

Briefs

Farm Bill meeting set for March 9

The Florida Farm Bureau Federation is urging agricultural producers to attend meetings scheduled around the state in March by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA (NRCS). Rulemaking is in process for the Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, commonly known as the 2008 farm bill. A meeting will be held in Okeechobee at the Okeechobee Civic Center, U.S. Highway 98 North, on March 9, from 3 to 5 p.m. For more information, call Jeff Schmidt at 561-683-0883.

Set clocks one hour forward on Sunday

Daylight Savings time starts at 2 a.m. on the second Sunday in March. On Sunday, March 8, (or Saturday night before you go to bed) set the clocks one hour forward to "spring forward."

Health and safety classes available

The Okeechobee Service Center of the American Red Cross will be holding the following Health and Safety classes in March: Monday, **March 9** - Adult CPR/AED; Wednesday, **March 18** - Infant/Child CPR/AED; Tuesday, **March 31** - First Aid Basics. All classes are held at their Service Center, located at 323 N. Parrott Ave. All classes will begin at 6 p.m. To register, or for more information call 863-763-2488.

School board to discuss grants

The Okeechobee County School Board will host a meeting to inform private schools of federal grant opportunities for the 2009-2010 school year. The meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 13, at 3 p.m. and will be held in room 301 of the Okeechobee County School Board Office. Representatives of all private schools are encouraged to attend.

Blood donors needed

Florida's Blood Centers is looking for blood donors in Okeechobee. For information on blood drives call 561-845-2323, ext. 1203 or 772-215-8360. All blood types are needed. There is no upper age limit, and many medications and conditions are acceptable.

Drought Index

Current: 686
Source: Florida Division of Forestry
Local Burn Ban: None

Lake Levels

12.62 feet
Last Year: 10.07 feet

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

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

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Marijuana grow house raided

Two suspects were arrested Thursday morning for their alleged connection with a suspected marijuana grow house found in Country Hills Estates.

Members of the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force, along with deputies from the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), executed a search warrant on the home around 11:20 a.m. on March 5.

The suspects were in the process of being booked into the Okeechobee County Jail so their names had not been released as of newspaper deadline.

According to a task force detective about 100 plants were seized, and that each plant had an estimated street value of \$4,000 to \$6,000.

The detective said the suspected operation had been going on for possibly as much as a year and that the operation was "very well put together and high tech." He went on to say that the home's foundation had been chipped out and that fertilizer tubs had been set into the ground.

This alleged grow house was similar to many others shut

down by the task force in that it was located in a quiet, remote area with a fenced-in yard and in a middle to upper class neighborhood.

It was not known by newspaper deadline if the sheriff's office would seize a 4x4 pickup, barn or air conditioning units that were allegedly used in the operation. Depending on the amount of money owed on the home and the 5 acres on which it sits, the sheriff's office could also seize that property and sell it.



Submitted photo
A suspected marijuana grow house in Country Hills Estates was raided by the Narcotics Task Force Thursday.

Where there's smoke: Fire destroys home



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
All that is left from a Larkee Lakes trailer that burned Wednesday.

Larkee Lakes trailer gutted

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

No one was hurt Wednesday after a double wide home caught fire at 9338 SE 61st Drive, Assistant County Fire Chief David McCain said.

Fire crews responded just after noon and found flames coming from the roof of the home. Six units and nine firemen and volunteers quickly attacked the flames and had it under control. Some 5,000 gallons of water was used.

"It was a good aggressive attack on the fire," Chief McCain said, "Flames were showing, there was a lot of smoke, and crews made entry quickly."

Chief McCain said water and smoke damage was extensive inside the home and fire damage was confined to the rear of the home. "One of the neighbors noticed smoke coming from the rear of the home. The owner wasn't home and no one was injured. It was a pretty quick knockdown of the fire and we saved quite a bit of the structure," he said.

The estimate of property damage was placed at \$80,000. Firemen were on the scene for



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Lt. Ron Suit throws debris from Wednesdays fire off the roof of the double wide trailer.

approximately four hours. The occupant of the home was identified as Paula Robas of Okeechobee.

The fire report from paramedic Dale Fulwider said the origin and the cause of the fire was not immediately determined. It appeared the fire might have started on the porch

and spread inside the home, the report added.

The American Red Cross was dispatched to help the family in their time of need, Captain McCain added.

The State Fire Marshall was contacted to investigate the cause of the blaze.

Residents to March for Babies

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee will be joining more than 900 communities tomorrow in the March of Dimes' largest fund raiser.

Teams and individual walkers will take part in March for Babies, formerly called Walk for America. The event will start at 7:30 a.m. with registration in Flagler Park Number 4. There will be breakfast and warm up exercises. Then the walk begins at 8:30. The route, which winds through Okeechobee and ends up back at the park, is a little under four miles.

Most teams have already registered, but teams and individual walkers can still sign up tomorrow morning.

Along the way there will be

spirit stations to supply water and other refreshments. They will be sponsored by Bank of America, Visiting Nurses Association, Publix and Wemmer Family Orthodontics.

At the conclusion of the walk, various prizes will be awarded. There will be prizes for the top five teams, the top individual, the best T shirt, the first finisher, the top new team and the team with the most walkers. Various incentives will also be given for different amounts raised.

The March of Dimes uses 77 cents of every dollar raised in March for Babies to support research and programs that help mothers have full-term pregnancies and babies begin healthy lives.

To date 32 teams have registered. They include the following returning teams: Bank of America, Cassels & McCall, Clock Restaurant, Eckerd Intensive Halfway House, Everglades Elementary School, Gilbert Chevrolet, Healthy Start Coalition, National City Bank, North Elementary School, Okeechobee Schools Transportation Bus Buddies, Okeechobee Juvenile Offender Correction Center, Okeechobee High School BETA Club, Osceola Middle School, Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School, Publix # 118, Riverside National Bank, Seacoast National Bank, Seminole Elementary School, Seminole Tribe of Florida, South Ele-

See March — Page 2

IRSC honors local rancher

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The achievements of the operator of one of the largest and most diversified agricultural operations in the southeast were recognized last night.

Frank "Sonny" W. Williamson, Jr., of Okeechobee was awarded the Dan K. Richardson Entrepreneurship Program's 2009 Entrepreneur of the Year Award at a dinner held Thursday night, March 5, at the Indian River State College (IRSC) Richardson Center in Vero Beach.

The award, which recognizes the entrepreneurial



Sonny Williamson

spirit and exceptional business achievement, is a central element of the Dan K. Richardson Entrepreneurship Program established by the IRSC Foundation and 13 other founding members to promote awareness and appreciation of the free enterprise system.

"Known for his fairness and ability to mobilize people to work together toward a common goal, Sonny Williamson's vision and leadership have helped to keep agriculture strong and viable in Florida," said Dr. Edwin R. Massey IRSC President. "Sonny (Williamson) is highly regarded for his efforts to improve agricultural management to sustain the industry and protect our natural resources. We are proud to recognize his contributions with

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Rooney backs Obama's policy on war in Iraq

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

In spite of partisan disagreements on the president's economic policies, at least one Democrat and one Republican agree on the president's policy on the war in Iraq.

In a bipartisan show of support for the president's plan to end the war in Iraq, Florida Republican Congressman Tom Rooney and Pennsylvania Democratic Congressman Patrick Murphy held a conference call

with reporters on Wednesday afternoon, March 4. Both congressmen had served together in the army and both are currently on the House Armed Services Committee. Mr. Murphy and Mr. Rooney's brother both served in Iraq.

Mr. Murphy said that as Democrats and Republicans they were making good on their pledges to fight as hard as they could for veterans.

The president plans to re-de-

See Rooney — Page 2



Submitted photo
March of Dimes
Osceola Middle School Student Council Officers presented a check to local March of Dimes board member, Sharon Vinson. Those who took part in the presentation are: Student Council President: Destiny Nunez (absent), Vice-President: Brianna Nunez, Secretary: Samantha Wine and Treasurer: Chelsea Wharin. OMS Fifth grade Student Council Officers: President: Ryan Daniel, Vice-President: Alyssa Coleman and Secretary: Bridget Jimenez and club sponsor Mr. Jason Weigand. The Okeechobee March of Dimes "March for Babies" will be held Saturday, March 7, starting in Flagler Park.

IRSC

Continued From Page 1

the 2009 Entrepreneur of the Year Award."

From the beginning Williamson Cattle Company has been a family operation. In 1950, upon graduation from the University of Florida with a B.S. in agriculture, Mr. Williamson and his father began operating Williamson Cattle Company, starting with around 9,000 acres and 400 to 450 head of cattle. It was a father-son operation until his father passed away in 1982. Now Mr. Williamson's son, Wes, and grandson, John, help run the business which consists of over 10,000 acres in Okeechobee and Greensboro, Ala., seven to eight thousand head of cattle, and 700 acres of orange and grapefruit trees. They also lease land in Osceola County.

In addition, Williams Cattle Company owns and leases catfish farms in Alabama.

"We produce and sell more catfish than cattle and citrus combined," Mr. Williamson stated.

Even though he goes to the office every day, the third and fourth generation operators of the Williamson family business are taking an increasingly larger role in management.

"I am semi-retired" Mr. Williamson said.

He is very interested in preserving the environment.

"From the very beginning, we decided that preserving the environment and the beauty of the land was more important than the bottom line," Mr. Williamson told the Okeechobee News in an interview when he received the 2003 Agricultural Environmental Leadership Award from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. (FDACS).

In Florida, Mr. Williamson said it is possible to raise cattle and protect the environment at the same time. In cooperation with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and FD-CAS Williamson Cattle Company is involved in the restoration of wetlands on their property.

Mr. Williamson noted that since the early 1900s much of Florida has been drained and this has upset the environmental balance. The restored wetlands on the Williamson property store excess water, purify it and allow it to be released in a measured and efficient manner.

Mr. Williamson believes that, in addition to operating a successful business, an entrepreneur should be a part of the community. One of the community involvements he is especially proud of is being on the board of directors of Okeechobee Non-Profit Housing, an organization that builds

and sells affordable housing in Okeechobee. With so many repossessions happening now, Mr. Williamson said the organization has never had any trouble with loans to property owners.

"From the beginning, Williamson Cattle Company has always treated our people well," he said.

However, it was during a drought that he began to think about the seasonal employees who picked his fruit. In spite of his concern over his own losses, he said it was as if the Lord spoke to him about those less fortunate. He calls his attraction to Okeechobee Non-Profit Housing an answer to prayer or an inspiration.

Mr. Williamson is also on the advisory board of Dunklin Memorial Camp which provides Christian counseling and rehabilitation for men with alcohol and drug problems

Mr. Williamson was the lead donor in contributing funds for the construction of the Williamson Conference Center on IRSC's Okeechobee Campus. However, he is quick to mention that a lot of other people contributed to the project.

He also believes there should be better communication between the agriculture areas and urban areas of Florida. Unlike what many people believe, he said there is more to Florida than, "beaches and Mickey Mouse."

Mr. Williamson is a member of the Indian River Community College Foundation Board, a trustee of the Florida Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, a member of the advisory board of Riverside National Bank and a member of the Florida Cattlemen's Foundation Board of Directors. He is a former member of the SFWMD Governing Board, former member of the Okeechobee County School Board, former president of the Okeechobee County Farm Bureau and former chairman of the Okeechobee Soil and Water Conservation Board.

In 2006 Mr. Williamson was inducted as a Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Florida. Williamson Cattle Company and Mr. Williamson personally have won several agricultural and environmental awards. In 2003, Mr. Williamson was named Okeechobee Citizen of the Year by the Boy Scouts.

He is married to Betty Chandler Williamson of Okeechobee and in addition to son Wes, the couple has two daughters, Kim Williamson and Karen Larson, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

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

Rooney

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ploy American forces from Iraq and begin to end the war. The plan calls for a strategic strike force to remain in the country to train, equip and advise the Iraqi

Security Forces, conduct targeted counterterrorism operations and provide force protection for military and civilian personnel.

Mr. Rooney said American troops in Iraq have done an incredible job and their families should be commended for the sacrifices they made.

"It's time the Iraqis are on their own," Mr. Rooney said. "We've done everything we can."

Mr. Rooney announced that he was going to Iraq in May and after that trip he would have a better idea of the situation in that country.

Mr. Murphy cautioned that the

withdrawal could take time. He noted that it took eight months to withdraw 6,000 troops from Somalia. He said that the three trillion dollars being spent in Iraq is not being spent on the economy.

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

March

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mentary School, Wemmer family Orthodontics and Yearling Middle School.

The following new teams will be participating: Beth Suggs Accounting, Cason Family team, Chloe's Closet, Dr. Moyer's office

and staff, Edwards Jones Investments, Fadley Law, Peace Lutheran Church and PreSchool Youth, Physicians Weight Loss Center, Stepping Stones Academy and The Chobee Mommas.

The event has the following sponsors: Cassels & McCall, Cliff Betts, Jr. Coker Cattle Co., Cowboys Steak and Barbecue, Colin M. Cameron Esquire, K & N Mo-

bile Welding, Lance's Treehouse Consignment, Glenn J. Sneider, LC, Okeechobee Motor Company, Publix Supermarkets, Riverside National Bank, Roper's Cafe, Seacoast National Bank, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Visiting Nurse Association, Wemmer Family Orthodontics, Women's Health Specialists, and Walpole, Inc.

The following are in-kind spon-

sors: Sandra Pearce Photography, The Donut Connection, Winn-Dixie, Rotary Club of Okeechobee, Lunker's Sports Grill, Waste Management, the Big O Cooler and the County Drive Through.

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

Hunters must wear orange

Deer colorblind to orange, but if you glow ...

Another fall hunting season is winding down, and while the sport continues to be very safe, there have been some accidental shootings that could have been prevented. Not all of those who were involved in the shooting accidents were wearing the proper amount of sometimes-required and always-recommended hunter orange.

If hunters think they are reducing the likelihood that deer will see them by forgoing orange safety hats and vests, they are mistaken. What deer can and cannot see is surprising.

"Deer are somewhat colorblind," said Cory Morea, deer management program coordinator for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

"During the day, deer see colors in what we could consider blue to yellow-green," added Elina Garrison, a biologist with the FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. "Some believe they are completely red-green colorblind, like some humans," she said.

Wearing orange is a good practice when afield during any hunting season.

"Not properly identifying your target and what is beyond, is the leading cause of hunting fatalities," according to the FWC's "2007-08 Florida Hunting Incident Report."

Although animal vision is often much better than human sight, distinguishing colors in daylight is not a strong point for the white-tailed deer, although detecting UV light is.

Drs. R. Larry Marchinton and Karl V. Miller of the University of Georgia studied what white-tailed deer see in daylight. Scientists from California and Wisconsin also participated in the 1993 study.

The study showed that white-tailed deer have two classes of cone photoreceptors; humans have three. Deer have dichromatic (two-color) vision; humans have trichromatic vision. So what deer don't see are the oranges and reds that stand out so well to people. These facts have been echoed by others:

"It is a color not found in nature, and most game animals cannot see the bright fluorescent color, since they are color-

blind," states an Idaho hunter safety education pamphlet.

The International Hunter Education Association advises, "Wearing highly visible hunter or 'blaze' orange clothing makes it much easier for other hunters to see you and increases your safety while hunting. That's why the majority of states and provinces recommend or require hunter orange clothing for most kinds of hunting activities."

Here is the rule in Florida: "It is unlawful to hunt deer or to accompany another person hunting deer on public lands unless each person is wearing a minimum of 500 square inches of daylight-fluorescent orange material as an outer garment — above the waistline."

The reasoning is sound, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. In its report titled "Hunting-associated injuries and wearing 'hunter' orange clothing," the CDC noted that the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and the N.Y. Department of Health analyzed hunting-associated injuries from 1989 to 1995. "The findings indicate that most injured hunters in two-party incidents were not wearing hunter orange."

One caveat: Some hunters are colorblind too and may not detect the orange clothing. The FWC says, "Colorblind hunters must use extra caution. They may have trouble identifying game and recognizing hunter-fluorescent orange."

"Good vision is the foundation for good shooting and hunting safety. Have your eyes examined on a regular basis."

A second caveat: A deer's keen vision includes detecting UV light, according to manufacturers of hunter clothing. Some cite studies indicating that deer can detect clothing made or washed with UV brighteners. If so, hunters not only should wear orange; they should be careful what else they wear in the woods to be more effective. According to "How Game Animals See and Smell," a book by Kurt von Besser of Atsko/Sno-Seal Inc., most camouflage clothes and laundry detergents contain UV brighteners, which deer can detect. He says that hunters can avoid brighteners by choosing camouflage outfits that are manufactured free of brighteners and by washing them only with a laundry detergent free of UV brighteners.

Lotteries

The Florida Lottery: Numbers selected Wednesday in the Florida Lottery are: **Cash 3:** 8-4-4; **Play 4:** 8-4-2-7; **Fantasy 5:** 1-15-17-23-32; **Lotto:** 1-5-8-36-37-44; **Powerball:** 1-6-44-49-55 **PB** 36 x2. Numbers selected Thursday are: **Cash 3:** 6-4-0; **Play 4:** 4-0-0-8.

At Your Service

Okeechobee News

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Carolina Rose

Okeechobee Forecast

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 78. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 52. East wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. Calm wind becoming east southeast between 10 and 15 mph. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 56. East southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81. Calm wind becoming southeast between 10 and 15 mph.

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Man charged in phone fraud case

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man has been arrested on charges that he defrauded the Sprint/Nextel telephone company out of more than \$100,000.

Corey Lee Taylor, 18, N.W. 15th Ave., was arrested Feb. 27 on charges of criminal use of personal identification information, communications fraud and grand theft -- all first-degree felonies. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$150,000.

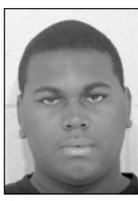
Taylor is accused of going onto the Sprint/Nextel internet web site and stealing a total of 283 cell phones.

Detective William Maerki, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), said Taylor's

scheme cost Sprint/Nextel a total of \$100,625.84.

The OCSO detective said Taylor apparently started the scheme in October of 2008 by going onto the company's web site and finding unsecured account numbers. He would then allegedly change the address on the account to his and use the account's personal identification number (PIN) to order expensive cell phones, said the detective.

Once Taylor received the phones, they would later be taken to the Mexican community and sold, stated the detective's



Corey Lee Taylor

arrest report.

Taylor would then allegedly pocket a portion of the proceeds and pass the remaining profit on to a currently unidentified person, or persons, said Detective Maerki.

The company apparently became suspicious after they would discontinue a victim's phone service due to non-payment, only to find out that the victim had never ordered the phone.

Detective Maerki said all of the phones were delivered to Taylor's address in Douglas Park, and that he has found people all across the United States whose account numbers were reportedly used by Taylor.

Apparently, Sprint/Nextel is the only commercial victim in this scheme.

"We have no evidence he

was collecting phones from other companies," said Detective Maerki.

The OCSO detective explained that when customers use the internet to open an account, Sprint/Nextel automatically establishes a security feature. The customer can then elect to use that security feature or turn it off.

"If you don't set up the security feature, somebody else can," he said.

Detective Maerki said Sprint/Nextel Corporate Security official David Gentile provided him with information and assistance that ultimately led to Taylor's arrest.

The company has also returned everyone's money who had been billed for phones that were actually sent to Taylor.

OCSO diver taken to hospital ER

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A member of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) dive team was rushed to Raulerson Hospital Wednesday when he became light-headed during an operation in Glades County.

Detective Captain John Rhoden was in 20 to 25 feet of water March 4 when he became dizzy and experienced trouble breathing. The OCSO team was diving in the Caloosahatchee River to aid the Glades County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) in a criminal investigation.

Fellow OCSO diver Deputy John Ashby said the water temperature at the surface was 63 degrees, but at 20 feet the tempera-

ture fell to the mid-40s.

After about 8 minutes in the water, Capt. Rhoden had to head to the surface.

"He made a normal assent," said Deputy Ashby.

Deputy Ashby said Capt. Rhoden has been a member of the OCSO team for approximately 20 years.

Once out of the water, the captain was transported by ambulance to Raulerson Hospital. He was released Wednesday night.

OCSO Deputy Corporal Randy Thomas was the third member of the team taking part in Wednesday's dive.

Woman accused of using car as weapon

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee woman was arrested after she allegedly used her car to try and run over another woman with whom she was arguing.

Tomanda Ash, 32, N.E. 11th Court, was arrested March 2, on a felony charge of aggravated battery. She was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$5,000.

Deputy Augustin Saucedo, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated in his arrest

report that according to witness reports Ash tried twice to hit the victim with her 2003 Oldsmobile automobile. The two women were described as friends in the report.

The deputy's report goes on to state that Ash also ran her vehicle into a mobile home and damaged the skirting, as well as her car.

Ash and the victim became



Tomanda Ash

embroiled in an argument and as Ash tried to leave in her car the victim apparently came at her car with a knife as if she was going to flatten a tire, stated the report. At this point, Ash reportedly gunned her car forward and ran into the mobile home. The home does not belong to either woman.

According to a witness, she heard the two women screaming at each other and saw the victim pull on the car door as if she was trying to open it, stated Deputy Saucedo. At this point, Ash apparently put the car in drive and lunged forward -- hitting the vic-

tim and then the mobile home.

The witness stated that Ash backed out from under the mobile home, then drove around the home and back into the front yard and tried to hit the victim a second time, the deputy stated. Deputy Saucedo said the victim was able to avoid being hit a second time.

Deputy Saucedo's report indicated that the victim was not seriously injured.

No mention was made in the report about how much damage was done to the mobile home or its skirting.

Woman charged with burglary, escape

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A local woman was arrested on several felony charges after she reportedly tried to cash a stolen check at an Okeechobee bank.

Tara Marie Reynolds, 26, N.E. 25th Lane, was arrested Saturday, Feb. 28, on felony charges of burglary of an occupied dwelling, uttering a forged instrument, resisting a law enforcement officer with violence and escape. She was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of petit theft.

She was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$20,500.

Reynolds was arrested by Officer Charles Green, of the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), after she allegedly tried to cash a \$66 check at a local bank.

According to the officer's arrest report, Reynolds is accused of

entering a man's home and taking a pair of his pants. In the pants was the man's wallet, which contained about \$20. The pants and wallet were each valued at \$15, the report continued.

Officer Green said there was also a \$66 check in the wallet that belonged to another man. During his investigation, the officer learned that the check was made out to another man and that the employer of the two men had accidentally mixed up the checks.

Shortly after noon on Saturday, the report states that Reynolds entered the local bank and tried to cash the check but said she had no form of identification on her. However, a bank employee knew a family member of the employ-



Tara Marie Reynolds

er who had written the checks. When contacted by the bank employee, that family member said the check was stolen.

Around 12:30 p.m., Officer Green arrested Reynolds and placed her in an OCPD patrol car being operated by Officer Ryan Holroyd, who then began to transport her to the county jail for booking.

However, on the way to the jail Reynolds allegedly opened the patrol car's back door and tried to escape in the 300 block of S.R. 70 W. Both Officer Green and Officer P.C. Eddings responded to that area, but by the time they arrived Officer Holroyd had the woman back in custody.

Officer Green's report states that Officer Holroyd received several scrapes and bruises to his arm as he tried to arrest Reynolds.

Another motorist reportedly told Officer Green that she was behind Officer Holroyd's patrol vehicle when she saw a woman

(Reynolds) open a back door of the car. The motorist said the woman got out of the car and began to run from Officer Holroyd, and that she had to swerve to keep from hitting her, the report continued.

To subdue the woman Officer Holroyd was forced to use pepper spray, stated Officer Green's report.

Reynolds then complained that she could not breathe so medical personnel from Okeechobee Fire/Rescue was called to the scene. They checked her medical condition and cleared her. Reynolds was then taken to jail without further incident.

Woman charged with robbery, battery

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An off-duty police officer helped break up a fight between two women that led to the arrest of one of the combatants on a felony charge.

Randall Ruth Smith, 36, U.S. 441 N., was arrested Monday, March 2, on a felony charge of robbery by sudden snatching. She was also arrested on misdemeanor charges of battery and disorderly conduct.

Smith was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a

bond of \$3,500.

An arrest report by Officer Scott Morgan, of the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), states that Smith confronted the female victim outside Walmart about a necklace she was wearing. The necklace apparently belonged to Smith's daughter.

Officer Morgan stated that



Randall Ruth Smith

Smith grabbed the victim by the neck and took the necklace. At one point, Smith began choking the victim and lifted her off the ground, continued the report.

Finally, off-duty OCPD Officer Jack Boon and some Walmart employees intervened. According to the report, Officer Boon stated that about 50 people had gathered around the two women and were watching them fight.

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We give people a voice. Our Speak Out column is just one example. We consider it an extension of the secret ballot and a return of the values of the American Revolution.

How are we doing?

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

OKEECHOBEE NEWS
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Speak Out

Speak Out has moved online, where it is quicker and easier to share your ideas and converse with others. Go to www.newszap.com, click on the community name and your local or state Public Forum. There, you can create new topics or comment on existing topics. You can also e-mail comments to okeenews@newszap.com or call 863-467-2033, but online comments get posted faster and not all phone calls can be printed. What follows is a sampling of some of the discussions currently taking place. Thanks for participating!

Treasure Island Clean up

CLEAN UP: A few months ago I read in our newspaper that there was going to be an effort made to clean up the front yards of Treasure Island, I don't see this happening. A few of my neighbors have their homes up for sale, but besides the economy, they have to battle the junk on front lawns and abandoned U-haul trucks on the front lawns before a buyer even considers a purchase. The canals are also getting run down with sunken and nearly abandoned boats that have not moved in years. I can appreciate living in a no-restriction type community, but I can understand why in some places it has to be a necessity.

Speeder hits dog

HEARTBROKEN: Last Tuesday (Feb. 24) evening, you know who you are and what you did, when you hit a dog and left her in the ditch to die! You devastated our family. She was our kid. I hope you feel really bad, because one day it may happen to you. She might have made it if you were not speeding. Please don't do it to anyone else. We know how it feels.

LEASH LAW: This should be a reminder to everyone to watch your dogs and keep them safe because there are some crazy drivers out there. Keep your dogs on a leash if you take them out of your house or fenced yard. With the way some people drive, a dog allowed to roam free just doesn't stand a chance.

SAFETY: Every time I see dogs running loose and running into the road, I wonder, "Where are the owners? Don't they care about their dogs?" Dogs are supposed to be on a leash so they don't run out into the street. This county has a leash law. I do not drive above the speed limit, but many times I have had to slam on the brakes to avoid hitting a dog that just ran out into the street. And people are no more careful about their children. Last week, on one of the streets behind the library, I was only driving 25 mph, and still I barely avoided hitting a child who ran into the street right in front of me, chasing a ball. I hit the brakes when I saw the ball go into the street, and sure enough there came the kid right after. If I had waited to hit the brakes until I saw the kid run into the street, I probably would have hit him.

Pro and con -- four day a week school

RUMOR: What is your opinion of the kids going to a 4 day school week? I have heard a rumor that the county could consider it. I personally like the idea of the 4 day week. I do not think that they should extend the school day. I don't see how students could really be affected by losing 1 hr per week, per class. I just think in energy and fuel, food costs alone would be a huge savings. Teachers etc, should continue to receive 40 hour paycheck.

BAD IDEA: I think losing the 1 day would cause more problems. Education is not something to slice up when times get tough.

DAYCARE: I think it would put much more financial stress on the parents. They would need to find daycare or babysitters for that extra day at an additional cost, which many of them wouldn't be able to handle. The other alternative is leave them home alone, many being too young for that. There are too many kids being left alone now as it is, I see that as a real problem.

SAVINGS: I think this is a two-sided issue. A lot of companies and businesses offer a 4/10 work week, 40 hours in 4 days with a 3 day weekend. The idea is the savings by being closed one weekday help the company save money. While this school issue might be a problem to some parents, others would benefit. That one day would mean the AC's, lights, kitchens, and a lot of other things wouldn't have to be run at all the schools, and how many schools do we have now? It would also keep the entire school bus fleet, and those that drive their kids to school, off the road for a day and how much fuel would that save? There is a lot of potential tax dollar savings with a four day school week that needs to be considered before just dumping the idea.

PROS AND CONS: There are counties that do this already. Here's a quote from the article referring to the savings: Five years ago, Kentucky's Webster County school district faced drastic budget shortfalls caused by waning revenue from local property taxes. But after debating whether to close one of the district's seven schools, officials decided instead to institute a Tuesday-to-Friday schedule, which to date has saved more than \$300,000 on transportation, utility and insurance costs.

SIX DAYS: I think they ought to go to school 6 days a week and only have 2 weeks off during the summer months, it's good training to get them ready for the real work world out there. When I went, we never got all these days off that they get today (snow days, rain days, too hot days, too cold days, too windy days), if somebody sneezes these days, they close the school.

COUNTYWIDE: If the county decides to go to a 4 day week then it needs to be all county employees. Courthouse etc. This type of a plan would have to go across the board. I think additionally all of our elected officials should consider taking a 5 to 10 percent pay cut. Obviously there are places we can't cut such as fire, EMT and law enforcement. I also see the issue at hand for parents and additional cost. I also don't want the education of these children to suffer. Just the food expense alone would probably be drastic- just think, in the last year alone how many kids have gone from paying full price for lunch to reduced or free because of this financial crisis.

Problems with the economy

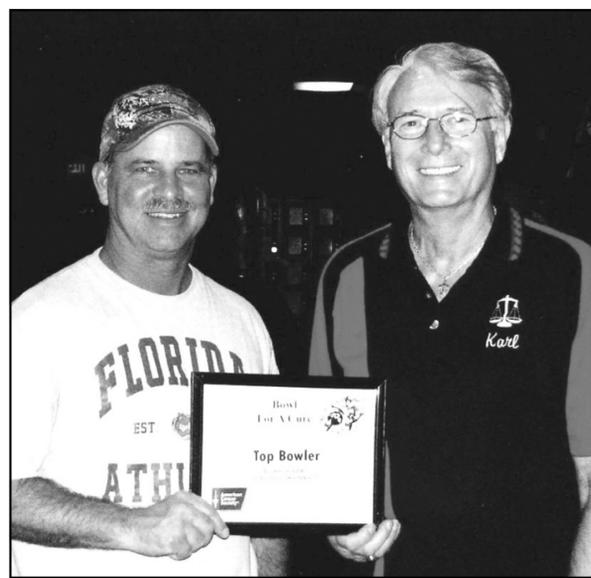
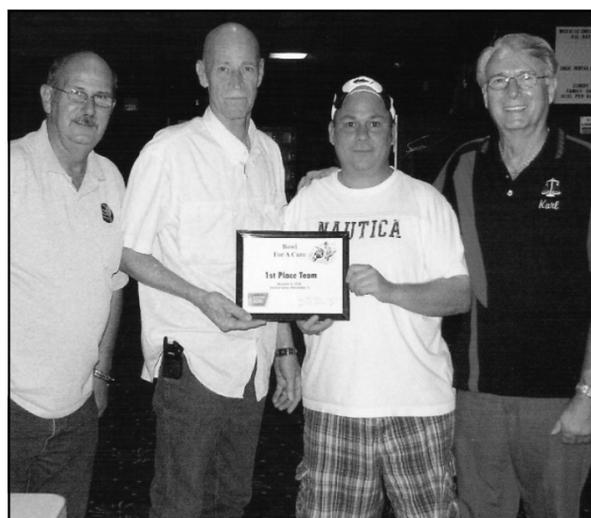
PROJECTS: On the online list of stimulus bill projects, Okeechobee gets nothing. So it doesn't look like the stimulus bill is going to help us any. As usual, we have to take care of ourselves. This should come as no surprise. We need to start thinking of ways we can improve this community and bring more jobs here.

JOBS: The job market is frightening. If you lose your job and try to apply for another one, you will find yourself in line with dozens of people. If you have a job, instead of complaining that you want more money or better hours, just be glad you have a job. There are plenty of people more than willing to take it if you leave.

Transportation needed

BUSES: I think Okeechobee needs a public bus system. It would help so many people. There are many families who can only afford one car so if the husband is at work the wife and kids have no transportation. There are older folks who can no longer drive due to failing eyesight. There are kids who can't make it to after school events and club meetings because mom and dad have to work and can't take them. I think a bus system would not only help the local people it would also help the businesses because it would bring customers to them.

TEENAGERS: Every time someone brings up the problem that local teenagers and kids don't have anything to do, someone points out that there are plenty of opportunities for kids here but too many of them can't take advantage of the clubs and activities because they don't have transportation. A public bus system could help take care of that problem. Smaller communities than ours have public transportation.



Submitted photo/Teresa Chandler

ACS bowl for a cure

The American Cancer Society's committee held a bowlingathon at Stardust Lanes to raise funds for the 2009 Cattlebarons' Ball. The first place team (above left) is Cliff Betts, Lamar Whidden, Karl Bonk and Art Daigneault. Second place (above) is Harlow Measel, Stan Breedlove, Carole Olney and Jim Maine. Third place (below) is James Eldrige, Cindi Domer, Don Knierien and Billy Dean. Top bowler (below left) for the event is Karl Bonk. A Big Thank You to our lane sponsors for the event: Gizmo's Pizza & Subs, Ding-A-Ling Deli, Treasure Island Shell, Pat's Floral Design, Okeechobee Health Care Facility, Everglades Farm Equipment Co., Custom Hay Baling, McAlpin, Cavqalcanti & Lewis C.P.A., Lamar's Auto Tech, Pier II Resort & Lounge and A Child's World. All proceeds will be donated to the American Cancer Society.



Reflections from the Pulpit

By Rev. Joshua C. Strunk
Headmaster, Okeechobee
Christian Academy

What is going on?

There are two, main opposing world views at war in our culture today. The one is known as the Judeo-Christian world view and it places the God of the Scripture at the center of reality. The other is humanism, sometimes religious and sometimes secular, but always with man as the center of reality. It has become increasingly popular since the early part of the last century to accost the Judeo-Christian world view as antiquated, the last residue of days when men believed in myths to explain the unexplainable. In contrast to this, humanists have offered us two alternatives. First, there is the god in the test-tube, as though all mysteries can be explained by scientific inquiry; something the reality of observable phenomena, which the historic basis of science, makes impossible. Second, there is the empty philosophy of men who answer questions with other questions as though their cyclic reasonings can make up for the fact that their propositions are both unaffirmable and often inane when carried to their logical conclusions.

Unfortunately, the discrediting of the Judeo-Christian world view has new become solidified in the mind of the average person due to the propaganda of humanists and the abandonment of the cultural arena by otherwise intelligent Christians.

Thus, we are left with a society that is increasingly post-Christian in its institutions, politics, government, education; these all feel the downward pull of humanism. Inevitably, the way the government and education go, so will all of society eventually.

Thus, we have years of increased crime and decreased advancement, progress in technology and regress in humanity. What is saddest about all of this however, is that after all these years of failure in these institutions run by humanist philosophies, very few people have risen up to challenge what is happening.

Why? Perhaps it is because Christian leaders have not been forward enough in their challenge of the establishment's caricature of Christian Faith.

According to the Scriptures in Hebrews 11:6 the foundation and operating principle of Christian discipleship is faith. Thus it becomes necessary to understand the nature and functionality of faith so that it will be lifted out of the mire of ambiguity and confusion.

The nature of Faith is defined in Hebrews 11:1 when the writer states that "faith is the assurance/substance of things hoped for, the conviction/evidence of things not seen."

As seen in this passage, faith is not wishful thinking or a magic formula used to manipulate God into doing our bidding. Rather biblical faith is trust which is predicated on the veracity of God's reality, power and character. God's covenant promises and stipulations are the mortar of bib-

lical faith. Faith never moves God to do what He wouldn't do otherwise; it cannot move mountains, heal the sick and make men whole when God does not or did not intend to do so otherwise. Miracles, just like salvation, occur only when God invites us to believe in what He is already at work doing. Faith is not empty hope, but definite resolve.

Biblical faith is based on truth, objective reality which is both consistent with itself and human experience. Biblical faith is a holistic integration of the facilities of the soul of a man. With biblical faith the mind is engaged as the intellect is persuaded or convinced of truth. With biblical faith the heart is enraptured, as the emotions are balanced and brought into line with Jesus Christ who is the Truth. With biblical faith the will is inclined, as the volitions of a man are subjected to the leading of the Holy Spirit of Truth.

Thus the development of faith as seen in Acts 2:42 begins to take shape, as the early believers devoted themselves to doctrine, fellowship, breaking bread and prayer. In doctrine the minds were engaged, in fellowship their hearts enraptured, and in the activity of communion and prayer their wills were inclined. Similarly, we should allow God to develop our faith by spending time in the Scriptures, by looking for the evidences of God's work in our life and world, by abiding in Christ, end by waiting on the lord.

The functionality of faith is also an integrated experience. What has occurred in the soul now works itself out in the body as action is taken and the inclination of the will births obedience to the commandments of God. This is not the plastic activity of those who simply desire to look religious; this the outward expression of the Life of God which has been infused into the Christian disciple by faith in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ.

As Dietrich Bonhoeffer put it in his book, "The Cost of Discipleship," "only those who believe obey, and only those who obey believe." This is the true power behind prayer, the blueprint for building God's Kingdom, and the essence of the Judeo-Christian world view.

Like the patriarch Abraham, biblical faith looks beyond the present, beyond what can be seen now and catches a vision of what will be by the grace of a merciful God. Biblical faith is confirmed by our confession and our perseverance, our fidelity to reality as it truly is rather than how we may want it to be.

What we need today is more men and women like Abraham and Sarah, who are willing to give up all they know to pursue the God who calls us to Himself. We need lawyers, and doctors, politicians and educators who will stand for biblical faith and walk according to the leading of the Holy Spirit in the midst of these dark days.

For if this doesn't happen, the end of the Christian Church in America may be closer than anyone would like to admit.

Community Calendar

FRIDAY, MARCH 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 Morgret 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.

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, MARCH 7

A.A. meeting from 8 until 9 p.m. at Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Ave. It will be a closed discussion.

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

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

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 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.

Okeechobee News

Our Purpose...

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

We Pledge ...

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

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For More Information See At Your Service On Page 2

Car show, star gazing this weekend

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

If you are looking for some entertainment in and around Okeechobee for the coming months look no further.

The Pier II Cruisers will be pulling into the Pier II Resort on Saturday, March 7, at 2 p.m. for their first carshow for everyone of all ages. The Pier II is located at 22200 U.S. 441 SE.

This event is the first of many to be held the first and third Saturday of each month.

Live entertainment will be on hand to liven up the crowd with the car contest. There will also be a bikini car wash, 50-50 drawing, various vendors of many different goods and services including food and drinks. There will also be a swap meet.

Of course there is always the swimming pool, pool tables and fishing off the pier. For more information please call Charlie at 863-532-9537 or just come out and enjoy the fun.

Also on Saturday, March 7, if you are more into outerspace than the down to earth cars, the



Your Weekly Entertainment Guide

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

public is invited to attend the FREE Astronomy Day — and Night open house, sponsored by Indian River State College and the Treasure Coast Astronomical Society (TCAS), from 2 to 9 p.m. in and around the Hallstrom Planetarium located at 3209 Virginia Avenue on the IRSC Main Campus in Ft. Pierce. There will be

telescopes, guest speakers, hand-outs, mini-planetarium shows, activities for kids, plus guided views of the moon, planets, and stars (weather permitting). For more information, contact the IRSC Call Center at 1-866-792-4772.

IRSC will also hold their River Classic Custom Car Show Sunday, **March 8**, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on the IRSC Main Campus in Fort Pierce. Admission, FREE. Juried competition, \$25, Sound challenge, \$25. Park-n-Shine entry, \$15. Juried competition for 31 categories of custom and classic cars and trucks. Participants may register from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Judging starts at 10 a.m.; trophies awarded at 4 p.m. For more information, visit www.irsc.edu or call 1-866-792-4772.

The Okeechobee County Fair is on it's way! On Friday, March 13, the Okeechobee County Fair begins with Support Our Troops Night. Bring in three items listed on the http://forgottensoldiers.org/donate-items_needed.shtml and get free admission. Fair opens at 5 p.m. with their grand opening ceremonies and remains open

until 1 a.m. Early Bird Armband special for \$20 from 5 p.m. until 10 p.m.

The Miss Okeechobee County Fair Beauty Pageant begins at 7 p.m. Midnight madness begins at 10 p.m. until 1 a.m. for \$15 armband.

For more information about the fair visit www.okeechobee-countyfair.com

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

Brahman... Theatre

March 6th - March 12th

For Info, Call 763-7202

THEATRE I
"TAKEN"
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.

PG-13

THEATRE II
"SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE"
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.

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THEATRE III
"WATCHMEN"
Fri., Tues. & Thurs @ 7:00 only. Sat., Sun. & Wed. @ 2:00 and 7:00 only. Mon., @ 3:00 & 7:00.

R

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

City council changes future land use map

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee City Council adopted two ordinances and approved a contract at their meeting on Tuesday evening, March 3.

The council adopted an ordinance dealing with the city's capital improvement plan. It revamps the five year capital improvements schedule and includes the five year capital improvement plans of Okeechobee Utility Authority and the Okeechobee County School District. Planner Bill Brisson said that action was required by the state once a year. He added that the purpose of the five year capital improvements plan is to

document that the comprehensive plan is financially feasible. Transportation, roadway and drainage projects were included in the five year capital improvement plan. Mr. Brisson stated that because of the slow economy the state would probably look at the capital improvement plan more closely but he foresaw no problems with it.

Then the council amended the future land use map for property in the 100 block of N.E. 11th Street owned by A.M.S.A. LLC. The future land use map for the property was changed from multi-family to commercial, allowing the owner to build an office for a home health care service on the

property.

Turing to the last item on the agenda, LaRue Planning & Management Service, Inc. was awarded a contract in the amount of \$31,000 to prepare the city's evaluation and appraisal report. This agreement will allow LaRue to conduct meetings, gather data, analyze key issues, identify and summarize corrective measures, evaluate relevant changes in growth management laws, and address specific requirements of Florida Statutes. The work is to be completed by Jan.

1, 2011. Mr. Brisson said the project usually takes 12 to 18 months. However, because of the slow economy, he thought it could be completed in 12 months.

On a personal note, Mayor Jim Kirk thanked all who had prayed for his mother who recently underwent surgery for cancer. He said that the surgery was successful and his mother is now cancer free. Mr. Kirk attributes that to everyone's prayers.

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

Civil Air Patrol cadets enjoy 'O-rides'

The Okeechobee Civil Air Patrol held Cadet Orientation Rides (O-Rides) and a Family Day Barbecue recently at the Squadron Hanger located at the Okeechobee County Airport. Cadet Orientation Rides are just one of the great opportunities available to Cadets in the Civil Air Patrol Program. The O-Ride as it is called is piloted by an experienced FAA Certified Pilot who must also pass a Civil Air Patrol written test and a CAP check ride to fly the Cadets. The Cadet once airborne gets a "Hands On" opportunity to fly the aircraft under the experienced guidance of the Pilot. The aircraft, a Cessna 172 is the primary trainer used by most pilots in the country.

CAP Cadets are provided five "hands-on" rides in powered aircraft and five in glider aircraft. Cadets are also permitted an unlimited number of flights in the back seat as a passenger as scheduling permits.

O-Rides are broken down into five lessons, one for each flight starting with basic safety and flight controls ending with stalls and steep turns. Included in the O-Ride lessons are basic navigation and radio communications. While O-Rides are not intended to teach the Cadet to fly, the Cadet is taught a condensed version of all phases of flight a pilot is taught as they learn to fly.

With their families, friends and peers present to celebrate their achievements, Cadet Heather Lowry and Cadet Airmen 1st Class Michael Miller both "slipped the surely bonds of earth" and took the controls of the CAP Cessna

172. This was Cadet Lowry's first O-Ride; Lt Greg Gernat was the pilot. On this flight she learned how a pilot uses checklists and how to do a through Preflight Inspection as well as the basic controls of the aircraft. Once in the air, she again had the opportunity to work with the pilot using the checklist and then took the controls herself under the experienced guidance of Lt. Gernat to fly the aircraft, learning first hand how the aircraft responded to her control inputs.

Cadet Airmen 1st Class Michael Miller took his final and most challenging powered O-Ride, piloted by Lt. Joe Ragon.

The Civil Air Patrol is an all volunteer organization performing missions for America starting at the local community level. They specialize in Search and Rescue Operations; provide Real Time Storm Damage Assessment, Storm Relief and other services to the local community and government as well as to State and Federal Agencies. They also provide an outstanding Cadet Program educating America's youth in Leadership and Aerospace Technologies through weekly meetings, encampments and remote activities. Last year Okeechobee Composite Squadron Cadets had the opportunity to attend several encampments all around the state and nation, from Leadership Academies, Space Camp, and Ranger School to Flight Training Encampments. They also had the opportunity to take group trips to Washington, D.C. and to the U.S.S. North Carolina where they spent the night in the crew quarter's onboard ship. Transportation for both of these

trips was provided by the U.S. Air Force on C-130s, which was an experience in itself.

With the exception of the aircraft, radio equipment and vans, all of the operating funds for the local CAP Squadron come directly from local donations, most of which is used for the local Cadet Programs. This summer the Okeechobee Composite Squadron is preparing for Cadet Encampments, Cadet Glider O-Rides, Cadet Honor Guard Academy and the Model Rocketry Program. All of these activities are outside of the Okeechobee area and are overnight excursions requiring the Squadron and/or Cadets to fund most of the transportation, lodging or food. Your help and support is always greatly appreciated.

This weekend, Saturday March 7, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. the Okeechobee Composite Squadron will be at the Publix Supermarket on Parrott Avenue to meet and answer your questions about CAP. Some of their equipment will be on display and there will be lots of information about CAP and their Missions for America. Donations will also be accepted at that time to support the Okeechobee Composite Squadron. Please come out and meet them, they are all hard working local volunteers serving you and the community. What better opportunity to support and learn more about such a worth while organization.

If you are interested in the Civil Air Patrol or any of the many fascinating opportunities it offers to Cadets or Adults but can not make it to Publix this weekend,

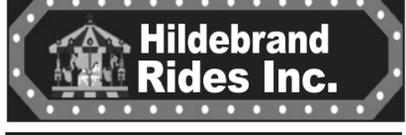
please contact Capt. Joe Papasso at 561-252-0916, Lt. Joe Ragon at 954-695-8000 or Lt. Greg Gernat at 863-697-9915. Meetings are every Tuesday at 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Okeechobee Airport, T-Hanger #1. Please call for directions and gate access.



Day	Event	Time
Friday March 13th	Support Our Troops Night Free Admission 5 PM - 10 PM with 3 items from www.forgottensoldiers.org Miss Okeechobee County Fair Beauty Pageant - 7 PM	5 PM - 1 AM
Saturday March 14th	Seminole Heritage Days Bob Teany Classic Car Show - 12 Noon - 4 PM Seminole Heritage Show - 12 Noon - 2 PM Okeechobee Cattlemen's Association Spring Rodeo - 2:30 PM Thunder Road (Band) - 8 PM - 11 PM	12 Noon - 1 AM
Sunday March 15th	Family Day Okeechobee Cattlemen's Association Spring Rodeo - 2:30 PM Hispanic Band Jamboree - 4 PM Low Rider Car and Bicycle Show - 4 PM	12 Noon - 10 PM
Monday March 16th	Bargain Night Okeechobee Idol Contest - 7 PM	5 PM - 11 PM
Tuesday March 17th	Biker Night (\$2 Admission with valid motorcycle license) Youth Livestock Dairy Show - 5 PM Bike Show (\$10 Entry fee) Southern Rock Band - 7:22N - 7 PM	5 PM - 11 PM
Wednesday March 18th	Student Dollar Night (\$1 admission with student ID) Youth Livestock Steer Show - 5 PM Youth Livestock Beef Breeding Show (Begins right after Steer Show) Karaoke Contest - 7 PM	5 PM - 11 PM
Thursday March 19th	Food Drive Night (Bring 3 cans of food - \$2 Fair Admission) Okeechobee Idol Finals - 8 PM Swine Showmanship - 5 PM	5 PM - 11 PM
Friday March 20th	TGIF Night (Fair Admission - \$5) Swine Show - 4 PM Bluegrass Festival	5 PM - 1 AM
Saturday March 21st	Bluegrass Celebration Day (Fair Admission - \$5) Youth Livestock Sale - 2 PM (Order of sale: Steers, Beef Breeding, Swine & Dairy) Blue Grass Festival - All day	12 Noon - 1 AM
Sunday March 22nd	Family Day at the Races (Fair Admission including Demolition Derby - \$10) Demolition Derby - 4 PM	12 Noon - 8 PM

Also Every day! David Lee - DJ at Large Pig Races - Times will be posted.

March 13th - 22nd 2009
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY AGRI-CIVIC CENTER
4200 HIGHWAY 70 EAST
(ENTRANCE ON HWY 710 ONLY DURING FAIR)



MIDWAY PROMOTIONAL SCHEDULE

Friday - March 13th	Early Bird Armband (5pm-10pm) \$20. Fair Opens 5 PM - 1 AM	Midnite Madness (10pm-1am) \$15.
Saturday - March 14th	Matinee Armband (12n-6pm) \$20. Fair Opens 12 Noon - 1 AM	Good for All Day Midnite Madness (10pm-1am) \$15. Discount Tickets Available
Sunday - March 15th	Family Day Fair Opens 12 Noon - 10 PM	Armbands \$20. - Good for All Day
Monday - March 16th	Bargain Night Fair Opens 5 PM - 11 PM	Purchase FIRST armband \$15. get SECOND half price
Tuesday - March 17th	Armbands \$20. - Good for All Night Fair Opens 5 PM - 11 PM	
Wednesday - March 18th	Armbands \$20. - Good for All Night Fair Opens 5 PM - 11 PM	
Thursday - March 19th	Armbands \$20. - Good for All Night Fair Opens 5 PM - 11 PM	
Friday - March 20th	Armbands \$20. - Good for All Night Fair Opens 5 PM - 1 AM	
Saturday - March 21st	Armbands \$25. - All day Fair Opens 12 Noon - 1 AM	
Sunday - March 22nd	Armbands \$20. - Good for All Day Fair Opens 12 Noon - 8 PM	

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2009
STUDENT NIGHT
COUPON - \$5.00 OFF ARMBAND



Submitted photo/CAP Civil Air Patrol cadets participating in this preflight inspection are (left) Cadet Miller, (ctr front) Cadet Lowry, (ctr rear) Lt. Gernat, Mission Pilot, and (right) SM Ike Nelson.

www.okeechobee-countyfair.com

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SERVICES COUNCIL OF
OKEECHOBEE

Culpepper & Terpening - Dickerson, Inc.
Everglades Farm Equipment - State Farm Insurance

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.

Mary Elizabeth (Carrier) Copp, 91

OKEECHOBEE — Mary Elizabeth (Carrier) Copp, of Okeechobee, died Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at her home. She was 91.

Born Sept. 24, 1917, in Park County, Ind., to Thomas and Nora Carrier, she was a homemaker having come to Okeechobee from West Palm Beach in 1985.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Copp; daughter, Patricia Copp; great-grandchild, Shawn Rafferty; sister, Norma Hawkins; and three brothers, Milford, Glenn and Herbert Carrier.

She is survived by five daughters, Sandra (Maurice) McClurg, Ruth (Lamar) Andrews both of Okeechobee, Mary Jo (George) Azecusky of West Palm Beach, Carol Jean (Jerry) Copeland of Jacksonville, Judy Lynn (Pat) Chirdon of Danville, Va.; three sons, Jonnie Thomas (Alice) Copp of Virginia, Larry Glenn Copp of Illinois, Ronald Ray Copp of Tennessee; sister, Pauline Tuttle of Okeechobee; 20 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be 1 p.m. until service time of 3 p.m. Sunday, March 8, at Bass Okeechobee Chapel. Burial will follow at Evergreen Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Big Lake Hospice.

Friends may sign the guestbook at www.bassocheebefun.com.

David L. McCormick, 63

OKEECHOBEE — David L. McCormick, of Okeechobee, died Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009, in Raulerson Hospital.

Having served in the U.S. Navy, Mr. McCormick enjoyed fishing, hunting, boating and was a hospice volunteer.

Preceded in death by two brothers, James and Allen.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Nila; one son, Brian McCormick of Washington State; two daughters, Heather Downard of Carrollton, Ky., and Mimi Delgado (Miguel) of Portland, Ore. In addition, he is survived by stepsons, Ricky Gray of Okeechobee, Robert Gray (Tammy) of Villa Hill, Ky., and Gary Gray (Sinthia) of Union, Ky; two step daughters Denice Beasley of Gleno, Ky., and Darlene Meyer (Alvin) of Cincinnati, Ohio; 16 grandchildren; a great-grandchild; brothers, Dickie McCormick, Orville McCormick Jr., Kelly McCormick; and sister, Violet Haynes all of California, Ky.

No services are planned, however, memorial condolences may be made at www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

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

Philip Linden Smith, 90

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Mr. Philip Linden Smith, of Augusta, passed away Tuesday, March 3, 2009, in his residence. He was 90.

Funeral Services will be held 11 a.m. Saturday in St. Andrew Presbyterian Church with Revs. Ed Rees and Bob Hunt officiating.

A native of Roanoke, Va., Mr. Smith resided in Augusta since moving from the Okeechobee, Fla., area in 2000. He was an aeronautical engineer at Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, prior to moving to Florida.

Mr. Smith was a member of the American Legion, Post 64, Okeechobee, Fla., and a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force serving in World War II. He was a member of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church of Augusta.

Mr. Smith is survived by his daughter, Tracy S. Hatfield of Augusta; his son, John Edward Smith of Great Mills, Md.; his sister, Shirley Iverson of Coarsegold, Calif.; nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Smith is preceded in death by his wife Louise Bowers Smith in 2002.

The family will receive friends Friday evening from 6 to 8 p.m. at Elliott Sons Funeral Home, 2524 Lumpkin Road, Augusta.

Sidney 'Korn Dogg' B. Burnett, 34

OKEECHOBEE — Sidney "Korn Dogg" Burnett, of Okeechobee, died March 3, 2009, in Ft. Pierce. He was 34.

Born March 22, 1974, in Pahokee to Sidney and Patricia Burnett he was a heavy equipment operator.

He is survived by his parents, Sidney and Patricia Burnett of Wauchula; brother, Shane Lee Burnett of Winter Haven; and his grandparents, Glen and Kate Hamilton of Okeechobee and Oma J. Burnett of Wauchula.

Graveside services will be 11 a.m. Friday, March 6, at Evergreen Cemetery.

Friends may sign the guestbook at www.bassocheebefun.com.

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

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 a.m. Contact the Post at 467-2882 for information.

Eagles Aeries #4137

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

- Every Tuesday bingo at 1 p.m. Food will be available for a donation.
- Wednesdays: bar bingo starting at 4 p.m. Food will be available.
- Every Thursday: washer toss at 1 p.m.
- First and third Thursday: Auxiliary at 6 p.m.; Aeries at 7 p.m.
- Fridays: steak night (16-oz.) starting at 5 p.m. for a \$12 donation.
- Saturdays and Sundays: music at 7 p.m.
- First and third Sunday: breakfast cooked to order from 9 until 11 a.m. for \$5 donation.

Okeechobee Masonic Lodge #237

The Okeechobee Masonic Lodge is located at 107 N.W. Fifth Ave. For information about the club and events, call James A. Green at 863-634-4401.

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

Order of the Eastern Star - Chapter #128

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

B.H.R. Moose Lodge

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

- Sundays: breakfast buffet from 9 until 11 a.m. With many items to choose from.
- Mondays: WOTM Chapter meeting the first and third Mondays of every month 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays: Bingo and food, food served at 5 p.m. and bingo starts at 6 p.m.
- Thursdays: dinner will be served from 5 until 7 p.m. Call the Lodge for the menu.
- Thursdays: Music for dancing at 7:30 p.m. Call to see who is playing.
- Thursday: 5-Card Bingo at 6 p.m. food available at 5 p.m.
- Fridays: dinner served from 5 until 7:30 p.m. Music for dancing at 7:30 p.m. Call to see who is playing.
- Saturdays: dinner starting at 6 p.m.
- Saturdays: Prime Rib Dinner served from 6 until 8 p.m. the first Saturday of the month.

month.

Moose Family Center #1753

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

- Open mic karaoke - Thursday 7-10 p.m. and Sunday 4-8 p.m.
- Horseshoes - Sunday and Thursday at 2 p.m.
- Every Monday pool tournament at 7 p.m. (food served)
- Legion BINGO - Thursday at 1 p.m. (food served)
- LOOM BINGO Friday - at 6:30 p.m. open to the public (food served)
- Saturday night diner and dance each week.
- Officers meetings first and third Tuesday at 7 p.m.
- Women's meeting second and fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m.
- Men's meetings, second and fourth Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
- Moose Legion meetings third Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

VFW Post #4423

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

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

- Mondays: 50-cent hot dogs.
- Tuesdays: Washer toss at 1 p.m.
- Wednesdays: Pizza and Grill 5 until 7 p.m.
- Fridays: Bingo at 1 p.m. Pizza and Grill 6 until 9 p.m. Karaoke 7 until 11 p.m.
- Saturdays: Bar Bingo at 1 p.m. Karaoke 7 until 11 p.m.
- Sundays: Dinner 2 until 4 p.m.
- Post and Ladies Auxiliary meetings third Sunday of every month at 11 a.m.
- Men's Auxiliary Meeting 3 Monday of every month 7 p.m.
- Membership for 2009 is overdue. Annual members are asked to please pay their dues.
- Big Screen TV and Pool Table
- All members and their guests are welcome to dance and sing with our host on Sundays from 5 to 9 p.m.

Community Events

Free memory loss screenings

Friday, **March 6**, from 11 a.m. until 2:30 p.m., the Alzheimer's Association will sponsor free memory loss screenings at the Visiting Nurse Association, 208 S.E. Park St., Okeechobee. Appointments are needed, please call Donna True at 1-800-861-7826, ext. 1. Screenings are for anyone, any age who are concerned about memory loss. Screenings are conducted by staff from St. Mary's Memory Disorder Center. Immediate results.

AYCE pancake breakfast

The Buckhead Ridge Fire Department will hold an All You Can Eat pancake breakfast on Saturday, March 7, from 8 until 11 a.m. Breakfast will include, pancakes, sausage, OJ, coffee, and ice tea for a \$4 donation.

Free nutritional class offered

Monday, March 9, at 5:30 p.m. Dr. Edward Douglas will teach a CRA Nutritional Analysis class at Douglas Chiropractic and Fitness Center. For more information call 863-763-4320. This is a free class.

Martha's House holds yard sale

Martha's House is having a yard sale on Saturday, March 7 from 7 a.m. until noon. It will be held at their Outreach Office, 4134 Hwy 441 North, (second driveway on right, past Cemetery Road., after Superior Water.)

Civil Air Patrol to have a display

Saturday, March 7 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. the Okeechobee Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol will be at the Publix Supermarket on Parrott Avenue with some of their equipment on display to meet and answer your questions about CAP. Membership Applications and donations will also be accepted at that time to support the Okeechobee Composite Squadron. Please come out and meet them, they are all hard working local volunteers serving you and the community. If you want to support your community, enjoy working with young adults or have an interest in aircraft or radio operations you will enjoy volunteering your time with the Civil Air Patrol.

AYCE breakfast to be held

An All You Can Eat breakfast will be held on Sunday, March 8, from 8 until 11 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 107 N.W. Fifth. Breakfast will include: eggs, bacon, sausage, grits, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, juice and coffee for a \$6 donation. The public is welcome.

Controlling garden pests help available

Are Bugs bugging you? There are over ten thousand insects in Florida but only about ten that are harmful to plants. Small in number, but they can cause lots of destruction. Come to our garden pest workshop and learn easy and sensible ways to control the terrible ten without poisoning the planet. We'll show you how to prevent pests and also good ways to deter them when they do show up. The workshop will be presented by Angela Sachson, Florida Yards & Neighborhoods. The workshop will be held on March 10, from 1-2:30 pm or 5:30- 7 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Extension Service, 458 Highway 98 North. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Call 863-763-6469 to sign up.

Roundtable to meet

The Executive Roundtable of the Shared Services Network of Okeechobee County will conduct its bi-monthly meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, March 13, in the board room of the Okeechobee County School Board Office. This forum provides a mechanism for dialogue and problem solving in our community through the collaborative efforts of our local decision makers. The public is invited to attend. For more information, please call Sharon Vinson at 863-462-5000, Ext. 257.

OCEA holds membership meeting

The Okeechobee County Education Association (OCEA) will have its third general membership meeting of the 2008-09 school year, on Thursday, **March 12**, at 4:30 p.m. in the Media Center at Osceola Middle School, 825 S.W. 28th St. They will: form the financial review and negotiation committees, hear reports from the Medical Insurance Committee and Rally attendees, and found out what to expect with possible budget cuts and educational legislation. If you are not a member of OCEA, you may join at the meeting. There will be refreshments and door prizes.

Support group has special guests

Depending on Christ Mental Health Support group will be hosting authors of the book "Broken Minds," Steve and Robyn Bloem from Heartfelt Counseling Ministries on Thursday, March 12 at 6 p.m. For more information call Lauralee at 772-597-0463 or 772-631-9305.

Area Agency on Aging plans to meet

The Area Agency on Aging of Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Inc. is planning its upcoming monthly Board of Directors Executive Committee meeting, to be held at the Area Agency on Aging, 4400 N. Congress Ave., West Palm Beach, on Thursday, March 12. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. Contracts requiring the expenditure of funds are a regular agenda item of this meeting. Please call Vivian Pfau, Area Agency on Aging, at 561 684-5885 for more information.

Fish fry dinners

St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Catholic Church hosts "Fish Fry Fridays" each week until April 3, from 5 until 8 p.m. The fundraiser is sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 11284. Dinners include fish or chicken and all the fixings for a \$7 donation. Dinners are available for dining at the Church Hall or take out.

Civil Air Patrol meets weekly

The Civil Air Patrol is "America's Air Force Auxiliary, building the nation's finest force of citizen volunteers - performing Missions for America." Our Mission is to "perform Homeland Security and humanitarian missions for our communities, states, and nation; developing our country's youth; and educating our citizens on the importance of air and space power." The Civil Air Patrol meets every Tuesday at the Okeechobee County Airport at 7:30 p.m. No experience is required, we provide the necessary training. If you are interested in Supporting your Community, Emergency Services, Aircraft, Radio Communications or our Cadet Program please stop by, guests are always welcome. For information please call Captain Joe Papasso at 561-252-0916 or Lt. Greg Gernat at 863-697-9915.

VFW Post #9528

The VFW Post 9528 is located at 29012 E. State Road 78 in Buckhead Ridge. For information call 863-467-2882. Post opens at 11 a.m., Monday through Sunday.

- We are taking applications for men or women who would like to join the VFW, Ladies Auxiliary, the Men's Auxiliary, AmVets or the Ladies AmVets Auxiliary.
- Wednesdays: Dinner by Ladies Auxiliary, Mens Auxiliary, or AmVet Ladies Auxiliary at 5:30 p.m. Music will be available.
- Thursdays: Bar Bingo at 1 p.m. Lunch will be available.
- Fridays: 16 ounce stead dinner with baked potato, salad and rolls will be served from 5:30 until 7 p.m. for an \$11 donation. Pork Loin dinner available for \$7. Dancing immediately following dinner.
- Sundays: 5:15 p.m. bar bingo. Food will be served for a donation.
- Membership meetings are held on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 10 a.m.
- House Committee meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. For information contact Robert Hare, Post Commander at 863-467-2882. Call for Menu.
- All games and special events are shown on seven televisions, two of which are big screen. The game room has a regulation size pool table.

VFW Post #10539

- Post hours are 10 a.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 p.m. on Sunday. Closing times are discretionary and dependent on the number of patrons but usually not before 8 p.m. on weekdays and 11 p.m. on weekends.
- Happy hours: 10 to 11 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Noon to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.
- Monday: Card Bingo at 6 p.m.
- Tuesday: Ladies Auxiliary all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner \$5 donation beginning at 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday: Bar Bingo at 12:45 p.m. Lunch by Ladies Auxiliary. Kitchen open from 5 until 8 p.m. Evening music.
- Thursday: Music, kitchen open from 5 until 8 p.m.
- Friday: Music, kitchen open from 5 until 8 p.m.
- Saturday: Noon, dollar hotdogs, \$1.50 Polish Sausage, both with Chili and all the fixings. Card bingo at 5 p.m. Music and dancing at 7 p.m. \$50 gas card giveaway.

- Scheduled meetings: VFW First Sunday at noon, Ladies Auxiliary second Monday at 7 p.m., Men's Auxiliary second Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- Do you have a family member serving overseas? We send packages of urgently needed supplies to them. We accept donations for this worth cause. Contact Cheryl Beniot at 863-697-2930.
- For further information call 863-763-2308.

Shrine Club

- The Okeechobee Shrine Club, S.R. 78 W., members will meet the first and third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The club is also available for weddings and parties. For information call the club at (863) 763-3378, Mac Simpson at 863-763-8650 or Elma Yates at 863-697-2765
- They are now open two days a week. Specials are:
- Tuesdays: 4 until 9 p.m. Spaghetti dinner - donations only; music from 6 until 9 p.m.; happy hour 4 until 6 p.m.
- Fridays: TGIF 4 until 9 p.m.; dinner for \$7.50 donation; happy hour 4 until 6 p.m.; music from 6 until 9 p.m.

Cypress Hut

Eagles #4509

- The Cypress Hut Fraternal Order of Eagles post #4509 located at 4701 U.S. 441 S.E. is now open to members Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m., Sundays from 1 to 10 p.m. Information can be found by visiting www.foe4509.com, or calling 863-467-1154.
- Food is served several evenings a week.
- Aerie meetings are at 7 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month at the old Cypress Hut flea market restaurant.
- FOE Auxiliary meetings are at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month
- Friday night: 16 oz rib eye steak dinner with the trimmings beginning at 5:30 p.m.

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

DAR to meet

The Okeechobee Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution hold their monthly meetings the first Saturday of the month October thru May from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Okeechobee County Public Library. Anyone in-

terested in joining is welcome to attend. They will help you document your ancestors and apply for membership in the DAR.

Items for this column may be emailed to okeeneews@newszap.com. Post your news online at www.newszap.com.



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Developer Bill Harvey stands behind a model of Silver Palms, an upscale RV park on U.S. 441 S. This is the first new RV park in the county in many years. It is different from other RV parks in the area because the residents will own rather than rent the lots.

Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Okeechobee has unique RV park

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

A housing development unique to this area is taking shape south of S.E. 32nd Avenue and west of U.S. 441 S.

Silver Palms, an upscale RV park, is the only housing development that was on the drawing boards three years ago that is actually being built today.

As developer Bill Harvey explained from the sales office at the main entrance near McDonald's on U.S. 441 S., Silver Palms is unlike many RV parks where the lots are rented. In Silver Palms, the RV owners own their own lots which are designed for motor coaches, fifth wheel trailers and park models.

The 40 by 75 foot lots will handle the biggest motor coaches and fifth wheel trailers. Owners will be encouraged to use pavers on the lots rather than concrete or asphalt. They will be allowed to have a 10 by 12 foot storage shed and landscape the lot. Each lot will have its own utility meters.

The park encompasses 90 acres and will eventually contain 512 RV sites. There are 167 sites in Phase I which are now being sold. A 9,000 square foot clubhouse is almost completed. It will have a library, card room, billiard room, and a large meeting room with stage and a kitchen. Out the back door of the club is a swimming pool and hot tub. Beyond the pool is the smaller, already completed, private club house. It is anticipated that some of the lot owners will rent out their lots part of the year. The smaller club house will be strictly for property owners.

The club houses are part of a four acre recreation center with golf cart parking and something for everyone. There will be traditional tennis, basketball, shuffleboard, horseshoe and volleyball courts in addition to pickle ball. Pickle ball has been described as "tennis for seniors." It is similar to tennis but the court is smaller and the rackets are smaller. There is less running than in tennis. There will also be bocce, an Italian game similar to lawn bowling and pentaque, the Canadian form of bocce.

The grounds contain a fifteen acre enhanced wetland and four lakes. Fountains will decorate the lake at the main entrance. Developers expect occupancy on some lots by the end of March and the gated park to be fully operational in 60 days.

Eventually operation and maintenance of the park will be governed by a property owners association.

Why is Silver Palms the only development that did not fall victim to the building bust?

The reason, according to Mr. Harvey, is that it is a "niche market." While Silver Palms is not age restricted, lots are marketed to retirees or those about to retire who own RVs. Mr. Harvey said people who buy a motor coach are willing to pay for good accommodations for it. He said that most people want the same lot and the same neighbors each year. That cannot be guaranteed with a rental lot.

Another contributing factor is location. In the center of the state, it is not very far from the larger population centers such as Miami, Tampa and Orlando. The shopping centers and restaurants of the coast are only an hour drive away. Because of where the park is situated in Okeechobee, residents can walk to Publix or McDonald's. Other stores are not very far away.

Mr. Harvey said motor coach owners want a newer park. He said it has been 22 years since an RV park of any size was built in Okeechobee County and the older parks will not accommodate the newer motor homes.

Each year the number of RV sites dwindles as older parks are bought out by developers. There are fewer sites now than five years ago. With 8.5 million RVs on the road, it is no wonder Silver Palms attracts interest. Silver Palms may help put Okeechobee on the map as more RVers discover the attractions of the area.

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



Submitted photo

Grants 101

The Shared Services Network and Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) recently sponsored a grant writing workshop, GRANTS 101. Presenters shared information on the process of writing grants to an eager audience of over forty participants. Sharon Vinson, Facilitator for the SSN introduced Cathleen Blair, with Children's Services Council and United Way, who shared a few tips and some of the requirements for those two local grants. Presenters: Roderick Natta, Coordinator for Grants and Acquisition Management, and Jodie Koerner, Program Specialist, both with St. Lucie County Public Schools, provided the training for the grants workshop. For more information about future grant workshops, call Sharon Vinson at 863-462-5000 ext. 257.

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"TAYLOR CREEK LIVING"
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"CLOSE TO TOWN"
Doublewide on 3 nice lots with large oak tree. Has additional building which can be used as three car garage or large storage building. Close to everything. MLS# 201709 \$95,000

"PEACEFUL WATERFRONT"
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Russ Adams Taekwondo students test and advance

On Feb. 5-6, Russ Adams Taekwondo America held their belt advancement testing. The results of that testing are as follows: White to yellow: Alexis Alica, Heaven Peacock, Shawna Peacock, Nicholas Wiggins; yellow to orange: Daylin Walker; orange to Sr. orange: Denise Whitehead, Makaya Whitehead;

Sr. orange to green: Linden Buccino, Casey Hurst, John Lense, Trina Lense, Jennifer Lester, Ahmad Yousef, Mohammad Yousef; green to Sr. green: Cristian Morales; Sr. green to purple: Ty Collins, Hannah Morales; Sr. brown: Charles Yager; red: Mia Lazaro; Sr. red to 1st degree probationary black belt: Nicholas Brown, Tra-

vis (T.J.) McKenna, Jr., Disan Hernandez, Jr.; 1st degree decided to 2nd degree decided black belt: Anthony Hernandez, Travis McKenna Sr.; red stripe Jr. instructor trainee: McKayla Skinner. Congratulations to all. Hard work really pays!



Submitted photo

TKD Belt Advancement

Russ Adams Taekwondo America held their Belt Advancement testing on Feb. 5-6. Those who participated are: Mohammad Yousef, Alexis Alica, Makaya Whitehead, T.J. McKenna, Jr., Cristian Morales, Ahmad Yousef, Daylin Walker, Shawna Peacock, Nicholas Wiggins, Trina Lense, John Lense, Heaven Peacock, McKayla Skinner, Linden Buccino, Disan Hernandez, Jr., Mia Lazaro, Charles Yager, Ty Collins, Hannah Morales, Anthony Hernandez, Casey Hurst, Nicholas Brown, Johnathan Guitron, Jennifer Lester, Denise Whitehead, Travis McKenna Sr., Russ Adams, Owner and Sr. Instructor.



Submitted to the Okeechobee News

KOA Choir

The KOA Choir will present "An Evening of Worship Thru Music" on Sunday, March 15, at 7 p.m. at the KOA Convention Center, 4276 U.S. 441 S.

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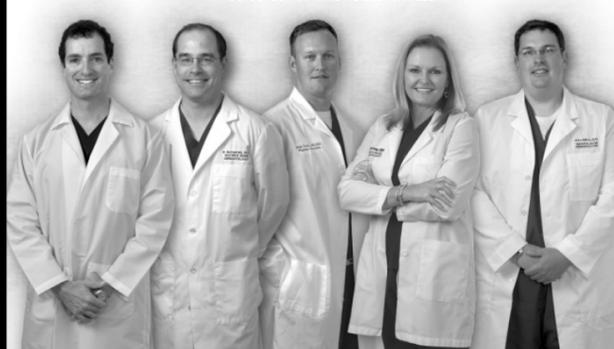
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Three OHS Brahmans to play college football

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

HBO has a series the flight of the Concord. Three Okeechobee Brahman football players will be taking a flight to play at Concord this fall.

Sam Dixon signed in February, and Wednesday Nate Pollard and Chris Tullio signed their names to football scholarships to play at the Division II School in Athens, West Virginia.

"I'm really excited about it," former Brahman Football Coach Chris Branham said, "The whole school is excited."

Tullio and Pollard both signed

in front of their entire senior class on picture day in the gym. Both players said it was one of the highlights of their careers.

"I'm excited," Pollard noted, "I just feel good that I finally chose a college and I had a college that wanted me. I just feel good right now."

Pollard intends to major in Business. He stated that the education part was just as important as the football part of attending college. He noted he visited the campus over the winter and really liked what he saw.

"I wanted to see snow and now I'm going to see a lot of it. I have a chance to play as a fresh-

man," he noted.

Pollard said having two former teammates on campus will really help in his transition. He noted if he finds he doesn't like the campus or town, he'll just work hard and hope to transfer to Marshall or another school.

Pollard earned all area accolades with the Palm Beach Post this year. He also played in the South Central Florida All Star game in Sebring and the Out-back All Star game in West Palm Beach. He noted he hopes he plays against that kind of talent every week in West Virginia.

"It'll be pretty good caliber players each week, I look forward

to it," he added.

Pollard had 13 career interceptions for Okeechobee. He returned four of them for touchdowns. He started three years at wide receiver and two years at defensive back.

He figures to compete for a starting job at corner back for the Mountain Lions.

Pollard's parents are Nate Pollard Sr., and Linda Jenkins of Okeechobee.

Tullio also has high hopes about Concord University. He noted he liked the coaches and the small town atmosphere in West Virginia. He, like Pollard, is happy to get a major decision out of the way.

"I feel good. I'm pretty happy to be going. I'm happy to get it over with," he noted.

Tullio said an entirely new coaching staff will take over at Concord this year. Mike Kellar is their new head coach. He takes over a team that went (0-11) last year. Kellar was an Assistant Coach at California University of Pennsylvania for four years. He helped lead the team to two consecutive appearances in the National Division II semifinals. They also increased the number of football scholarships they offer from 18-36.

They also intend to invest a lot of dollars in improving their sports facilities. The team played in front of crowds as large as 4,761 last year.

"I liked all the coaches. It seems like they care about me. It's going to be cold, that's the only thing I'm not looking forward to. Everything else seems to

be good," he added.

Tullio started at center as a sophomore and was the starting left guard for the Brahmans for the past two seasons.

Coach Branham, who resigned after last season, said his players will get to play in the old conference he played in at West Virginia State. One of the games

on their schedule every year is against West Virginia State.

"Concord has made a serious commitment to their athletes and football. All of our guys are good students, they are good on the field and off the field. I think they'll play a major role as this program rebuilds," he added.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Chris Tullio and Nate Pollard sport new Mountain Lion Caps on signing day. They both will play college football in West Virginia.

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863-467-9555
1924 US Hwy. 441 N

Vero Beach
772-778-7782
1155 35th Lane, Suite 202

www.tcdermatology.com

FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MOHS SURGERY
BOARD CERTIFIED BY THE AMERICAN BOARD OF DERMATOLOGY



The 2008 - 2009 Okeechobee News Medical Information Guide is available at

<http://specialsections.newsrap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=56360&pagenum=1>

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

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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.

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Share a ride 115
Card of Thanks 120
In Memoriam 125
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Lost 135
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Lost 0135
FEMALE JACK RUSSELL - On east grade 101 side of the prairie. She is white with brown on her head and a little on her body! Please call, she needs her med's and our son misses her. (863) 634-8057 (863) 697-1184 (863) 763-7843

Garage/Yard Sales 0145
Fri & Sat - Mar. 6 & 7 Starts 8 am - ? Antiques and collectible's, and much more. 2517 SW 9th Ln.

HUGE YARD SALE - Behind Taylor Rental - 2226 NW 6th St. Mar 7 & 8, 8am ? Collectibles, knick knacks, clothing and lot's more.

OKEECHOBEE - March 7, 2009, 8 AM, 1360 SE 23rd St. BLUE HERON, MUSTI FAMILY. Various household, decor, small appliances, High wheel mower, books, clothes, linens, many items unused

OKEECHOBEE - March 7, 2009, 8am till, 206 SE 7th Street, Huge Yard Sale, Home behind Grace Brethren Church, baby items, kitchen, books, many craft items, Donna Dewberry, clothing, assorted sizes, small to plus, name brand clothing and shoes, new and almost new, leather jackets. Rain or shine, raining sale will be inside. NO EARLY BIRDS

Multi-Family SALE
OKEECHOBEE - Sat. Mar 7th, 8am-2, 4648 Hwy 441 North, Villa Margaret Annual Yard Sale. Park Wide. No Early Birds please

Special Notice 0155
TREASURE ISLAND PROPERTY OWNERS MEETING
ATTEND IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ELIMINATING CRIME & UNKEPT PROPERTIES IN OUR COMMUNITY
WHEN: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18TH
WHERE: CLOCK RESTAURANT, PARROTT AVE, OKEECHOBEE
TIME: 6:30 PM

Employment Full Time 0205
Employment Full Time 0205
Aaron's Sales & Lease
Okeechobee store
RETAIL MGR. TRAINEE
SALARY + COMM/BONUS.
SUNDAYS OFF.
Must pass criminal/drug test, clean MVR, 21yrs or older, FT, email resume
rebecca.sosa@aaronrents.com
or apply in person
2302 Hwy 441 S., 34974

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

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Business Opportunities 305
Money Lenders 310
Tax Preparation 315
Business Opportunities 0305
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.

MODEL TYPES NEEDED FOR BUSY ART STUDIO \$1000 + WEEKLY GUARANTEED (561) 891-3946
Need a few more bucks to purchase something deer? Pick up some extra bucks when you sell your used items in the classifieds.

Services 400
Babysitting 405
Child Care Needed 410
Child Care Offered 415
Instruction 420
Services Offered 425
Insurance 430
Medical Services 435
Handyman Services
DEE'S MINOR REPAIR & Pressure Washing
Cool Sealing, Painting, Carpentry & Much More!
No Job Too Big or Small.
(863) 467-2917
or (863) 261-6425
License # 5698 & #1126
? NEED HELP ? CALL GEORGE CARTER
Painting, Repairs, Carpentry Power Washing
FREE CONSULTATION
(863) 763-4775
Tax Services
TAX RETURNS
I will do simple returns for \$50-\$100.
(863) 467-7999
Top Soil
JACK'S TOP SOIL
Fill Dirt/Shell Rock & Bob Cat work.
Call 863-467-4734

It's never too late to find the perfect gift. Look for it in the classifieds.
READING A NEWSPAPER . . .
Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!
Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Employment Medical 0210
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WE CONTINUE TO GROW AND SERVE OKEECHOBEE
Now Hiring
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We are now accepting applications for a RN Clinical Manager, FT RN, and Per Diem LPN. To begin the application process, apply in person at Workforce Solutions, 209 SW Park Street, Okeechobee, FL, (863) 462-5350.

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
Tools 725
Toys & Games 730
VCRs 735
Wanted to Buy 740

Golf Clubs/Equipment 0618
CLUB CAR FOUR SEATER - 2000, w/folding windshield & lights, charger \$2,650 (863) 253-2617
Guns/Supplies 0619
WALTHER P38 (Pre WW2) w/12 GA. Pump, Acces & books \$1000 (863) 484-0210
Miscellaneous 0655
IONIZERS - 2 - Like new, black tower model. \$175 (863) 763-3932
Large Musical Carousel with table \$200 (772) 205-0121
MANY ITEMS for sale - Lg capacity floor freezer \$75, Lg wood dining table & hutch \$150, Office Desk \$75, Retired mechanic tools \$5 and up, Patio furn \$50. (772) 205-0121
WATER SYSTEM - Complete, 1.5hp pump, water softener, Pressure tank. New \$1250. Asking \$650. (863) 763-3932

Pets/Supplies 0670
FLORIDA CURR & BOXER MIX - Puppies, 3 female and 2 male's. No papers \$300 each (772) 489-4125
PIT BULL PUPPIES - \$50, 9 weeks old. (863) 634-1897
Television 0715
THREE Color 27" TV's - \$40 each. FIRM (863) 610-0685
Wanted To Buy 0740
DAD with disabled Mom and son, on steady fixed income seeks owner finance. Need 3/2 on 1/2 acre + or water front. Neat and clean can pay \$800 mo. Can be fixer upper. (863) 697-9108

Appliances 0515
TWO WHIRLPOOL Refrigerators (interchangeable parts) \$250 for both (863) 484-0210
Building Materials 0540
BIG POLES - 20' x 18" and up \$3.50 per foot. 772-260-4514
Computer/Supplies 0580
DELL Desktop Computer and monitor with keypad \$150 (772) 205-0121
Furniture 0610
MATCHING triple Dresser with twin mirrors, chest of drawers and night stand. Two green velvet swivel chairs, coffee table and end table, two book cases, rot iron bi-stro table & two chairs, three shelf cart, two drawer metal file cabinet, set of wooden tv trays. (863) 357-1940
Farm Feed/Products 0810
HAY - Fertilized, Argentina Bahia 4x5 Round Bales. \$30ea or \$25 for 4 or more. South Basinger (863) 228-0073
Farm Services Offered 0825
RETIRED MAN from Tennessee will care for your country place. Call George (615) 585-0641

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

Livestock 0855
Miniature zebu cows, 3 bulls and 2 heifers. Good for small acreages. Call to see (863) 801-4417 or (561) 352-3015
PASTURE GATES - From 4' to 16' Like new but half the cost. Starting @ \$31.00 to \$57.00 (863) 610-2206
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
Houses - Sale 1025
BEST VALUE ON MARKET!
Newly remodeled 3BR/1.5BA (or) 2BR/1BA situated on very clean equestrian ranch - 14 minutes from town center. Please No Pets. Call for move-in special M-F. 863-467-9800
Buying a car? Look in the classifieds. Selling a car? Look in the classifieds.
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
Reading a newspaper helps you understand the world around you. No wonder newspaper readers are more successful people!
Lots - Sale 1045
5 Acres - 5 minutes north of town off 441, cleared \$79,900.00 (561) 801-3002
Waterfront Property 1080
BHR - Furn Modular home 3/2 w/Fl 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 OBO (561) 818-2348
Time to clean out the attic, basement and/or garage? Advertise your yard sale in the classifieds and make your clean up a breeze!
LAKEPORT - Lake Okeechobee access 2/1 CBS, fully furn, 2 boat-boathouse w/1.5 bath, laundry, shop w/auto doors, fish cleaning screenroom. Too many extras to list, includes Bass boat and air boat \$250,000 Bill Smith (941) 772-8898 (941) 448-0367
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Apartment 0905
BEAUTIFUL SAMANTHA'S GARDEN APTS - In Town, 2br/2ba, W&D, \$850 mo. + \$500. sec. (863) 634-5780
FURN EFFICIENCY APT - TCI, On Lake with dock, uti/cable included. No pets, \$550 mo. \$300 sec. (863) 697-3351
KINGS BAY - 2/2, \$695 per mo 1st & last, no pets. Avail after 2/22/09 (863) 763-7301 or (863) 697-1623
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VIKING/PRAIRIE Efficiency. Very clean! \$600/mo. Includes utilities. No pets. Call 561-329-8205
Commercial Property 0915
SPACE FOR RENT: 1,000 sq. ft. Located at Sun Plaza. Great location! High traffic area. Call 863-610-1281
Houses - Rent 0930
DIXIE RANCH Acres- 2br/1ba duplex \$500 month + \$400 dep., includes water, lawn, garbage, NO PETS. Call (863) 467-9029
FT DRUM - 1/1 on four acres, new cabinets and carpet \$625 mo. (912) 224-4658 or (734) 637-2697
OAK PARK - 3/1/1 newly remodeled CBS, non-smkg. env., no pets, \$975 mo. + \$1000 sec. (863) 697-2818
OKEECHOBEE - On the water, 1br, 1ba, fully furn. W&D, Elec & satellite, HBO incl., \$600/mo. (863) 467-1950
Rent to own or sell 3/1 CBS, new roof, newly renovated \$99,900 (561) 801-3002
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Houses - Rent 0930
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Waterfront Rentals
Starting at \$850 Mth/Yearly
Washer/Dryer - Lawn Maintained
On Large Private Lots
(863) 467-8683 • (772) 215-1680
Ask About Rent to Own with 10% Down

Mobile Homes 2020
2000
Mobile Home - Lots 2005
Mobile Home - Parts 2010
Mobile Homes - Rent 2015
Mobile Homes - Sale 2020
Mobile Home Sale 2020
LAKEPORT - 2 sep properties, 2br

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

TOYOTA COROLLA - 2001 Grey, 47000 miles. Auto, tilt, cruise. Excell cond. \$4,950 (812)989-3022

TWO STOCK CARS - One 1979 Malibu and one 1979 Z28 Camaro \$2400 for both or will separate. (772)323-7096

Four Wheel Drive 4035

CHEVY SILVERADO 2500 HD 2002 - 4-wd, 4door, diesel, Cdw/amp & 4 - rimsW/Toyom/T-tires&lot of extras, big&beefy \$18000 (863) 357-2816 (863)447-0941

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Public Notices

5000

Public Notice 5005
 State Public - Legal Notice 5500

Public Notice 5005

NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT OF COUNTY EASEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Okeechobee County, Florida, on the 26th day of February, 2009, a Resolution was adopted pursuant to Sections 336.09 and 336.10, Florida Statutes, whereby the County of Okeechobee vacated, closed, abandoned, renounced and disclaimed all rights of the county and the public in a county right-of-way further described as follows:

All that portion of the 10' utility easement along the easterly boundary of Lot 569, Taylor Creek Isles Section 4-B, less and except the southerly 5' thereof, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 4, Page 8, public records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

Chf Betts, Jr., Chairman
 Sharon Robertson, Clerk
 Board of County Commissioners
 Okeechobee County, Florida
 Petition B-2008-0045
 3/12/09 ON 3/6/09

Legacy.com

View obituaries from the past month at <http://www.legacy.com>

Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Let's Make ___"
 - 6 Conspiracy
 - 11 Maintain, as some tools
 - 14 Brazilian dance
 - 15 Mountain ridge
 - 16 Ralph's costar in "The Avengers"
 - 17 Of a pelvic bone
 - 18 Tops
 - 19 Looney Tunes devil, casually
 - 20 Fiji, of Fiji, Aruba, Monaco and Vail?
 - 22 Like a temptress
 - 23 Financial bind
 - 24 Part of "the works," on a burger
 - 26 Butcher's abbr.
 - 29 Math, of English, Math, History and Biology?
 - 33 Hurdle for a future Ph.D.
 - 35 Unexpected
 - 36 Kind of time or value
 - 37 "Go, team!"
 - 39 Icicle site
 - 40 Goes along
 - 43 Witty banter
 - 46 You, of him, her, you and me?
 - 48 Blunder
 - 49 ___ Kinko's
 - 50 Itty bit
 - 52 Zealous
 - 54 Vail, of Fiji, Aruba, Monaco and Vail?
 - 59 Clic Stic maker
 - 60 Reynolds Metals parent company
 - 61 Montana was one
 - 62 "What's the ___?"
 - 63 Release to attack
 - 64 Unsophisticated
 - 65 Itty bit
 - 66 Slow down
 - 67 Impatient
- DOWN**
- 1 "In your dreams!"
 - 2 Catalan surrealist
 - 3 Persian Gulf honcho
 - 4 Embarrass
 - 5 Many are intolerant of it
 - 6 Nob Hill roller
 - 7 ___ rug
 - 8 Lighthouse, e.g.
 - 9 Goes to
 - 10 Arles article
 - 11 Benefiting from Match.com
 - 12 Big screen
 - 13 Sluggish
 - 21 Theater suffix
 - 22 Filing aid
 - 25 Hosp. area for acute conditions
 - 26 Dieter's catchword
 - 27 "Erin Go ___"
 - 28 Gave up
 - 30 Astrologer Sydney
 - 31 Cut off
 - 32 Villainous look
 - 34 Looked suggestively
 - 38 Look before you leap
 - 41 Byrnes of "77 Sunset Strip"
 - 42 Bee contestant
 - 44 What a "D" may indicate
 - 45 Pre-cable need
 - 47 Betting combo
 - 51 Afghani, for one
 - 52 Be up against
 - 53 Plastic option
 - 55 Drench
 - 56 Getting the job done
 - 57 Guns, as an engine
 - 58 Low card
 - 60 Priest's robe

Public Notice 5005

NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF A SPECIAL EXCEPTION

NOTICE: A PUBLIC HEARING will be held before the Okeechobee County Board of Adjustments and Appeals on **Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at 7:00 pm** in the Commission Meeting Room, Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida to consider a Special Exception to allow an outdoor shooting, rifle or target range in an Agriculture (A) zoning district. The property owner is Daniel Braswell III. The applicant is Jeff Wait. The property address is 7055 NE 48th Street and is more particularly described as follows:

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN THE EAST 1/2 OF SECTION 32, TOWNSHIP 36 SOUTH, RANGE 36 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, CONSISTING OF PARCELS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 658, PAGE 1884, OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 658, PAGE 1886, AND OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 659, PAGE 1787, OF THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT A FOUND 4' X 4' CONCRETE MONUMENT AT THE SOUTH 1/4 CORNER OF SECTION 32, TOWNSHIP 36 SOUTH, RANGE 36 EAST; THENCE NORTH 02°10'25" EAST, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF THE EAST 1/2 OF SAID SECTION 32, A DISTANCE OF 641.18 FEET TO A SOUTHWEST CORNER OF A 58.808 ACRE PARCEL OF LAND DESCRIBED IN A QUIT CLAIM DEED DATED SEPTEMBER 22, 2006 AND RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 659, PAGE 1787 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA SAID POINT BEING THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE NORTHERLY ALONG SAID LINE, A DISTANCE OF 2,202.94 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF A PARCEL OF LAND DESCRIBED IN A WARRANTY DEED DATED MAY 19, 2008 AND RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 658, PAGE 1886, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE SOUTH 88°10'49" EAST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID PARCEL, A DISTANCE OF 1,472.88 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID PARCEL DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 658, PAGE 1886; THENCE SOUTH 00°44'50" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 1,688.99 FEET TO A NORTH LINE OF A PARCEL DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 378, PAGE 218, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, SAID POINT ALSO BEING AT A SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID PARCEL DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 658, PAGE 1884; THENCE SOUTH 82°43'06" WEST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID PARCEL DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 378, PAGE 218, AND A SOUTH LINE OF SAID PARCEL DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 658, PAGE 1884, A DISTANCE OF 191.05 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID PARCEL DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 378, PAGE 218; THENCE SOUTH 03°13'39" WEST, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID PARCEL DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 378, PAGE 218 AND AN EAST LINE OF SAID PARCEL DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 658, PAGE 1884, CONTINUING NOW WITH A WEST LINE (A JOG IN THE SOUTH LINE) OF SAID PARCEL OF LAND DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 659, PAGE 1787, FOR A TOTAL DISTANCE OF 891.82 FEET; THENCE IN A SOUTHWESTERLY DIRECTION ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID PARCEL DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 659, PAGE 1787, THE FOLLOWING CALLS AND DISTANCES:

SOUTH 49°12'02" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 92.44 FEET;
 THENCE SOUTH 53°43'31" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 100.00 FEET;
 THENCE SOUTH 62°19'14" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 100.00 FEET;
 THENCE SOUTH 74°30'26" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 100.00 FEET;
 THENCE SOUTH 78°18'22" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 300.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 83.81 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

In the event that all items scheduled before the Board are not heard, the hearings shall be continued to Wednesday, March 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 THIS PUBLIC HEARING. 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
 Petition S-2009-0695
 3/12/09 ON 3/6/09

Public Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE WILL HOLD A REGULAR BOARD MEETING TUESDAY MARCH 24, 2009 AT 3:30 PM. IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE BEN L. BRYAN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ON THE MAIN CAMPUS OF INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE AT 3209 VIRGINIA AVENUE, FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA 34981-5596. NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT AT 9:00 A.M. TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2009, AN AGENDA MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE BEN L. BRYAN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ON THE MAIN CAMPUS, 3209 VIRGINIA AVENUE, FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA 34981-5596. ANY PERSONS WISHING TO PLACE BEFORE THAT BOARD FOR CONSIDERATION ARGUMENTS CONCERNING ISSUES OF LAW OR POLICY OR PRESENT EVIDENCE OF ANY PERTINENT FACT THAT MAY BE IN DISPUTE MUST NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE AT LEAST SEVEN DAYS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. ANY PERSONS WISHING TO APPEAL THE DECISIONS OF THIS BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE. 3/12/09 ON 3/6/09

Public Notice 5005

Your new home could be in today's paper. Have you looked for it?

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, March 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, March 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
 3/12/09 ON 3/6/09

CITY CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Okeechobee Code Enforcement Board Meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 10, 2009, at 6:30 p.m.** City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. For a copy of the agenda contact Sue Christopher at the City Fire Department 763-4423.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that if any person desires to appeal any decision made by the Code Enforcement Board with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, such interested person will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose may need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Media is for the sole purpose of back-up for official records of the Fire Department.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Florida Statute 289.25, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Sue Christopher no later than two (2) working days prior to the proceeding at 863-763-4423; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call TDD 1-800-955-8770 (voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TTY).

By: Jamie Gamble, CODE BOARD CHAIRPERSON
 Sue Christopher, Board Secretary
 3/12/09 ON 3/6/09

Public Notice 5005

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

The Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast - Region 20 and the Treasure Coast Workforce Consortium announces a meeting of the Executive Committee to which all persons are invited or are otherwise interested in.

Date & Time: Friday, March 13, 2009 - 8:00 a.m.

Place: Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast University Park
 584 NW University Blvd., Suite 100
 Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986

PURPOSE: To discuss matters concerning the Workforce Investment Act, Workforce Employment Opportunities, the Welfare Transition Program, One-Stop Career Centers and the Workforce Development Board. A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting:

Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast University Park
 584 NW University Blvd., Suite 100
 Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986

Should any person wish to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the above referenced meeting, they will need to ensure a verbatim recording of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based, in order to provide a record for judicial review. 3/12/09 ON 3/6/09

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

CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO.: 08-CA-069

JAMES F. BARNHILL,
 Plaintiff
vs.
TIMOTHY D. MEROLA and ROLANDO REYES,
 Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: TIMOTHY D. MEROLA AND ROLANDO REYES, AND ALL OTHER WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage to the following real property located in Okeechobee County, Florida:

BEING A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN A PORTION OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 35 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND BEING ALL OF LOT 10 AND A PORTION OF LOT 11 OF FIRST ADDITION TO PLAYLAND PARK PREPARED BY LEON H. WILLIS, CUBA SURVEYORS, DATED JULY 15, 1968

has been filed against you and your are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Shelly A. McKay, Esq., the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 207 SW 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34974, within 30 days of first publication, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on the Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

DATED this 4th day of March, 2009.

SHARON R. ROBERTSON
 As Clerk of the Court
 By: Arlene Nealis, Deputy Clerk

3/12/09 ON 3/6,13/09

Public Notice 5005

Tennis teams tangle with John Carroll

By Charles M. Murphy
 Okeechobee News

The winning streak continued for Okeechobee High School boy's tennis, but ended for girl's tennis Wednesday when the two squads tangled with the John Carroll Rams in Ft. Pierce.

The boys rode strong performances in singles to defeat the Rams 4-3. The girls fell 5-2.

Corey White and Zach Fowler remained unbeaten for Okeechobee. White defeated Mateo Abondano 8-5, while Fowler defeated D.J. Osgood,

8-2. Alex Nielson continued his strong start with an 8-5 victory over Dominic Choles. The Rams Nick Decrescenzo defeated Okeechobee's Max Norman, 8-1, and Santiago Abondano of John Carroll defeated Austin Willard, 8-3, in the other singles matches.

In doubles the team of White and Fowler defeated Abondano and Choles 8-1 to give Okeechobee the match. John Carroll won the other doubles match as the team of Osgood and Decrescenzo defeated Nielson and Norman, 8-5.

In the girl's match, Kari Berger con-

tinued her strong play as she defeated Mary Catherine Brown, 8-6. Katherine Ragamat won the other match for Okeechobee as she defeated Christina Close, 8-5 in singles.

Berger also played a competitive doubles match as she teamed with Walker in a tight match with Katherine Maley and Jenna Taylor. John Carroll prevailed 8-6.

Okeechobee returns home next Tuesday to host Sebastian River.

Girls softball team falls to Jupiter

By Charles M. Murphy
 Okeechobee News

Heather Elsner out dued Sam Harrell as the Lady Warriors of Jupiter defeated Okeechobee High School's Lady Brahms, 3-2, in girl's softball action Wednesday night.

Two early mistakes doomed the Brahms as they missed a catchable fly ball and made a fielding error in the first inning.

Coach Kim Hargraves said her team is young and didn't make the plays that they needed to make to win the game, "There were some physical and some mental mistakes. It all goes back to being young. At the end of the season if we are still making those kinds of mistakes, we'll have problems."

Elsner scattered four hits in a complete game performance for Jupiter. Sam Harrell was almost as good for Okeechobee. After the rough first inning, she settled down and allowed just three hits and a run over six innings.

Maddie Timoteo opened the scoring with a two run double in the top of the first. Her drive to left center followed a double by Courtney Marshall that probably should have been caught in left field. Juliet Giles reached on an infield error and also scored in the first inning.

Okeechobee answered back with a run in the bottom of the first. Naomi Stephens walked and stole two bases. She scored on a ground out by Megan Clements.

Okeechobee tied the score in the third as Harrell doubled to left center, and scored on a one out double by Taylor Douglas. Okeechobee appeared to have a big inning going earlier in the frame when Naomi Stephens appeared to beat out a bunt. The ball was thrown away into right field. However the umpire made a late call which ruled the bunt was foul before the catcher touched it.

Other than that Okeechobee had few opportunities against Jupiter. Coach Hargraves said she was impressed with Jupiter's pitcher nothing she kept the ball on the outside corner and kept her hitters off balance.

"None of our batters appeared comfortable. We didn't have a lot of confidence tonight," Hargraves said. "Overall we didn't have that swagger that nobody is going to beat us."

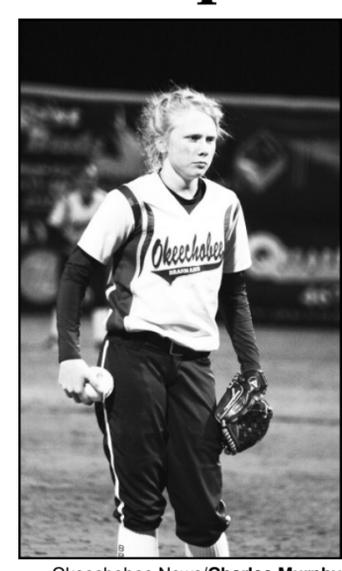
The winning run came in the fifth as Bre Shearin doubled to left and scored on a sacrifice fly by Giles.

Okeechobee could manage just two base runners in the final four innings. Stephens hit a two out double in the fifth and Emily McCullough hit a two out double in the sixth.

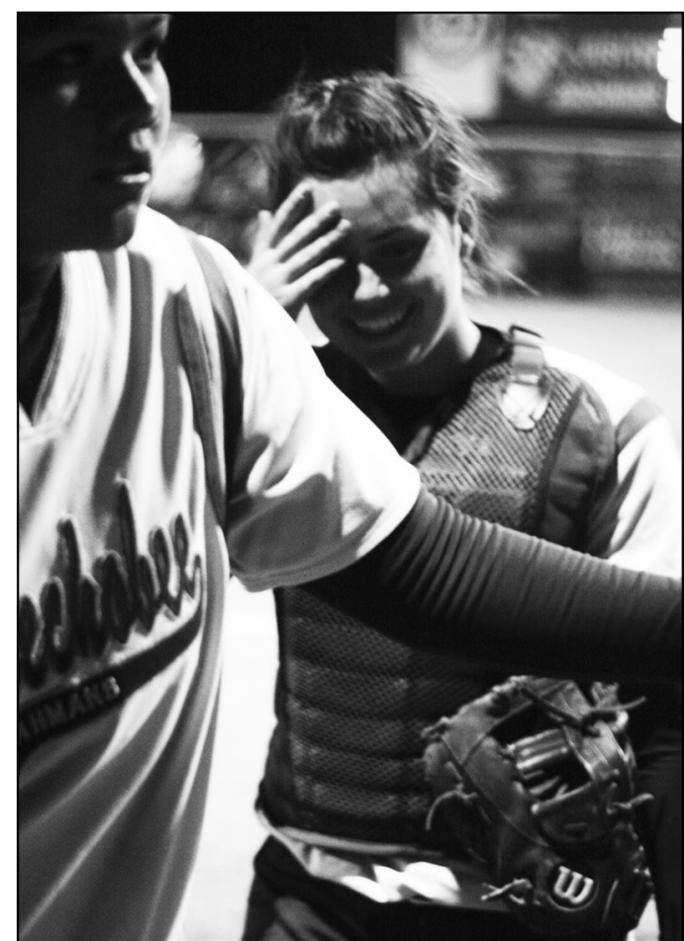
Okeechobee played at Royal Palm Beach on Thursday night. The girl's next home game is Tuesday, March 10, against Suncoast. Game time is 7 p.m..



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
 Naomi Stephens scored the Brahms first run in their loss to Jupiter.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
 Sam Harrell pitched well in a losing cause for Okeechobee.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
 Taylor Douglas takes a breather during Wednesdays game. She had an RBI double for Okeechobee.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
 Coach Heather Stillians gives some pointers to her infielders during Wednesdays game with Jupiter.

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 Dealer Discount.....\$531
 Factory Rebate.....\$2,000

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