and coffee or tea. The dance, with music by Jim Elder, will follow dinner. Tickets are \$15 each. For information, contact the Shrine Club at 863-763-3378 or Mac Simpson at 863-484-04271.

Adopt a pet this Valentine's Day

The Animal Emergency and Referral Center of Fort Pierce and the Humane Society of St. Lucie County are teaming up to help pets find new homes. On Saturday, **Feb. 14**, the Animal Emergency and Referral Center is offering to pay for all adoption fees for the first three qualified pet adoptions. In addition to paying for the adoptions (which include spaying or neutering, micro chipping and routine vaccinations), the Animal Emergency and Referral Center will also pay the premiums on these three adoptions for pet health and wellness care insurance for a full year. The insurance will assist pet owners with their medical care expenses at most Treasure Coast veterinary hospitals during the adopter's first year of ownership. If you already own a dog, please bring it to meet the dog you might be adopting to make sure they get along. If you rent your home, your landlord will have to okay the adoption of the animal. Make sure you have his/her contact information. A short interview will be conducted after the steps mentioned above. The shelter is located at 100 Savannah Road in Fort Pierce. Saturday hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please contact us with any questions or concerns. Our email is dryman@animalemergency.net, phone 772-466-3441.

BHR W.O.T.M. holds dinner/dance

The Buckhead Ridge Women of the Moose will hold a Valentine "dinner/dance" on **Feb. 14**. Menu will be a choice of swiss steak or Cornish hen with augratin potatoes, green beans, jello salad and ice cream, dinner will be served from 5 until 7 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by Sue Conner from 6 until 11 p.m. The dinner/dance is open to members and qualified guests. Dinner tickets are available for a \$9 donation at the door and \$8 in advance. For more information call 863-467-0064.

Boy Scouts selling discount cards

The Boy Scout Troop 964 are selling Scout Honor Discount cards until mid February. For only \$20 you can get savings of up to 50 percent from over 200,000 locations across the United States. Some locations here in Okeechobee that offer the discounts are: Big Lake Eye Care, The UPS Store, Beltone, Roto Rooter Plumbers, and more. For more information or to purchase one of these discount cards call Alison Hudson at 863-634-8628.

Valentine's Teen Dance Party

A Valentine's Day Teen Dance Party will be held on Sunday, **Feb. 15**, at Pier II from 6-10 p.m. Ages 12-15 are welcome. The cost is \$7. A live D.J. will play the latest hip-hop! Admission includes dinner. All proceeds will benefit the Okeechobee Communities in Schools. For more information, call Teresa Chandler at 863-697-6819.

Tax Collector's office closed

The Tax Collector's office will be closed for training on President's Day, Monday, **Feb. 16**.

FHREDI meeting date set

A public meeting of the Board of Directors for Florida's Heartland Rural Economic Development Initiative, Inc. (FHREDI) and Florida's Freshwater Frontier will be set for Monday, **Feb. 16**, at 10 a.m. the Bert J. Harris, Jr. Agri-Civic Center, 4509 George Boulevard, Sebring. Topics to be discussed include FHREDI and other related board issues. All interested parties are invited to attend. One or more county commissioners may be present at the meeting. For more information, please contact Jim Otterman at 863-385-4900.

Cowboys for Christ to meet

Cowboys for Christ plan to meet on Thursday, **Feb. 17**, at the Basinger Civic Center. Everyone is invited. Come join us for fellowship and prayer, "It's not just for Cowboys."

If you need additional information, please call Doyle McDuffie at 863-763-2285.

Florida Building Codes meeting set

Feb. 18, Okeechobee County Planning and Development Department will sponsor the 2007 Florida Building Codes Educational Meeting from 10 a.m. until noon at the Okeechobee County Civic Center, 1750 Hwy 98 North. There is no charge for this meeting. For more information call 863-763-5548.

Mainstreet Mixer to be hosted

Okeechobee Main Street's February Mixer will be hosted by Pristine Properties located at 1120 South Parrott Avenue from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, **Feb. 19**. The public is invited to come join us for networking, refreshments, door prizes and a chance to win our Mega 50/50 drawing. For more information contact Main Street's Executive Director Toni Doyle at 863-357-6246.

Adoption orientation session planned

Considering Adoption? Please join the Children's Home Society of Florida at our monthly Adoption Orientation session.

The Adoption Orientation session will take place at 415 Avenue A, Suite 100, Fort Pierce, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., Thursday, **Feb. 26**. Anyone interested in learning more about adoption is invited. This fun, casual and FREE open house-style orientation will provide an overview of adoption and answer all questions related to adoption and CHS' adoption process. Please help us raise adoption awareness in our community as we try to find additional permanent, loving homes for children in foster care. To RSVP or for more information, contact Children's Home Society's Adoption information line at 772-489-5601, ext. 277.

'Washington Youth Tour' opportunity

Glades Electric Cooperative will be sponsoring two high school juniors to receive a one week, all expenses paid to Washington, D.C. If you are interested in applying, please contact your high school guidance counselor or your local Glades Electric Office. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Stark, Business Development Coordinator at 1-800-226-4024 ext. 6233.

Volunteers needed for child advocates

Volunteer Guardians ad Litem give a voice to children who are victims of child abuse and are involved in court proceedings. The Guardian ad Litem Program will be offering free training for volunteers and new classes will begin in February and March. Training involves thirty hours and will be held at our Saint Lucie West office on various days. You can be that voice for an abused child! The Guardian ad Litem Program needs Volunteers to represent Abused - Abandoned - & Neglected Children in Saint Lucie, Martin, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties! They deserve a voice! For dates and times of all training please contact Pattra F. Dodd at 772-871-7225.

Welcome House offers programs

Welcome House is now accepting applications. Membership is free, if you are at least 18 years of age and have an emotional or psychiatric diagnosis, or if you are under a doctor's care or simply taking medication for emotional problems, they welcome you to drop in and join the circle of friends. Welcome House offers scheduled activities at least three times a week such as: arts and crafts, support groups, outings, and presentations. They are open 7 days a week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Hilda or James at 863-467-1026.

OVER 62 AND DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO?
If you are 62 or older and need financial relief, comfort and an easier life, ask me if a "REVERSE MORTGAGE" is right for you!
Donna Tourek
REVERSE MORTGAGE SPECIALIST
863-634-8378
"Your Local Addison Mortgage Group Representative"
EMAIL: donna@addisonmortgage.com

AFFORDABLE DENTAL IMPLANTS

- We surgically insert and restore implants in the same office!
- Enjoy the relaxing benefit of conscious oral sedation...As easy as taking a pill.
- 100% financing available at 0% interest
- Stabilize loose dentures or partials, replace missing teeth!

EXPERIENCE - Dentists have over 130 years combined dental experience in Palm Beach County. With over 13,000 crowns/implants insertions.
EQUIPMENT - Digital X-Rays, 90% less radiation.
IMPLANT SYSTEMS - Biohorizon, Lifecore, Biolock - All made in the USA.
EDUCATION - Dr. Wade Harrouff is a graduate of Misch Institute, University of Tennessee, University of Pittsburgh and Graduate of Implant Program at Atlantic Dental Research Clinic. Also, trained in France and Germany.
WARRANTY - Lifetime warranty from manufacturer of implants.

Implants Starting At \$499
 Free Full Mouth X-ray, and Exam New Patients Only!
 D6010, D0150, D9310 D330

--	--	--	--

APPEARANCE IMPLANT & LASER DENTISTRY OF JUPITER
888-FL-IMPLANT
 6390 W. Indiantown Road • Jupiter
 Chasewood Plaza near RJ Gators
For Free Implant Report Dial (888) 692-1325 or www.freeimplantreport.com

Celebrate A Life
 with an **Online Guestbook**
 All Obituaries now include **Online Guestbooks** where family and friends can share reflections, remembrances and condolences.
 Visit: **www.newszap.com**
 For a complete list of Obituary Notices, click on your community, then click on "Obituaries".
newszap.com

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

Extension Service: How Does Your Garden Grow?

Frozen fronds, Master Gardeners & Butterflies:

Q: What should I do to my plants that have been browned by the cold weather?

A: I was going to answer this one myself, but I found the perfect answer from Spencer Porteous, owner of the Everything Outdoors Garden Shop in Vero Beach. (He's got an E-newsletter, and just began a gardening forum, but that's another story.) Here's his reply:

Look around town, can you see it? Can you see that some of our tropical plants have been bit by the cold weather? I've seen ixora, crotons, Arboicola, purple leaves and many more showing the signs. All week long we've had customers stopping by the garden center looking for advice concerning cold damaged plants.

Friends, listen up, here's what you should do...NOTHING.

That's right, NOTHING. Be patient. Fight every urge that you have to get out there and prune off the dead stuff. If you prune right away and we get another cold snap, that just might do them in. Instead, this is what we recommend...

Don't prune your palms until the fronds turn completely brown (the palms will pull out their nutrients and push them towards their new growth).

Wait at least 3-4 more weeks to prune your shrubs (let's make sure winter is over).

Wait until we have a nice spring day of rain forecasted, do your pruning and apply some organic fertilizer.

Look for new growth to emerge on the stems of your plants. Prune just above the last new growth, closest to the tips.

Your established plants will bounce back quickly. They already have a fully developed root system and can support all of the new growth that the above ground part of the plant can throw their way.

Q: I'm afraid I will soon be losing my job, and think it's time to "branch out" into another line of work. I've always loved gardening, but need to know more. Where can I get a crash course that will open the doors to gardening careers?

A: Your situation is not unusual, and I feel bad that the sour economy has given you lemons. Time is now ripe to make lemonade by signing up for training as a Florida Master Gardener.

The Extension office is starting a spring Master Gardener training class on Wednesday, Feb. 9. It is meant to train volunteers to work with our Extension office, but if you can agree to give us back some volunteer time while you are looking for a new job, it might be the right cup of tea for the times. You will have to hurry,

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA IFAS EXTENSION

as applications must be in our office by Wednesday along with the course fee. An interview will be required before you are accepted into the class.

For more details, look at the on-line "Sprouting kit": <http://okeechobee.ifas.ufl.edu/Master%20Gardeners/MG.Sprouting.Kit.htm>. If you don't have access to a computer, stop by the Extension office and pick the "kit" and to ask us any more questions.

Q: I heard something about a butterfly garden that is going to be planted her soon? Can I go there and collect butterflies for my garden too?

The garden you are speaking of is not yet planted, but plans are rushing to completion. The Florida-friendly butterfly attracting plants will be installed in downtown Okeechobee's Park #6 by Valentine's Day. But we are not "planting" any butterflies, just the plants that will attract them. With our cold weather, it will take some time for the plants to get established. One they get blooming, FYN Program Assistant Angela Sachson assures me that flowers and butterflies will be a beautiful place to visit.

The purpose of the garden is to beautify downtown Okeechobee.

It will also be a place to see some principles of Florida Friendly landscaping in action. I hope that park visitors will enjoy the butterflies that will find this garden enjoyable, inspirational and educational, but will not use it as a source of collectables for personal purposes. Visitors that want to re-create a similar Florida friendly landscape in their own yard can talk with us to learn how to do this in their own Florida Yard.

Send us your garden questions by fax 863-763-5901, email okeenews@newszap.com or just drop it off at the Okeechobee News office at (107 S.W. 17th St. suite D, Okeechobee, FL 34974). The University of Florida-Okeechobee County Extension office will pick out three questions that would be of greatest interest to local residents and publish brief answers in the Okeechobee News. We need YOUR questions by Monday at 5 p.m. Be sure to include your name and phone or email address in case we need more information.

More information is available on the award-winning Okeechobee web page, <http://okeechobee.ifas.ufl.edu>. If you need additional information on cold injury recovery, Master Gardening of butterfly gardens, please email us at okeechobee@ifas.ufl.edu or call us at 863-763-6469. Local residents can stop by the Extension office at 458 Hwy 98 North in Okeechobee, and visit our Okeechobee County Master Gardeners from 1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday afternoons.



Submitted photo/Raulerson Hospital

Free certificate

Sharon Tyson receives the free "Bone Density" certificate for participating at the Raulerson Hospital booth at the Health and Safety Fair. Presenting the free "Bone Density" test certificate to Sharon is Raulerson Hospital Director of Marketing/Public Relations, Bill Casian.

Fashion Show benefits Autism research

Seacoast National Bank recently presented a donation of \$6,000 to the Autism Research Institute (ARI). The donation was raised from proceeds at the Seacoast National Bank 2009 Fashion Show and silent auction, held on Jan. 9, at the Ritz-Carlton, Palm Beach.

Susan King, a resident of Martin County accepted the donation on behalf of ARI. She is

the mother of an autistic child.

The Autism Research Institute (ARI) was founded in 1967 to conduct and foster scientific research designed to improve the methods of diagnosing, treating, and preventing autism. ARI also disseminates research findings to parents and others worldwide seeking help. The ARI data bank, the world's largest, contains over 40,000

detailed case histories of autistic children from over 60 countries.

The operating arm of Seacoast Banking Corporation of Florida (NASDAQ: SBCF) Seacoast National Bank has 42 offices in Florida and approximately \$2.43 billion in assets, and is one of the largest independent banks headquartered in Florida.



Submitted photo/Seacoast National Bank

Thomas Hall, Executive Vice President for Seacoast National Bank presents a check for \$6,000 to Susan King, accepting the check on behalf of the Autism Research Institute.

Have A HEART Sale!

At All Faith Farm Thrift Stores

UP TO 75% OFF ALL PRE-OWNED FURNITURE

TWO DAYS ONLY! Extended Hours!

Friday Feb. 6th & Saturday Feb. 7th 9am - 8pm

UP TO 50% OFF ALL OUTSIDE SALES!

UP TO 50% OFF ALL NEW FURNITURE

ALL BRIC-A-BRAC & CLOTHING 20% OFF

FORT LAUDERDALE
1980 NW 9th Ave. in Fort Lauderdale (954)763-7787

BOYNTON BEACH
9538 Highway 441 in Boynton Beach (561)737-2222

OKEECHOBEE
1852 Highway 70 West in Okeechobee (863)467-4342

All proceeds fund our drug and alcohol recovery program. To learn more, visit us at: www.faithfarm.org

FAITH FARM MINISTRIES

A church with a heart for the hurting

newszap.com
Free Speech Free Ads

Your community directory is a click away!

Festival

Continued From Page 1

the crowd involved with Karaoke. Park 3 will showcase local country bands and Park 4 will showcase gospel music.

The kids will also have plenty to do with a petting zoo, face painting and a huge rock wall to climb. There could even be some adults who would like to try their hand at rock wall climbing.

Each year the Chamber of Commerce hosts the festival fish fry, but don't expect to find the namesake fish. Since speckled perch are classified as a sport fish, it is illegal to commercially harvest them. Health regulations forbid serving fish to the public that has not been commercially harvested and processed.

These days, the Chamber serves up generous portions of

fish at the festival fish fry. The traditional fried fish dinners in the park are \$6 and with every dinner purchase you get the chance to win a beautiful historical print valued at \$45. Drawings will be held every hour.

Festival-goers can also sample other delicacies at food booths sponsored by local clubs and organizations, as well as at Seminole Indian booths.

For information on the Speckled Perch Festival, contact the Okeechobee County Chamber of Commerce at 863-763-6464. The Chamber of Commerce is online at <http://www.okeechobeechamberofcommerce.com/>.

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

Meeting

Continued From Page 1

record was 17 minutes.

With little discussion the council passed a resolution authorizing a lease purchase agreement for city vehicles. The agreement includes 17, 2009 Ford Crown Victorias with full wheel covers and left hand spotlights and five 2009 Dodge Chargers with V6 engines.

Most of the new vehicles will go to the police department. However, the city administrator and the fire chief will also get new cars. The Dodge Chargers will be used for police road patrol in an effort to get better gas mileage. The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office uses Chevrolets to improve gas mileage. However, most of their Chevrolets are used for administrative duties.

The council also discussed an-

nual evaluations for city administrator Brian Whitehall and city attorney John Cook. Councilman Mike O'Connor did not participate in either evaluation process. He just took office last month and said he did not feel he could fairly evaluate either official.

Out of a perfect score of 5.0, Mr. Whitehall received a 4.875. The mayor said that of the four evaluations submitted by council members, two of them gave him perfect scores. The mayor congratulated Mr. Whitehall on his extremely high score.

Mr. Whitehall said he appreciated the vote of confidence and that his door was always open to discuss his performance or any city issue.

Mr. Cook received a 3.47 which is between satisfactory and good. He asked the councilmen to contact him at any time of they had questions or problems.

Thursday that an executive order relaxing restrictions on trucks transporting vulnerable crops had been extended until Feb. 25. The emergency order signed by the governor relaxes the weight, height, length and width restrictions for commercial vehicles transporting vulnerable crops.

Winter

Continued From Page 1

Florida Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Commissioner Charles Bronson announced on

Lawmakers look for nursing home revenue solutions

TALLAHASSEE — AARP Florida State Director Lori Parham said Thursday that Florida lawmakers showed commendable innovation in finding some new nursing-home revenue and drawing down additional federal funding for older Floridians' long-term care in the special session that ended Wednesday.

But lawmakers also missed major opportunities to address the long-term fiscal health of vital public services, put the state on a solid financial footing and speed Florida's economic recovery, Parham added.

"On behalf of 3 million Floridians age 50+, we commend the Legislature on finding some

innovative solutions during this special session," Parham said. "Our elected leaders face a much tougher test during the regular session with a larger budget deficit next fiscal year, with most of the state's reserves diminished, and with vital services at stake. We pledge to work with Gov. Charlie Crist and top lawmakers to find the long-term solutions that Florida needs." In particular, Parham commended lawmakers for approving a nursing-home "quality assessment fee," a funding mechanism that will help Florida nursing homes draw down additional federal funding. The proposal helps soften the blow of the 10.5-percent cut in nursing-home

Medicaid reimbursements. "Since mid-summer 2008, AARP and other organizations active in the Florida's People, Florida's Promise initiative have been calling on legislators for bold leadership and innovative solutions," Parham said. "This action showed a flash of innovation by our elected leaders." For more information on the initiative, please go to www.floridaspeople.org. "AARP believes this shows lawmakers can meet challenge of today's historic state fiscal crisis, if they seek out fresh ideas and bold solutions," Parham said. Yet lawmakers also missed opportunities to find new revenues for the state of Florida during the

special session, Parham noted. "Any pragmatic approach to restoring Florida's business climate must involve not only attracting new residents but keeping current residents in the Sunshine State," Parham said. "It will be difficult, if not impossible, to attract older residents to Florida if our state leaders fail to demonstrate the capacity for bold leadership and fresh thinking. A stale formula of across-the-board budget cuts to vital services for Florida's vulnerable population, including elders, cannot inspire confidence." "Now is the time for boldness," Parham said. "Half-measures and stale solutions aren't enough."



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar

Employee award

The Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School honored their School Related Employee of the Year for 2009, Pam Rhodes (left) who was presented with flowers from Russ Brown (right) the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Principal.

Florida Breakfast Partnership recognized

TALLAHASSEE — Florida's Governor and Cabinet adopted a resolution recognizing the creation of the Florida Breakfast Partnership, an organization dedicated to educating consumers about the importance of eating a healthy breakfast every day. The partnership is an alliance of the Florida Department of Citrus, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Dairy Council of Florida, Florida Poultry Federation and the Florida Pork Improvement Group.

Research suggests that eating breakfast on a regular basis provides nutritional benefits and may help with weight control and cognitive performance. The Florida

Breakfast Partnership will conduct marketing outreach efforts to consumers, educators and health professionals to increase awareness of nutritious Florida products that can be a part of a healthy breakfast. The newly launched web site: <http://www.FloridaBreakfast.com> provides educational resources for parents and teachers, health and nutrition research updates, recipes, educational games for children and links to partners' web sites. For its inaugural event, the Florida Breakfast Partnership will host the "Fresh from Florida" Breakfast at the Florida State Fair on Friday, Feb. 6, at 7:30 a.m.

Your community directory is a click away!

newszap.com

Free Speech Free Ads



GASTROENTEROLOGY/HEPATOLOGY

Albert Bravo, M.D.

Internal Medicine & Gastroenterology (GI)
 Board Certified in Gastroenterology
 Diseases of the Digestive System
 Endoscopy • Colonoscopy

Treating conditions of the esophagus, stomach, small intestine, colon, liver, gallbladder and the biliary system.

225 NE 19th Drive • Okeechobee, FL 34972
Office: (863) 357-8222



RADIATION ONCOLOGISTS

Big Lake Cancer Center
 1115 N. Parrott Ave • Okeechobee, FL 34972
(863) 467-9500

Coastal Cyberknife & Radiation Oncology
 5550 S US Hwy 1 • Ft. Pierce, FL 34982
(772) 293-0377

If you or your loved one is being treated with radiation TWICE A DAY for cancer... STOP!

You Need a Second Opinion Now! Before It's Too Late...

Talk to the experts at Big Lake Cancer Center and Coastal Cyberknife and Radiation Oncology.



Ramesh Kumar, MD
William Crook, MD
Julie Santelli, MD
 Board Certified Radiation Oncologists

Learn about Cyberknife Radiation Technology that emphasizes:

1. Increased cancer control rates compared to conventional technology
2. Ease of Treatment
3. Fewer visits due to shorter course of therapy
4. Safety with less side effects

Expert radiation doctors with the most experience are always available to address your every need. Free transportation is available. If you are currently being treated with radiation, call us and we will perform a free evaluation and offer an unbiased opinion. Radiation therapy does not have to be scary anymore with the the best combination of expert physicians and world class cutting edge technology right here, just a phone call away.

Together we can win the battle against cancer... today!

DERMATOLOGY

If You Could Reduce Your Risk For Developing Skin Cancer, Why Not Do It?

Every 67 minutes someone dies from Melanoma. Regular exams by a Board Certified Dermatologist are crucial.



Jonathan Sanders, M.D., J.D.

Tim Ioannides, M.D.

www.tcdermatology.com

TREASURE COAST DERMATOLOGY
 Specializing in the Treatment of Skin Cancer

BOARD CERTIFIED BY THE AMERICAN BOARD OF DERMATOLOGY

FELLOWS OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MOHS SURGERY

Medicare, Humana and Employers Mutual accepted

OKEECHOBEE
 863-467-9555
 1924 US Highway 441, N.

VERO BEACH
 772-778-7782
 1155 35th Lane, Ste. 202

Advertising in the Okeechobee News It's a Bright Idea!

Call today at 763-3134



City Council addresses possible budget problems

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

City Councilman Dowling Watford recently spoke to Rotarians at their weekly luncheon about the current happenings in the city and what is on the agenda for the new year.

Councilman Watford has been on the council for 25 years and boasted about the great mix of council members and how "each member has some expertise in their own area that adds to the decision making of the council."

Mayor Jim Kirk has now exceeded the longest term of Mayor, serving 18 years as Mayor. He was also recently honored by the city for 20 years of service on the council.

According to Councilman Watford, the major issue in the city, state and nationally is of course the budget. Money in the current economy and budget cuts in the national and state level have continued to trickle down into the local governments in continuous phases.

New updates from the state legislature which is currently meeting to make possibly more updates decreased the city budget by approximately \$185,000. The city budget is \$5.5 million total.

Due to the city's cuts in spending, that amount won't be detrimental to the city, but next year's budget will be the challenge.

Councilman Watford explained that they currently have a conservative council and a great staff who have also been working very hard to decrease expenditures through the Cost Savings Reduction Plan. If they continue to follow their current savings plan, the city will have saved \$52,000 annually in electric and fuel costs and with the deletion of unneeded phone lines.

The city has also been active in negotiations along side Okeechobee Main Street with CSX and Amtrak for saving the Train Depot. According to Councilman Watford, CSX has been unwilling to give the land to the city. They are willing to give the building but are placing tough stipulations in the contract which make things almost impossible. With OKMS, they are trying to work out conditions through negotiations with CSX and must also get a guarantee from Amtrak that a train stop will remain in Okeechobee.

The city is working on an ordinance which was brought forth due to the saving of the train depot, is an ordinance for historic preservation. This ordinance will

be on the planning board agenda on Thursday, Feb. 19.

In addition, they also have another ordinance that will lessen parking requirements for businesses that are being converted from older homes into different uses.

The city has also been working on perfecting their sign ordinance for some time. He noted that all of the yard sale signs that everyone puts out all the time are actually illegal without a city permit. They are not allowed to be placed in the public right of way. The council is working to come up with rules for signs as small as your typical yard sign to billboards, which have basically been deemed unnecessary for the city limits in current drafts of the new ordinance.

On a personal note, Councilman Watford explained to the Rotarians that he has lived in Okeechobee all his life and while growing up he always had political figures such as E. H. Hunt and Mr. Domer. They were both council members at the time back in the 1960's.

Councilman Watford began his political career back in his ninth grade year when he ran as treasurer for the student council and won. He went on to be the Senior Class President of his class

and Dr. Mims was the President of Student Council his senior year.

When he decided to run for City Council, it was basically because he was complaining about some things that were going on. He was told, "you need to run or shut up."

So, he ran and was elected. The following term, he was defeated in the election and then ran again the following term and has been on the council since.

Elected officials duties are more involved that most people think. Many of the decisions that the council has to make deal with things that the actual officials don't necessarily know much about. They have to depend on the expert advice of their staff and on the research that they do personally and form their opinion.

They also serve on local and regional boards and councils such as the Treasure Coast Council of Local Governments, Treasure Coast Regional League of Cities and the Okeechobee Battlefield Friends. Councilman Watford was elected as treasurer of each of these organizations. In addition to all of this council members are also expected to attend all grand opening events, local meetings of organizations, and any local events or festivals.



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar
Rotarian John Ed Burdeshaw (left) invited City Councilman Dowling Watford (right) to speak to Rotarians about what is going on in the City for the new year.

For more information about the City call 863-763-3372.

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

newszap.com
Free Speech Free Ads

Public Issues Forums:
Join the discussion!



MRI
We're Still Here For You!
The Best is Right Here!

OPEN MRI OF OKEECHOBEE
OKEECHOBEE'S FINEST OPEN MRI

115 NE 3rd St.
Suite A
863-824-6736

SPECIALTY TRAINED/BOARD CERTIFIED RADIOLOGISTS

GENERAL AND VASCULAR SURGERY

Announcing Philip W. Moyer, M.D.
General and Vascular Surgery
(Relocating from Oklahoma to join the staff at Raulerson Hospital)

Specializing in:

- Laparoscopic Abdominal Surgery
- Skin cancer procedures
- Breast Cancer procedures
- Vascular Surgery
- Hernia Repair
- Minimally invasive thoracic surgery
- Vascular access for kidney failure
- Thyroid and other endocrine surgical procedures
- Varicose vein surgery

Accepting New Patients
(863) 357-0045
245 NE 19th Drive, Okeechobee, FL 34972

www.newszap.com

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Suncoast Medical Equipment

Complete Line of Home Medical Supplies

Healthcare QUALITY ASSOCIATION ON ACCREDITATION

24 Hr. Oxygen Service • Specialty Walkers - Wheelchairs • Lift Chairs & Hospital Beds • Rentals Available

Contracted Medicare Assignment

412 NE Park Street • Okeechobee
(863) 467-8711
Monday thru Friday 9 am to 5 pm

Se Habla Español

UROLOGY

DAVID A. SIGALOW, M.D.
BOARD CERTIFIED IN UROLOGY

Specializing in:

- ADULT & PEDIATRIC UROLOGY
- BLADDER & KIDNEY INFECTIONS
- IMPOTENCE/IMPLANTS
- NO SCALPEL VASECTOMY

215 N.E. 19th Dr. • Okeechobee • **(863) 763-0217**

Advertise in the Okeechobee News
Call **763-3134** today!

REHAB THERAPY/NURSING HOME

We Love to Care...

Family Owned & Operated, providing care to elderly citizens of Okeechobee and surrounding counties since December 1984

- Rehab Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Out-Patient Therapy
- Available 24 Hours/7 Days a Week
- Long-Term Care Available
- Secure Dementia/Alzheimer's Unit
- Dietician-Planned Meals
- Stimulating Daily Activities

Okeechobee Health Care Facility
1646 Highway 441 North • Okeechobee

★★★★★ Five-Star Rating Call 863-763-2226 for a Personalized Tour with Sandy

GYNECOLOGIST

Evening and Saturday Appointments

James E. Bradfield, MD FACOG
Gynecology • Board Certified

Menopausal Disorders
Endometriosis
Incontinence
Infertility
Menstrual Abnormalities
Sterilization
Laser Surgery
Minimally Invasive Surgery

All Major Insurances Accepted

Email: drbradfield@earthlink.net
863-763-8000
1713 Hwy 441 N, Suite F, Okeechobee

HEALTHCARE

Glades Health Care Center
Skilled Long & Short Term Care Facility

Healthcare Services Include:

- Specialized Wound Care
- Full Time Medical Director
- Dialysis Support
- Alzheimer's Support Groups
- Intravenous Therapy
- Resident & Family Council Groups
- Specialized HIV Care
- Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy
- 24 hour Registered Nurse Staffing
- Therapeutic Activities

120 BEDS

• Jody Carter, Assistant, C.E.O. •
230 South Barfield Highway Pahokee, Florida 33476-1834
PHONE: 561-924-5561 • FAX: 561-924-9466
Other facilities in Gainesville & Bradenton • Visit our website at www.floridacare.net

OPHTHALMOLOGY/OPTOMETRY/OPTICAL

Optical Gallery
763-4334
Richard L. Solding, O.D.
David J. Underill, O.D.
Board Certified Optometrists

357-4899 | **763-3403**

Comprehensive Eye Exams
Advanced Cataract Microsurgery
State of the Art Complete Optical Laboratory
Glaucoma Evaluation and Treatment
Diabetic Eye Exams
Comprehensive Contact Lens Exams
Eyeglasses and Contact Lenses

Medicare/Medicaid and Most Vision Plans Accepted
520 S. Parrott Ave. Okeechobee, FL

Advertising is the key to a successful business!
Call **763-3134** Today!

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

The 2008 - 2009 Okeechobee News Medical Information Guide is available at <http://specialsections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=56360&pagenum=1>

Use this interactive site to browse through articles and advertisements on our updated Newszap website

Classifieds



Free Ads
Free Speech

newszap.com

How to place your ad:

Create Your Own Ads Online!

Three weeks FREE... It's Easy!

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

Submit Your Free Classified Ad Today at WWW.NEWSZAP.COM - Click on Classifieds

Published 3 weeks in all of our Florida papers: Caloosa Belle, Clewiston News, Glades County Democrat, Immokalee Bulletin, Okeechobee News, and The Sun
* Ads will run in the Wednesday Okeechobee News and weekly publications.

BUSINESS HOURS

✓ Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

DEADLINES

✓ Wednesday 11 a.m. Tuesday for Wednesday publication

✓ Friday 11 a.m. Thursday for Friday publication

✓ Sunday Friday 10 a.m. for Sunday publication

GUIDELINES FOR PLACING FREE ADS!

- All personal items under \$5,000 ABSOLUTELY FREE when placed online
- Ads phoned in subject to charge.
- Price must be included in ad
- Private parties only
- 2 items per household per issue

Announcements

100

Important Information: Please read your ad carefully the first day it appears. In case of an inadvertent error, please notify us prior to the deadline listed. We will not be responsible for more than 1 incorrect insertion, or for more than the extent of the ad rendered valueless by such errors. Advertiser assumes responsibility for all statements, names and content of an ad, and assumes responsibility for any claims against Independent Newspapers. All advertising is subject to publisher's approval. The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject any or all copy, and to insert above the copy the word "advertisement". All ads accepted are subject to credit approval. All ads must conform to Independent Newspapers' style and are restricted to their proper classifications. Some classified categories require advance payment. These classifications are denoted with an asterisk. Independent Newspapers will never knowingly accept any advertisement that is illegal or considered fraudulent. In all cases of questionable value, such as promises of guaranteed income from work-at-home programs or other offers to send money in advance for a product or service - we advise you to check with the Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Line at 1-800-220-5424, and/or The Better Business Bureau, 800-464-6331 for previous complaints.

Auctions

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

Lost

0135

SAMMY the cat was last seen in the vic of Eagle Bay Dr. Oak Lake Est. area. Orange tabby with a bushy tail. Call (863)532-9079

Garage/Yard Sales

0145

15th YARD SALE - 805 SW 15th St - Feb 6 & 7, Fri & Sat 9am - 3pm. Clothes, home accessories, patio furniture, tools, hardware, locksets and more...Look for the balloons.

Lazy 7 Area off 70 W (4 miles) - 7439 SW 13th St. - Fri & Sat 6 & 7 11/1 - 8am-3pm Furniture, Small Appliances, Clothes & More.

MULTI FAMILY - 213 NE 8th Ave, Fri & Sat 8am - 4pm, Fishing, Boating, Tools, Household decorator items & more.

OKEECHOBEE - 02/07/2009, 8am, Ousley Estates S.W. 16th Ave., Community Yard Sale-Lots of Stuff!!!

THREE FAMILY SALE - Near Everglades elementary 3308 SE 4th ST., Sat Only Feb-7, 8 am - 3pm, Many misc items.

Shop from a gift catalog that's updated regularly: the classifieds.

Employment

200

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

Employment Full Time

0205

FULL TIME STYLIST position now available at Stafford's Hair Salon. Call for an appointment to interview (863)763-3933

MAINTENANCE PERSON F/T for Local RV Park. Must have experience. Call 863-467-5774

Employment Full Time

0205

MODEL TYPES

Mad, Daily, CASH

3 Busy Locations

All shifts available
561-891-3946

Must be 18 plus to apply

BOOKKEEPER - Minimum 5 years experience. (863)763-5321 Call between 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm.

HEALTHCARE SPECIALIST

Lincare, leading national respiratory company seeks Healthcare Specialist. Responsibilities: Disease Management Program, clinical evaluations, equipment set-up & education. Be the doctor's eyes in the home setting. RN, RRT, CRT licensed as applicable. Great personality with strong work ethic needed. Competitive salary, benefits & career paths. Drug Free Workplace, EOE. Please fax resume to Angel, 863-763-5191 or call (863)763-7337

Employment Part Time

0215

CLEANING PERSON

Needed Part Time for local business. 10-20 hours per week \$9.00 per hour. Fax application to: (863)467-5804

DRIVER WANTED - Desire self-employed & insured with current Florida license and clean driving history. Needed approx 3 days a wk/7 hrs a day to drive gentleman around area. Call (863) 634-4596 & leave detailed message for Don to obtain application.

Employment Wanted

0220

SUPER GOOD Cleaning person seeking work, trustworthy, dependable, thorough, reasonable (863)824-0545

Financial

300

Business Opportunities 305
Money Lenders 310
Tax Preparation 315

Business Opportunities

0305

INVESTORS NEEDED - 10 to 12% Return, Dan Lakes a state general contractor and realtor. Need investors to secure 1st mortgage on properties \$40,000 to \$80,000 Please Call (561)635-8478

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

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

Looking for a place to hang your hat? Look no further than the classifieds.

Services

400

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

Handyman Services

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

? NEED HELP? CALL GEORGE CARTER

Painting, Repairs, Carpentry Power Washing
FREE CONSULTATION (863)763-4775

READING A NEWSPAPER...

makes you more informed and interesting person. No wonder newspaper readers are more successful!

Merchandise

500

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

Golf Clubs/Equipment

0618

Must See! CLUB CAR - Used, Good condition, charger, \$900 or best offer. (863)697-1350

Pets/Supplies

0670

YORKIE - 14 week old females with papers and shots. \$800 Firm. MINIATURE HORSES (6) \$500 each. PEACOCKS, 10, \$40 each Call (863) 467-0218

Agriculture

800

Christmas Trees 745
Farm Equipment 805
Farm Feed/Products 810
Farm Miscellaneous 815
Farm Produce 820
Farm Services Offered 825
Farm Supplies/Services Wanted 830
Fertilizer 835
Horses 840
Landscaping Supplies 845
Lawn & Garden 850
Livestock 855
Poultry/Supplies 860
Seeds/Plants/Flowers 865

Horses

0840

PONY Carmelo/White mare 7 yrs old rides good. Miniature horses 1 filly, 1 stud, 1yr old buckskin & paint \$1200 or will separate (772)260-6852

Rentals

900

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

Apartments

0905

FOR RENT- 2 bed 1.5 bath Apartment \$800 mth. Must See! (863)763-7552 or (863) 634-7722

HWY 441 SE - 1/1 Includes electric and direct tv \$650 mo. + Security (561)723-6183

OKEECHOBEE, 2br, 1ba, Near town. \$750 mo. Annual Lease Sec-8 ok, 561-255-4377

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

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

Condos/Townhouses Rent

0920

APARTMENT in BHR, 800 Sq Ft- 1/1 Extr bk rm \$495/mo. (954)290-0861

Houses - Rent

0930

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

OKEECHOBEE, 3br, 1ba, Lg yard, inside city limits, \$800. mo. + Util., 1st & Last mo. sec. dep. (863)990-3294

Rent to own or sell 3/1 CBS, new roof, newly renovated \$99,900 (561)801-3002

Office Space Rent

0937

PHYSICIAN OFFICE for long term lease call (863)467-9500 for more information.

Roommate

0950

ROOMMATE to share home in Kings Bay \$100 per wk. Share water & elect. (863)610-0517

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

Real Estate

1000

Business Places - Sale 1005
Commercial Property - Sale 1010
Condos/Townhouses - Sale 1015
Farms - Sale 1020
Houses - Sale 1025
Hunting Property 1030
Investment Property - Sale 1035
Land - Sale 1040
Lots - Sale 1045
Open House 1050
Out of State - Property - Sale 1055
Property Inspection 1060
Real Estate Wanted 1065
Resort Property - Sale 1070
Warehouse Space 1075
Waterfront Property 1080

Farms - Sale

1020

PARK MODEL, '94 - 12x40 & 12x20 Florida room, in Buckhead Ridge Resort, \$18,500. (863)763-7196

Houses - Sale

1025

INDIAN HAMMOCK - New 3/2 two story on 2.89 acres, \$275,000. Also have a 2.85 acres lot \$59,900. Okeechobee 36th st N. 2/1/1 CBS \$65,000. Canal Point ridge facing lake 3/1 on half acre \$70,000. And 3/2 \$85,000 Realtor/Owner (561)635-8478

Lots - Sale

1045

5 Acres- 5 minutes north of town off 441, cleared \$89,900.00 (561)801-3002

Waterfront Property

1080

BHR - Furn Modular home 3/2 w/FI Room, Incl 3 HD TV's. Just updated plumbing, elect, new sod & sprink sys, fenced, boat ramp, dock, conc drive, car port, shed. \$138,500 (561)818-2348

Mobile Homes

2000

Mobile Home - Lots 2005
Mobile Home - Parts 2010
Mobile Homes - Rent 2015
Mobile Homes - Sale 2020

Mobile Home Rent

2015

BEST VALUE IN TOWN! For Rent: 2/1 apartment. Unit newly remodeled. Located 12 miles north of Okeechobee on Equestrian Ranch. Monthly water, trash & lawn maintenance included. No Pets! \$495 - Move in special. M-F (863)467-2982

BHR Area - RENT WITH OPTION TO BUY! Owner Financing. 2BR/2BA, with lake access, covered boat slip w/lift, 18x45 screened in porch, storage shed w/half bath, clean, quiet, furnished, great for retired person or couple, \$500 mo. (859)661-4344

OKEECHOBEE - 3br, 2ba, rent or buy, 7-9 mi East of Okee, \$800/mo or best offer. (863)655-2454

OKEECHOBEE - 6mi east on Hwy 70. 3br, 2ba, rent or rent to own, \$800/mo or best offer (863)763-8725

OKEECHOBEE-2bd/1.5 ba, Central Heat & Air, Screen room, \$600 mo. Will lease with option @ \$55,000. (863)634-3451

WATERFRONT. 2br/1ba, completely furnished, non smk. env., no pets \$750 mo. + 1st & sec. 772-285-5856

Mobile Home Sale

2020

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

Park model - 1/1 - 36' w/2 tp outs, perm roof, 10x36 ft rm, parking canopy, fully furn, on rented lot in Okeechobee RV Park \$11,500 (573)748-0134

Recreation

3000

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

Boats

3005

CAROLINA SKIFF - 19 Ft., 90 hp., 24V trolling motor w/ auto pilot & remote, depth finder, trailer. Very good condition. \$6,995 Call 863-634-7021 Okeechobee

MERCURY - 6 cyl, 175 hp merc on 17.5' hydra sport bass boat trailer included. \$3200 (863)467-2267

Campers/RVs

3010

DUTCHMAN - 2002, 5th wheel, Sleeps 6, 35', Queen bed, 2 bunk beds, 1.5 bath, a/c/heat, 2 slide outs \$12,000 or best offer (863)467-0860

Fifth Wheels

3012

COBRA SPINNAKER 1994 - Oak cabinets, on size sofa sleeper; 37 ft. x 8 ft. Must sell. \$9000 or best offer. (863)467-4596

Motorcycles

3030

HARLEY HERITAGE SOFTAIL, 4400 miles. Loaded w/chrome & extra's. Excellent condition. \$12,500 or best offer. (863)763-5933 Okeechobee

Sports Vehicles/ATVs

3035

SUZUKI 80 CC 4Wheeler - Very good condition. \$1100 (863)634-7021 Okeechobee

Automobiles

4000

Automobiles 4005
Autos Wanted 4010
Classic Cars 4015
Commercial Trucks 4020
Construction Equipment 4025
Foreign Cars 4030
Four Wheel Drive 4035
Heavy Duty Trucks 4040
Parts - Repairs 4045
Pickup Trucks 4050
Sport Utility 4055
Tractor Trailers 4060
Utility Trailers 4065
Vans 4070

Automobiles

4005

CHEVY CAVALIER - 1996 Automatic, Air \$1900 (812)989-3022

CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY '05 - 39K mls. Loaded! Garage kept 1 Owner. Immaculate condition. \$12,500 (863)675-0215 LaBelle



READING A NEWSPAPER...

saves you money by providing information about best buys.

No wonder newspaper readers earn more!

Vans

4070

DODGE CARAVAN - 2000 Power windows, a/c Runs Great \$2500 FIRM (863)763-3036

OLDSMOBILE - 1993, 7 passenger, cold ac, heat, new tires, Good shape \$1550 (863)467-4256

Public Notices

5000

Public Notice 5005
State Public - Legal Notice 5500

Public Notice

5005

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No.: 2009-CP-09 Division Probate

IN RE: ESTATE OF RUBY NADINE HANCOCK Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the estate of Ruby Nadine Hancock, deceased, whose date of death was October 3, 2008, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW Third Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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

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

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

The date of first publication of this notice is February 6th, 2009.

Personal Representative: Mitchell Hancock 2344 NW 46th Avenue Okeechobee, Florida 34972

Attorney for Personal Representative: Elizabeth Maxwell Attorney for Mitchell Hancock Florida Bar No. 720895 Maxwell & Maxwell, P.A. 405 NW 3rd Street Okeechobee, FL 34972 Telephone: (863) 763-1119 Fax: (863) 763-1179 309962 ON 2/6/13/09

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 2009-CP-003

IN RE: ESTATE OF GEORGE RILEY OOTEN Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS (Ancillary Summary Administration) TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:

You are hereby notified that an Order of Summary Administration has been entered in the estate of GEORGE RILEY OOTEN, deceased, File Number 2009-CP-003, by the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee County, Okeechobee, Florida 34972; that the decedent's date of death was November 19, 2006; that the total value of the estate is \$140,305.00 and that the names and addresses of those to whom it has been assigned by such order are:

Name Address Dianne Hageman 727 Racon Hill Drive Kirtland, OH 44094

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT: All creditors of the estate of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent other than those for whom provision for full payment was made in the Order of Summary Administration must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE.

ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER APPLICABLE TIME PERIOD, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is February 6, 2009.

Person Giving Notice: Dianne Hageman 7270 Racon Hill Drive Kirtland, Ohio 44094

Attorney for Person Giving Notice: Colin M. Cameron, Esquire Florida Bar No.: 270441 200 N.E. Fourth Avenue Okeechobee, FL 34974 (863) 763-8609 309962 ON 2/6/13/09

READING A NEWSPAPER MAKES YOU A MORE INFORMED AND INTERESTING PERSON. No wonder newspaper readers are more popular!

Public Notice

5005</

Public Notice 5005

KEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP 2009-03 SURVEYING SERVICES S.W. 8TH STREET DRAINAGE

Proposals shall include: boundary and topographic surveys of the drainage ditch in Okeechobee County, between S.W. 24th Avenue (Eagle Bay Drive), S.W. 8th Street and S.W. 11th Street.

Related inquiries and detailed specifications are available from Jim Threewits, Deputy County Administrator, at (863)763-4458.

All proposers are to provide a price quote in a sealed envelope labeled "OKEECHOBEE COUNTY SURVEYING SERVICES - S.W. 8TH STREET DRAINAGE" by 3:00 p.m. local time on February 17, 2009 at the Okeechobee County Courthouse, 312 NW 3rd Street, 2nd Floor, Okeechobee, FL 34972.

Okeechobee County accepts no responsibility for any expense related to preparation or delivery of proposals; reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive technical errors and informalities, and to accept the proposal, which, in its judgment, best serves the public interest.

Okeechobee County is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Sharon Robertson, Clerk Board of County Commissioners Okeechobee County, Florida 310043 ON 2/6/09

Cliff Betts, Jr., Chairman Board of County Commissioners Okeechobee County, Florida 310043 ON 2/6/09

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO. 2009-CP-10

IN RE: ESTATE OF GARY KENT ISAACS, Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of GARY KENT ISAACS, deceased, whose date of death was December 16, 2008, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972.

Personal Representative: PATRICIA B. ISAACS 2266 Caledonian Street Clermont, FL 34711

Attorney for Personal Representative: COLIN M. CAMERON 200 N.E. 4th Avenue Okeechobee, FL 34972

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

SEAFOAST NATIONAL BANK AS SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO BIG LAKE NATIONAL BANK, Plaintiff,

vs. BRENDA DEIGNAN, a single woman and the CREDIT UNION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: BRENDA DEIGNAN, whose place of residence is unknown and whose last known residence address was 19655 Northwest 30th Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34974 and all parties claiming interest by, through, and/or against BRENDA DEIGNAN, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property herein described.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Complaint to Foreclose a Mortgage on the following described real property, to-wit:

THE WEST 1/2 OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF TRACT 31, LYING AND BEING IN SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH, RANGE 33 EAST ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 3 A-D, INCLUSIVE OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

TOGETHER WITH A 2005 GENA DOUBLEVILLE MOBILE HOME BEARING IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS GIMHGA4250431825A AND GIMHGA4250431825B AND TITLE NUMBERS 92017766 AND 92018051

has been filed against you, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to JOHN D. CASSELLS, JR., Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is Post Office Box 968, 400 Northwest 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34973, on or before the 1st day of March, 2009 and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's Attorney or immediately thereafter, otherwise a writ of attachment will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. This Notice shall be published once each week for two (2) consecutive weeks in the "Okeechobee News."

DATED This 28th day of January, 2009.

SHARON ROBERTSON Clerk of the Circuit Court

BY: Ariene Nealis DEPUTY CLERK

Request for Feral Hog Removal Contractor Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park Informational meeting and site visit: 2/11/09 at 10:00am Location: Park Office 33104 NW 192nd St. Okeechobee 34972 Phone 863-462-5360 309547 ON 2/4,6,8/09

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

Public Notice 5005

NOTICE OF AN OKEECHOBEE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD / BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND APPEALS MEETING

NOTICE: The Planning Board/Board of Adjustments and Appeals will hold their next regular meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the Commission Meeting Room, Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida. In the event that all items scheduled before the Board are not heard, the meeting shall be continued to Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the Commission Meeting Room, Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES SHALL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD AT PUBLIC HEARINGS. Any person desiring to appeal any decision by the Board of Adjustments and Appeals with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made and that the record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal will be based. Planning and Development tapes are for the sole purpose of backup for official records of the Department.

William D. Royce, Planning Director 309914 ON 2/6/09

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 2008-CA-329

HEIRS, LLC, Plaintiff

vs. INSITE DEVELOPMENT GROUP LLC, et al. Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order of Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 5, 2009, and entered in Case No. 2008-CA-329 of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein HEIRS, LLC is Plaintiff and INSITE DEVELOPMENT GROUP LLC is Defendant, the Clerk of the Court of Okeechobee County, Florida, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 North West 3rd Street, 2nd Floor, Jury Assembly Room, Okeechobee, Florida, 34972, at 11:00 o'clock A.M. on the 16th day of February, 2009, the property described as follows:

Parcel 1: Lots 1 through 26, inclusive, Block 20 of OKEECHOBEE, according to the Plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 10 and in Plat Book 5, page 5 of the Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida; and lots 7 through 10, inclusive, and lot 11, less the west 28 feet thereof, together with the North 75 feet of the said Section 9, (15 feet wide) adjacent to said lots, in Block 29, of OKEECHOBEE, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 10 and Plat Book, Page 5 of Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

Parcel 2: Lots 1 through 26, inclusive, Block 14, Lots 1 through 6, inclusive, Block 11, 1 through 26, inclusive, Block 12, lots 1, 2, 3 and 9, in Block 21, less the East 32.5 feet of said lot 9, lots 10 through 26, inclusive, Block 21; and lots 1 through 6, inclusive, block 22, of OKEECHOBEE, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 10 and Plat Book 5, Page 5, of Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

Approximately 26 acres and adjoining roadways.

Address: Vacant Land in OKEECHOBEE Subdivision P1, Pg. 10 and PB5, Pg. 5.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens, must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

Any persons needing special accommodations for disabilities should contact the Court administrator at 1-702-907-4370. Those persons who are hearing impaired may contact 1-800-955-8771 for accommodations. Those persons who are voice impaired, may contact 1-800-955-8770 for accommodations.

Witness My hand and Seal of the Court on January 29, 2009.

SHARON ROBERTSON Clerk of the Circuit Court By: /s/ Sandra L. Creech Deputy Clerk

COLIN M. CAMERON, ESQ., P.A. Attorney for Plaintiff 200 NE 4th Avenue Okeechobee, FL 34972 (863) 763-8600 309208 ON 1/30;2/6/09

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE STRUCTURED ASSET INVESTMENT LOAN TRUST, 2006-BNCS, Plaintiff

vs. MICHAEL NYE; VICKI VINSON NYE; DONNA H. LEE; ROLLAND E. AMMONS, JR.; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF DONNA H. LEE; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ROLLAND E. AMMONS; JOHN DOE; JANE DOE; AS UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendants

RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Motion and Order Resetting Foreclosure Sale Date dated the 15th day of January, 2009, and entered in Case No. 47-2008-CA-00219, of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE STRUCTURED ASSET INVESTMENT LOAN TRUST, 2006-BNCS is the Plaintiff and MICHAEL NYE; VICKI VINSON NYE; DONNA H. LEE; ROLLAND E. AMMONS, JR.; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF DONNA H. LEE; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ROLLAND E. AMMONS; JOHN DOE; JANE DOE; AS UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY are defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the OKEECHOBEE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER, 312 NW 3RD STREET, JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA, 34972 at the Okeechobee County Courthouse, in OKEECHOBEE, Florida, at 11:00 a.m. on the 18th day of February, 2009, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:

THE NORTH 205 FEET OF THE WEST 132 FEET OF LOT 2 IN BLOCK 10, OKEECHOBEE LITTLE FARMS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 100, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, at 11:00 a.m. on the 18th day of February, 2009, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:

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

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) disabled person who, because of their disabilities need special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact not later than seven (7) days prior to the proceeding Court Administration at 772-907-4370, 1-800-955-8771 (hearing impaired) or 1-800-955-8770 (voice impaired). Dated This 22nd day of January, 2009.

SHARON ROBERTSON Clerk of the Circuit Court By: /s/ SANDRA L. CREECH Deputy Clerk

Law Office of Marshall C. Watson 1800 NW 49th Street, Suite 120 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309 Telephone: (954) 453-0365 Facsimile: (954) 771-6052 309146 ON 1/30;2/6/09

Public Notice 5005

NOTICE OF AN OKEECHOBEE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD / BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND APPEALS MEETING

NOTICE: The Planning Board/Board of Adjustments and Appeals will hold their next regular meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the Commission Meeting Room, Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida. In the event that all items scheduled before the Board are not heard, the meeting shall be continued to Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the Commission Meeting Room, Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES SHALL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD AT PUBLIC HEARINGS. Any person desiring to appeal any decision by the Board of Adjustments and Appeals with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made and that the record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal will be based. Planning and Development tapes are for the sole purpose of backup for official records of the Department.

William D. Royce, Planning Director 309914 ON 2/6/09

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 2007-CA-336

HEIRS, LLC, Plaintiff

vs. INSITE DEVELOPMENT GROUP LLC, et al. Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order of Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 5, 2009, and entered in Case No. 2008-CA-329 of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein HEIRS, LLC is Plaintiff and INSITE DEVELOPMENT GROUP LLC is Defendant, the Clerk of the Court of Okeechobee County, Florida, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 North West 3rd Street, 2nd Floor, Jury Assembly Room, Okeechobee, Florida, 34972, at 11:00 o'clock A.M. on the 16th day of February, 2009, the property described as follows:

Parcel 1: Lots 1 through 26, inclusive, Block 20 of OKEECHOBEE, according to the Plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 10 and in Plat Book 5, page 5 of the Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida; and lots 7 through 10, inclusive, and lot 11, less the west 28 feet thereof, together with the North 75 feet of the said Section 9, (15 feet wide) adjacent to said lots, in Block 29, of OKEECHOBEE, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 10 and Plat Book, Page 5 of Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

Parcel 2: Lots 1 through 26, inclusive, Block 14, Lots 1 through 6, inclusive, Block 11, 1 through 26, inclusive, Block 12, lots 1, 2, 3 and 9, in Block 21, less the East 32.5 feet of said lot 9, lots 10 through 26, inclusive, Block 21; and lots 1 through 6, inclusive, block 22, of OKEECHOBEE, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 10 and Plat Book 5, Page 5, of Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

Approximately 26 acres and adjoining roadways.

Address: Vacant Land in OKEECHOBEE Subdivision P1, Pg. 10 and PB5, Pg. 5.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens, must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

Any persons needing special accommodations for disabilities should contact the Court administrator at 1-702-907-4370. Those persons who are hearing impaired may contact 1-800-955-8771 for accommodations. Those persons who are voice impaired, may contact 1-800-955-8770 for accommodations.

Witness My hand and Seal of the Court on January 29, 2009.

SHARON ROBERTSON Clerk of the Circuit Court By: /s/ Sandra L. Creech Deputy Clerk

COLIN M. CAMERON, ESQ., P.A. Attorney for Plaintiff 200 NE 4th Avenue Okeechobee, FL 34972 (863) 763-8600 309208 ON 1/30;2/6/09

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE STRUCTURED ASSET INVESTMENT LOAN TRUST, 2006-BNCS, Plaintiff

vs. MICHAEL NYE; VICKI VINSON NYE; DONNA H. LEE; ROLLAND E. AMMONS, JR.; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF DONNA H. LEE; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ROLLAND E. AMMONS; JOHN DOE; JANE DOE; AS UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendants

RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Motion and Order Resetting Foreclosure Sale Date dated the 15th day of January, 2009, and entered in Case No. 47-2008-CA-00219, of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE STRUCTURED ASSET INVESTMENT LOAN TRUST, 2006-BNCS is the Plaintiff and MICHAEL NYE; VICKI VINSON NYE; DONNA H. LEE; ROLLAND E. AMMONS, JR.; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF DONNA H. LEE; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ROLLAND E. AMMONS; JOHN DOE; JANE DOE; AS UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY are defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the OKEECHOBEE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER, 312 NW 3RD STREET, JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA, 34972 at the Okeechobee County Courthouse, in OKEECHOBEE, Florida, at 11:00 a.m. on the 18th day of February, 2009, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:

THE NORTH 205 FEET OF THE WEST 132 FEET OF LOT 2 IN BLOCK 10, OKEECHOBEE LITTLE FARMS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 100, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, at 11:00 a.m. on the 18th day of February, 2009, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:

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

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) disabled person who, because of their disabilities need special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact not later than seven (7) days prior to the proceeding Court Administration at 772-907-4370, 1-800-955-8771 (hearing impaired) or 1-800-955-8770 (voice impaired). Dated This 22nd day of January, 2009.

SHARON ROBERTSON Clerk of the Circuit Court By: /s/ SANDRA L. CREECH Deputy Clerk

Law Office of Marshall C. Watson 1800 NW 49th Street, Suite 120 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309 Telephone: (954) 453-0365 Facsimile: (954) 771-6052 309146 ON 1/30;2/6/09

Public Notice 5005

NOTICE OF AN OKEECHOBEE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD / BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND APPEALS MEETING

NOTICE: The Planning Board/Board of Adjustments and Appeals will hold their next regular meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the Commission Meeting Room, Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida. In the event that all items scheduled before the Board are not heard, the meeting shall be continued to Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the Commission Meeting Room, Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES SHALL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD AT PUBLIC HEARINGS. Any person desiring to appeal any decision by the Board of Adjustments and Appeals with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made and that the record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal will be based. Planning and Development tapes are for the sole purpose of backup for official records of the Department.

William D. Royce, Planning Director 309914 ON 2/6/09

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 2007-CA-336

HEIRS, LLC, Plaintiff

vs. INSITE DEVELOPMENT GROUP LLC, et al. Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order of Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 5, 2009, and entered in Case No. 2008-CA-329 of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein HEIRS, LLC is Plaintiff and INSITE DEVELOPMENT GROUP LLC is Defendant, the Clerk of the Court of Okeechobee County, Florida, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 North West 3rd Street, 2nd Floor, Jury Assembly Room, Okeechobee, Florida, 34972, at 11:00 o'clock A.M. on the 16th day of February, 2009, the property described as follows:

Parcel 1: Lots 1 through 26, inclusive, Block 20 of OKEECHOBEE, according to the Plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 10 and in Plat Book 5, page 5 of the Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida; and lots 7 through 10, inclusive, and lot 11, less the west 28 feet thereof, together with the North 75 feet of the said Section 9, (15 feet wide) adjacent to said lots, in Block 29, of OKEECHOBEE, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 10 and Plat Book, Page 5 of Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

Parcel 2: Lots 1 through 26, inclusive, Block 14, Lots 1 through 6, inclusive, Block 11, 1 through 26, inclusive, Block 12, lots 1, 2, 3 and 9, in Block 21, less the East 32.5 feet of said lot 9, lots 10 through 26, inclusive, Block 21; and lots 1 through 6, inclusive, block 22, of OKEECHOBEE, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 10 and Plat Book 5, Page 5, of Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

Approximately 26 acres and adjoining roadways.

Address: Vacant Land in OKEECHOBEE Subdivision P1, Pg. 10 and PB5, Pg. 5.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens, must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

Any persons needing special accommodations for disabilities should contact the Court administrator at 1-702-907-4370. Those persons who are hearing impaired may contact 1-800-955-8771 for accommodations. Those persons who are voice impaired, may contact 1-800-955-8770 for accommodations.

Witness My hand and Seal of the Court on January 29, 2009.

SHARON ROBERTSON Clerk of the Circuit Court By: /s/ Sandra L. Creech Deputy Clerk

COLIN M. CAMERON, ESQ., P.A. Attorney for Plaintiff 200 NE 4th Avenue Okeechobee, FL 34972 (863) 763-8600 309208 ON 1/30;2/6/09

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE STRUCTURED ASSET INVESTMENT LOAN TRUST, 2006-BNCS, Plaintiff

vs. MICHAEL NYE; VICKI VINSON NYE; DONNA H. LEE; ROLLAND E. AMMONS, JR.; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF DONNA H. LEE; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ROLLAND E. AMMONS; JOHN DOE; JANE DOE; AS UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendants

RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Motion and Order Resetting Foreclosure Sale Date dated the 15th day of January, 2009, and entered in Case No. 47-2008-CA-00219, of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE STRUCTURED ASSET INVESTMENT LOAN TRUST, 2006-BNCS is the Plaintiff and MICHAEL NYE; VICKI VINSON NYE; DONNA H. LEE; ROLLAND E. AMMONS, JR.; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF DONNA H. LEE; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ROLLAND E. AMMONS; JOHN DOE; JANE DOE; AS UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY are defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the OKEECHOBEE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER, 312 NW 3RD STREET, JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA, 34972 at the Okeechobee County Courthouse, in OKEECHOBEE, Florida, at 11:00 a.m. on the 18th day of February, 2009, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:

THE NORTH 205 FEET OF THE WEST 132 FEET OF LOT 2 IN BLOCK 10, OKEECHOBEE LITTLE FARMS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 100, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, at 11:00 a.m. on the 18th day of February, 2009, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:

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

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) disabled person who, because of their disabilities need special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact not later than seven (7) days prior to the proceeding Court Administration at 772-907-4370, 1-800-955-8771 (hearing impaired) or 1-800-955-8770 (voice impaired). Dated This 22nd day of January, 2009.

SHARON ROBERTSON Clerk of the Circuit Court By: /s/ SANDRA L. CREECH Deputy Clerk

Law Office of Marshall C. Watson 1800 NW 49th Street, Suite 120 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309 Telephone: (954) 453-0365 Facsimile: (954) 771-6052 309146 ON 1/30;2/6/09

Service Club News

Editor's note: The Service Club News calendar is now online at www.newszap.com. Click on "Okeechobee" and then on "Post Your News." The calendar will also run once a month in the newspaper.

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.

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 am. Contact the Post at 467-2882 for information.

Eagles Aeries #4137

Girls fall short at districts

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee girls hoops got off to a bad start and even a great fourth quarter couldn't rescue them in their first round game at the District 14-4A tournament on Tuesday night.

Forest Hill jumped to a 20 point lead and then held off Okeechobee, 39-34, to advance to the second round of the tournament.

Okeechobee trailed 13-2 after the first quarter and 24-10 at the half. The Lady Falcons led 35-15 after three quarters.

"The girls forgot to show up," Coach Tony Sherlock said, "They just weren't there. They all went to sleep on the bus and didn't get ready."

Okeechobee scored 18 straight points to start the fourth quarter but the comeback wasn't enough to bring them to the winners circle. Sherlock said the girls missed too many free throws and easy shots to win the game.

"It was a good comeback and a strong showing in the fourth quarter. The girls had a great year this year. They hadn't played to-

gether much but they started to jell and I think things look good for next year," he said.

Monica Koger led Okeechobee with 12 points. Dorothy Burkhardt scored seven points in her final Brahman appearance. Markeisha Youmans added five points. Rachel Smith led Forest Hill, (8-13) with 16 points. Okeechobee ended the season at (15-9).

Boy's baseball opens with scrimmage Friday

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Jack Nicholson's line from "Batman" may be appropriate for Okeechobee's boy's baseball team this year:

"Wait 'til they get a load of me."

Hopes are definitely high as the talented and veteran Brahmans hit the field this week for the 2009 season.

The dugout will have a lot of familiar faces and many of them have been deemed can't miss prospects at the high school level. This is the year they can live up to the hype.

Coach Dylan Tedders said the kids are stronger, more experienced, and more mature than last year. He noted they seem to have a hunger that wasn't there before.

"I've preached to them that they haven't done anything yet. They haven't won one game. They have no championships. They can't count their chickens before they hatch," he said.

Tedders said he is excited about how the team is swinging the bats in practice each day. He noted he expects a strong defensive team and a strong pitching staff. He said his biggest concern is hitting.

"So far batting practice has been pretty fun to watch every day. We'll see what happens when we are tested, and go through tough times. That is when we will see how good we are," he added.

Pitching Coach Mark Ward has three tough right handed pitchers, and three tough left handed pitchers, a plethora of talent. He noted it's rare for a high school team to have so many good arms.

"I see us playing a lot of good baseball this year. I see a lot of innings in our favor," he said.

Ward said his pitchers must

throw strikes to be successful. He noted all have good stuff, plenty good enough to succeed at this level. He mentioned that many of the players worked in the off season. A group of Brahmans played American Legion ball, and their team won the Florida State Championship.

"They have more opportunities to get better and to make more plays. That experience overall will be good for them," he added.

Ward said he has several pitchers that can be considered aces. He said they need to work together and push each other. "Hopefully they put it all together, they play together, and they rely on each other this year."

The purple and white game will be held Friday night at 6 p.m. The 50 inning fund raiser will be held Saturday morning. Here is a closer look at this year's squad.

Pitching

The pitching staff figures to be the strength of the team. Most of the team's best pitchers have returned this year. All of them have ability. Many of them played summer ball to improve their skills. The staff has two aces with Dustin Stokes and Cameron Tewksbury.

Brice Buckner figures to be the third starter. Mike Minondo and Brandon Farless figure to lead the bullpen, and also can start games. Coaches expect a lot of complete games from their studs this year. Stokes had a 3.16 earned run average last year. He struck out 46 batters in 44 innings pitched. Cameron Tewksbury was 6-3 with a 1.72 earned run average. He struck out 56 batters in 53 innings pitched. Minondo had 24 strikeouts in 21 innings pitched. Brice Buckner had a 0.81 earned run average and 27 strikeouts in 21 innings pitched in the final month of the season to overcome a slow start.

Brandon Farless and Mike Minondo are neck in neck to decide who starts. They could form a platoon since Minondo bats left and Farless bats right. Minondo has improved at the plate and is also one of the team's starting pitchers. Farless also is a pitcher. Jake Davenport figures to see

First base

Brice Buckner and Cameron Tewksbury figure to share time at first base. Both will also be key pitchers. Buckner will be in the lineup every day and could DH at times or fill into the outfield. Both are athletic and talented hitters at the plate.

Second base

Aaron Suarez will move in as the starter and Matt Dorriety is working as a utility man. Suarez is praised for his defensive skills. He'll likely bat ninth in the lineup and form a solid double play combination with SS Drew Selvey.

Short stop- Probable college player Drew Selvey returns for his sophomore year. Drew has all the tools with his glove, arm strength and foot work. He should also improve his offense this year.

Third base

Mark Weir will take over at third. The sophomore improved his arm strength and quickness in the off season. Joey Voss will back up Weir. Buckner is also a possibility at times.

Catcher

Adam Tewksbury is expected to carry the load. He was one of the top hitters last year, .311. He needs to improve his in game catching skills and avoid passed balls. Justin Morgan, a freshman, and Brant Harden, a sophomore, will battle for the backup role.

Left field

Brandon Farless and Mike Minondo are neck in neck to decide who starts. They could form a platoon since Minondo bats left and Farless bats right. Minondo has improved at the plate and is also one of the team's starting pitchers. Farless also is a pitcher. Jake Davenport figures to see

some time at all three outfield positions.

Center field—Jonathan Crawford will patrol center field. He has good range and a great arm. He will also see time on the pitchers mound.

Right field

Dustin Stokes will play RF. He has improved his power and has already signed with Indian River State College. He has a strong arm and moves well for a big man. Cameron Tewksbury could play there when Stokes is pitching.

Bench

Kerwin Givens will provide depth in the outfield and serve as a pinch runner. Jimmy Hadden has returned from shoulder surgery and will be the team's primary left handed pinch hitter. Tyler Rhodes will serve as a right handed pinch hitter.

District competition

District 14-4A has gotten better over the years with the addition of Jensen Beach. They figure to be good again thanks to left handed stud Josh Ziemba. CF Mike Anthony has signed to play with Florida Southern. Westwood has all of their starters back which include SS Jordan Robinson, one of the best athletes in the area. LHP David Carmona has a lot of experience on the mound. Lincoln Park should be competitive again with a strong pitching staff. Suncoast has eliminated Okeechobee for three years in a row at districts. They return SS Aaron Cohn and LHP Jared Gish. Forest Hill and Glades Central figure to be also-rans in the district.

Mortgage Works
Renee Box 863-697-1702

100% FINANCING/FHA/VA

- No Mortgage Insurance
- Full Doc
- Credit Score as Low as 580
- First Time Home Buyers
- Refinance/Debt Consolidation
- Commercial Loans up to \$5,000,000.00
- Mobile Home Financing
- Investment Property
- Self-Employed Okay
- New Construction Loans
- Rehab Loans

Happy New Year!

New CBS Homes

3/2 cathedral ceilings, tile throughout, wood cabinets, plant shelves, appliances, \$113,000. inc. lot.

(Reduced price if built on your lot)
Contact (863) 634-0571

Lic# Crc1328235

Century 21 Se Habla Espanol

(863) 763-2104

Hazellief & Prevatt Realty Co.

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

CALL FOR A LIST OF FORECLOSURES

1002-H: LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION! NW 6th St 3 bedroom CBS home with family and utility room, picket wood fencing. Close to everything in town. Could be re-zoned commercial. \$93,000 MLS# 201649

1007-M: Pine Ridge Park 1992 14 X 56 singlewide mobile home with screen porch addition...2 sheds and fenced. \$68,000 MLS# 202123 **PRICE TO SELL!**

5007-H: KING'S BAY SHORT SALE! 3BR/2BA CBS home on a 57x90 Lot. Home has ceramic tile and carpet floors and appliances. Built 2003, paved drive way and interior laundry room. \$160,000 MLS# 201257

5026-M: DW 4BR/2.5BA MH on 5+/- acres. Open living room w/fireplace, dining and kitchen, large walk in closets, appliances, covered patio for those BBQ weekends. Fenced and crossed fenced, barn and tack rm has water and elect. MLS# 201470

5029-M: Spot in the Sun 2005 DW MH on 1/2 acre. Nice and clean and ready to move in. Nice back yard with two storage buildings and trees. \$89,900 MLS# 201534

5035-M: Ft. Drum 3/2 DW MH, split bedroom plan with fireplace, screened porch, wood floors and carpet. Some appliances included. \$95,000 MLS# 200663

5027-M: Spot in the Sun 3/2 Mobile home on 1/2 acre, split plan floor, open front and back porch, open concept, lot size 100x128, built 2004. \$98,000 MLS# 92463 **REDUCED!**

FORECLOSURE
8035-A: 13+ Acres right off HWY 98th N. (FRA-MAR Ranches). Make offers. Bank will consider any and all offers. MLS# 202104 **\$89,900**

ACREAGE / LOTS

- Big "O" RV Park vacant lot or with home. +5+/- acres @ NE 24th St. MLS# 201364
- +5+/- acres Sunset Strip Airpark @ SW 13th St. MLS# 201396
- Basswood lots from \$15,000-\$33,000
- 7 Acres HWY 68 \$110,000
- Dark Hammock 2 10+/- acre parcels with MH or without your choice

1200 South Parrott Ave.
www.century21okeechobee.com • Email: century21okeechobee@earthlink.net

Three golfers earn all conference recognition

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Corey White, Richard Donegan and Michael Watson earned all Treasure Lake Conference recognition this winter for their contributions this fall to the Okeechobee golf team.

White was named to the first team, Donegan to the second team, and Watson earned honorable mention.

Okeechobee (16-5), reached

the state regional tournament for the first time in several years. They will only lose White to graduation, and should have a strong program for the next several years.

"It was a pretty good season for us and I see good things for the Brahmans golf team this year," Coach Mark Ward said.

Paige Arnold earned honorable mention for the girl's golf team.

REAL ESTATE

Pritchard's **GMAC** Real Estate

1804 S. Parrott Avenue • Okeechobee
(863) 357-4622

DREAMCATCHER REALTY
Maureen Kleiman, Lic. Real Estate Broker • 863-357-5900

REDUCED

Desirable River Lake Estates SW area
3bd, 2 bth CBS home on 10 fenced acres. Pond, barn and pasture. Move in condition. Steal this one at \$237,500

Very nice home waiting for you! **\$150,000**

Smart looking front gable compliments fan lite front door

CBS

3 BR, 2 Baths on your lot from \$89,000 and up

Other models available. CBS construction, wood cabinets, tile in LR, kitchen and baths, carpet in bedrooms. Pick your colors. Upgrades available.

\$119,000, lot included

Roland Mossel • cgc1511618
Lou DeMico, LLC • ccc1506955
(863) 763-7998
(863) 634-7722 • (863) 763-7552

Your community directory is a click away!

newszap.com

Free Speech Free Ads

Goolsby REALTY CO. Patricia Louise Goolsby, Licensed Real Estate Broker
MLS, 634-5588
FULL SERVICE REALTOR patgoolsby@embarqmail.com
Vicki Anderson • 863-634-4106 • Eric Anderson • 863-634-4107

COUNTRY LIVING Great place to bring your horses and have fun. Plenty of storage space. YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS OUT ON THIS ONE PRICED TO SELL!!!! MLS #200723, \$175,000. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.

WATERFRONT Beautiful fully upgraded DWMH. Pella Windows w/double panes throughout. Too many features to include. MUST SEE THIS BEAUTY. MLS #201548, \$149,900. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106

REDUCED 5+ ACRES - BRING YOUR HORSES Frame Adorable 2/2 house on 5+ acres, 2nd kitchen w/separate entrance. Nice open area. Fully furnished. MLS #93200, \$199,000. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.

PRICE REDUCED
WATERFRONT - JUST BRING YOUR TOOTHBRUSH!! Turn key 3/2 DWMH. Furnished w/lg workshop and shed.. DON'T LET THIS ONE GET AWAY. MLS 201290, \$89,900. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.

RIVER AND LAKE ACCESS Very nice well-kept DWMH on canal that goes directly to the Kissimmee River. Well-established park. MLS #200986, \$299,000. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.

BEAUTIFUL, SPACIOUS MODULAR HOME on 2.50 acres. Beautiful trees. Fruit orchard. Deck with pool. Includes a nice vacant lot with plenty of trees. MLS #200986, \$299,000. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.

863-763-5588 • 21442 E. SR 78, BHR • Across Kissimmee River next to Fire Station & Glades County Building.

Preferred Properties Of Okeechobee Realty Inc.
Kathy Godwin Lic. RE Broker
Everything We Touch Turns To "Sold"

"GREAT WATER VIEW"
3/2 CBS home with hardy plank siding on .5 acre lake access lot on Taylor Creek. Home has game room, office, fenced back yard, tree house and a pool! Something for everyone here and priced to sell #20214 \$199,000!
NEWLY REDUCED!

"LOOK NO FURTHER"
Looking for a great place to live...here it is. Great location on a dead end street, close to schools. 4/2/2 with a lot of charm. Storage shed on property 10x20. #201528 \$179,000.
NEWLY REDUCED!

"BHR BEAUTY"
1992 Homes of Merit, Screened Porch, Back Deck, Storage Shed, immaculate home is priced to sell. New metal roof 2005 #202215 \$99,000
NEW LISTING!

"SAFE AND SOUND"
2005 2/2 solid concrete built home. This home has a wind speed rating of 185 mph. Feel safe and secure here while enjoying all of the amenities of this community. Minutes from shopping, great location. #202120 \$175,000
SOLD! CONCRETE!

"AFFORDABLY PRICED"
Nice 3BR/1BA home close to town. Some remodeling work in the process of completion. Attractive pricing. Call to see the property. # 201941 \$79,900 **WOW!**
MOTIVATED SELLERS!

"GREAT LOCATION"
Nice 3/2 DWMH a great location in the SW section. Close to schools and shopping. It is situated on 1/2 acre lot with nice Oak trees. Sit on the back deck and enjoy the scenery.#201504 \$115,000
ALL ON 1/2 ACRE

BUYER'S SEMINAR
February 19th • 4PM - 6PM
DRAWINGS • GIVE AWAYS • 100% FINANCING • \$7500 TAX CREDIT • FREE APPRAISALS
LENDER'S PRESENT TO PRE QUALIFY & ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS. CALL 763-8222 FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

Se Habla Espanol Now Available!
NO TRANSACTION FEES!
863-763-8222 • 3126 Hwy 441 S. Okeechobee

OHS boy's hoops handle Hardee Wildcats

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News
The Okeechobee High School Boys Basketball Team survived a

hail of three point baskets by the Hardee Wildcats to win, 75-65 in boy's basketball action Tuesday night at the Brahman gym. David Jeune celebrated his

nomination to play in the McDonald's High School All American Game, with 24 points and 14 rebounds, and Austin Willard added 13 points to lead Okeechobee to their 11th win of the year. Antjuan Jones led Hardee with 27 points.

Brahmans Coach Jon Enrico said his reserves did a good job but his team seems to make games closer than they need to be. "We've had a hard time this year closing teams out. No matter who they are, we seem to play down to the level of competition," he said.

Hardee was a quick and athletic team but they lacked height inside. That allowed Okeechobee to limit them to one shot at the basket on most of their possessions.

The Brahmans jumped to an 8-2 early lead and led 12-5 after a dunk by Jeune. However, Hardee hit three consecutive three points to pull to within 16-14 early in the second quarter.

Okeechobee got a three pointer from Ricky Nieto and a three point play by Matt Skipper to lead 26-19 midway through the second quarter. The Brahmans held a seven point lead at halftime, 33-26.

Austin Willard was a key in the second quarter as he hit several short jump shots. "I got the assists from my teammates. It was because of them that I got points. They hit a lot of three pointers, we just had to get out on them and play better defense. They were a quick team."

Hardee stayed in the game in the third quarter as they cut

the lead to 42-41 on a jumper by Jones. After that Okeechobee took control and led 51-47 after three quarters.

Hardee stayed as close as four points midway through the fourth quarter but a three point play by Duelle Gore, and a lay up by Skipper gave Okeechobee a 63-53 lead. Okeechobee led by as many as 15 points in the fourth quarter.

"Teams like that will have to hit a lot of three pointers to beat us," Coach Enrico said, "We let them have too many shots tonight. Hopefully we'll get better. We know we need to play 32 minutes of good basketball to win in our district tournament next week."

A big factor was Jeune, who had 24 points despite not playing at his best. "I wasn't that happy tonight. We should have played better defense. Things don't always go your way."

Jeune said his nomination to the all American game was an honor. He said he doesn't expect to be selected because only two players from Florida will likely play in the game.

"That would be a big dream coming true. I never thought I'd be in that situation but I played a lot over the summer and got some recognition," he noted.

Jeune played with Florida Elite in several national tournaments at the AAU level this summer. He is considering several scholarship offers to play college basketball.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Terrence Allen looks for an open man inside during Tuesday's game against Hardee.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Austin Willard (left) played well in the first half when Okeechobee needed a spark.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
David Jeune (right) could shoot over most of the smaller Wildcat defenders during Tuesday's game.

Volleyball team earns post season honors

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Jacque Robinson was named Coach of the Year in the Treasure Lake Conference and three Okeechobee High School Brahmans Volleyball players were named all conference in volleyball at the district meeting held this week in Ft. Pierce.

Robinson, who resigned her position at the end of the year, was honored along with Monica Koger, first team, Megan Clements, second team, and Rebekah Bryan, honorable mention.



Monica Koger



Rebekah Bryan



Megan Clements



Jacque Robinson

"It says a lot about the girls that were chosen. It was pretty exciting and a good day for Okeechobee volleyball," she said.

Robinson said she was very surprised when other coaches

voted for her. Her Brahmans finished second in their district this year and went to the second round of the regional playoffs.

"I was like really excited," she said. "I was kind of shocked. I've

never won the coach of the year award. I'm very happy. It was a nice ending to a wonderful season with a great group of girls."

Robinson now lives in Ormand Beach and is planning on getting married in May. The former all South Eastern Conference player at the University of Florida said it was a bitter sweet decision to leave Okeechobee.

"If by some miracle I could spend three months with my girls in Okeechobee next year that would be great. Right now I'm excited about being someone's

wife and motherhood in the future. I will always love my girls and will do anything for them," she added.

The Tucker Group LLC

Visit Our **NEW Website!**

www.Tucker-Group.com

104 NW 7th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972
(863) 763-4010 • (888) 874-2945

SALE

Charlie's Dodge is **Driving America** with **EMPLOYEE PRICING PLUS**

PLUS CASH BACK!

PLUS 0% APR

EMPLOYEE PRICING PLUS*

Employees for the Public*
PLUS Consumer Cash*
PLUS 0% Rate Financing through Chrysler Financial
additional Bonus Cash*
-OR-
Credit Union Financing with \$500/\$1,000 additional Credit Union Bonus Cash*

SALE

2009 DODGE CHALLENGER
Leather, Sound Systems
Automatic Transmission & More
STK#H1182

You Save \$3,000*

2009 DODGE HYBRID 4X4 DURANGO
IT'S GOT EMPLOYEE PRICING TOO!
COME IN & TEST DRIVE IT HOME!
STK#R5403

You Save \$3,911*

2008 DODGE RAM QUAD CAB
4X4 Includes Chrome Package
STK#T5073

You Save \$14,300*

2008 DODGE DAKOTA CREW CAB
Auto, A/C, well equipped
STK#D5226

You Save \$7,911*

2008 DODGE CHARGER
STK#L1114

You Save \$8,585*

2008 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT
Leather, My Gig Stereo, GPS Navigation, too much to list!
STK#C5236

You Save \$9,291*

2009 DODGE CALIBER SXT
STK#B1172

You Save \$3,135*

5851 SOUTH US HIGHWAY 1
1 MILE SOUTH OF MIDWAY ROAD
1 MILE NORTH OF PRIMA VISTA BLVD.
FORT PIERCE, FL 34982
WWW.CHARLIESDIRECT.COM
1-866-GO4DODGE
464-3634

*Consumer Rebates may vary depending on vehicle type. Vehicles are for illustration purposes only. Customer must currently own a Dodge product to receive Loyalty discount. Customer is NOT required to trade current vehicle to take advantage of Owner Loyalty Incentive. Other Dealer Fees may apply. Please see dealer for complete details. **Must be comparable to vehicle traded. Down payment may vary. ***Requires proof of competitor's pricing. Competitor must be an authorized Dodge dealer. Bring in any competitor's ad or signed written offer to get your best deal on a comparable unit in stock. Interest rates in lieu of rebates. On approved credit. Competitor's offer must include stock #, MSRP, sale price and mileage if used vehicle. Due to errors that may appear in competitor's offer, this offer is limited to Charlie's Dodge's actual cost. Charlie's Dodge reserves the right to purchase competitor vehicle. Excludes limited production models. +Special APR's n select vehicle in lieu of factory rebates, terms limited. Combination of National Rebate, Loyalty rebate, Farm Bureau rebate & Dealer savings when applicable. Plus tax, tag, title & dealer fees. Dealer installed options may be extra. offer expires 2/28/09.

A Change To Your Medicare Plan May Help

In today's difficult economic times, Humana has all-in-one plans that not only cover your medical care and prescription drugs, but may save you money and offer you more services.



Humana Medicare Advantage plans offer:

- Prescription drug coverage
- Doctor visits
- Hospitalization
- Preventive coverage
- Gym membership at no additional cost
- Quit smoking program
- 24 hour nurse hotline
- Emergency coverage at home or when you travel
- Humana Active Outlook® wellness program
- And more!

CALL TODAY to find out more! Remember, you only have until **March 31*** to change your Medicare Advantage health plan for the year.

It's more important than ever to make every dollar count. Call today to find out how you can stretch your healthcare dollar – with a Medicare Advantage plan from Humana:
1-800-372-7251 • TTY 1-877-833-4486
 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week

HUMANA[®]
Guidance when you need it most

Medicare-approved HMO, PPO and PFFS plans available to anyone enrolled in both Part A and Part B of Medicare through age or disability. Enrollment period restrictions apply, call Humana for details. Copayments, service area and benefit limitations may apply.

*Some exceptions may apply.