



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 100 No. 31

Friday, March 13, 2009

50¢ Plus tax

Briefs

'Business in a soft economy' seminar set

"Doing business in a soft economy" — a small business seminar will be held at Indian River State College, Williamson Conference Center Rm c-105 on March 19, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. With a slow economy affecting most areas of business, the time has come to make sure that business owners are exploring every potential issue that could be costing money. This seminar will examine product and service mix, advertising strategy, and proper market identification techniques to help ensure that business owners are dotting every "i" and crossing every "t" to get through this rough period in this tough economy. To reserve your spot please contact Sean Moore at 863-517-0097 or by email, spmoore@fgcu.edu.

Family Learning Event invites participants

The East Coast Migrant Head Start Project invites participants to attend a Family Learning Event planned for March 28, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Community Civic Center in Okeechobee, 1003 N.W. Second Street. The event will provide parents with information on Okeechobee community services. They are inviting Community Partners to come and join us to help local families. If your organization is interested in attending, please call Sharon Vinson for more information at 863-467-1822. Sign up for the event should be no later than March 24.

Honor for Veterans

The American Legion Post 64 is taking applications for names to be engraved into the Wall of Honor at Veterans Park. Submitted names will be added before Memorial Day with a cut off date of April 18.

The Wall of Honor is for veteran's discharged under honorable conditions, living or deceased. The cost is \$60 per name. Applications can be obtained at the American Legion Post 64 office or lounge. Applications must be submitted separately for each veteran. For further information, please call 863-763-2950.

Drought Index

Current: 698
Source: Florida Division of Forestry
Local Burn Ban: None

Lake Levels

12.50 feet
Last Year: xxx 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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See Page 2 for information about how to contact the newspaper.

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County Fair starts today

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

The third annual Okeechobee County Fair begins Friday, March 13, opening at 5 p.m. with Support Our Troops Night. Bring in three items listed on http://forgottensoldiers.org/donate-items_needed.shtml and get free admission. The fair opens at 5 p.m. with grand opening ceremonies and remains open until 1 a.m. Early Bird Armband special for \$20 from 5 p.m. until

10 p.m. Remember to use the S.R. 710 entrance to the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center/fairgrounds.

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.

There are many fee activities daily for no additional charge beyond the fair entrance fee. There are daily pig races, a livestock show, a beauty pageant and the traditional creative skills

and crafts, vegetable and horticulture exhibits. There will be a Seminole Heritage show on Saturday, March 14, from noon until 2 p.m. and the Bob Teany Car Show from noon until 4 p.m. Seminole Indians will hold an alligator demonstration and cultural exhibits including storytelling, foods, dress, arts and crafts. Thunder Road will play on Saturday, March 14, as well from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m. Dewayne Hill, a family-friendly comic and magician will be performing

throughout the day.

The Okeechobee Cattlemen's Spring Rodeo will take place Saturday, March 14, and Sunday, March 15 at 2:30 p.m. each afternoon.

Sunday, March 15 is Family Day with a Hispanic band jamboree and low rider car show which are all free with normal admission. New Ground Quartet will perform at 2 p.m. in the music entertainment tent. The Plebada Car Club will feature cars and bikes from 2 p.m. until

9 p.m.

The Hispanic Band Jamboree will begin at 4:30 p.m. and run until 9 p.m. DJ Escorpion will DJ throughout the jamboree and at 5:15 p.m. will feature Rafaga Band and at 7:30 p.m. will feature Modela Musica.

The Okeechobee Idol Contest will be the highlight of Monday, March 15, which is also Bargain Night with the first armband for \$15 and the second armband

See Fair — Page 2

Pageant tonight: Miss Okeechobee County



Submitted photo
Megan Clements.



LeeAnn Davis.



Miranda DuBois.



Valerie McKee.



Alexandria Ming.



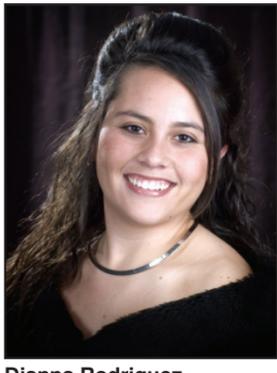
Erin Moore.



Cassandra Murray.



Brittany Nethers.



Dianna Rodriguez.



Kathleen Turner.

Who will be queen?

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

When Miss Okeechobee County Fair is crowned on Friday, March 13, she will begin a year-long reign that may even include participation in the Miss Florida Teen USA pageant later in the year. The girl who wins the title of Miss Okeechobee County Fair may choose to take a cash award toward going on to Miss Florida Teen

USA or accept a college scholarship."

Mary Kathleen Barber, 2008 Miss Okeechobee County Fair, will crown the 2009 Miss Okeechobee County Fair. The new queen will preside over events during this year's fair and will be the official representative of the county fair at other events throughout her reign.

See Queen — Page 7

Teen commits suicide in jail

16-year-old was awaiting trial

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Investigators are still trying to determine why a 16-year-old inmate at the Okeechobee County Jail apparently took his own life earlier this week.

Anthony 'Tony' Brewer was found hanging by a sheet from the top bunk of his cell around 4:25 p.m. Tuesday, March 10.

The Port St. Lucie teen was arrested Oct. 31, 2008, on two counts of aggravated assault with a firearm and was charged as an adult.

He was picked up at the St. Lucie County Jail and transported to Okeechobee. His bond had been set at \$10,000.

Brewer's case was scheduled for circuit court docket call Thursday, March 12.

"He had been classified as an adult and was going to be tried as an adult," said Jail Administrator Ronnie White. "He wasn't on suicide watch at the time."

Mr. White said even though

See Teen — Page 7

Foster grandparents learn to grow their own 'garden in a pot'

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

Foster Grandparents gathered at the Episcopal Church of Our Savior for their monthly meeting Tuesday where Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) Master Gardener Angela Sachson spoke to all the foster grandparents about how to "garden in a pot" to grow your own vegetables for your family.

Mrs. Sachson taught the foster grandparents how to plant their own tomatoes in a pot. This skill is especially helpful due to the economic times -- having the ability to grow food for your family is a plus.

The Foster Grandparent Program has been a viable program that helps schools by providing an extra set of hands for the local teachers.

The Area Agency on Aging sponsors the Foster Grandparent Program which covers Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Ft. Pierce, Martin and Palm Beach counties.

Mentors volunteer at least 20

hours a week, Monday through Thursday, and are compensated but the pay does not affect the amount of their benefits. To qualify one must be 60 years old or older and be in a low income bracket. The ideal volunteer should be interested in helping children, as that is the primary goal of this program.

Foster grandparents assist the teachers in the classrooms by doing groups with different levels of students, one-on-one remediation and many other tasks where the teachers need help.

They are usually assigned to one classroom, but are open to assist wherever their school may need them.

As a foster grandparent you will:

- Volunteer 20 hours per week in a school or child care center mentoring children and helping with reading and social skills.
- Receive \$53 per week to help with expenses.

See Vegetables — Page 7



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar
Foster Grandparents (back row-left to right) Mary Riley, Linda Padgett, Margaret Froggert, Ana Trimble, (front row-left to right) Bonnie Durbin, Sally Lucas, Lucille Curtiss, Angela Sachson-FYN Master Gardener, Sue Enyeart and Margorie Lapp learned how to "garden in a pot" from Angela Sachson, the Okeechobee Extension Office Master Gardener.



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar

Science Fair

The following students were honored for making it to the State Science and Engineering Fair for Okeechobee County: (left to right) Krista Pope, Ryan Reister, Samantha Rivero, Tim Gray, (not pictured) Darby Jones, Christopher Boney, Dalton Hodges, Julianne Meives, Dayla Ferneau (alternate), Alec Hert, Ashley Hassan (alternate), Joey Barletto, Joy Burnham, Trent Johnson and Celena Letcher. Joy Burnham and Celena Letcher are all going to International competition in Reno, Nev.



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar

12 years of service

Brenda Mueller (right) was honored for 12 years of service to the Okeechobee County School District for Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Mary Hurley (left). Mrs. Mueller was the data processor at Seminole Elementary School for all 12 years of service.

Engagement

Green - Detzer

Terry Green and Nina Kelly of Miami are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter Jennifer Green to Robert Detzer of Okeechobee.

The prospective groom is the son of Ann Detzer and Richard

Detzer of Okeechobee. The wedding is planned for March 14, 2009 at Basinger Civic Center.

The bride to be is employed as a counter pro with Carquest.

The groom is a 1997 graduate of Okeechobee High School. He is employed as a mechanic with Walpole Inc.

After the wedding the couple will reside in Okeechobee.



Jennifer Green and Robert Detzer.

Submitted photo

Okeechobee Forecast

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 83. Calm wind becoming east southeast between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday Night: Patchy fog after 2am. Otherwise, partly cloudy, with a low around 59. East southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 83. Calm wind becoming southeast between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 61. Southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 84. Calm wind becoming south between 5 and 10 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 63. South southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Lotteries

The Florida Lottery: Numbers selected Wednesday in the Florida Lottery are: **Cash 3:** 9-3-1; **Play 4:** 5-1-7-6; **Fantasy 5:** 4-9-20-24-27;

Lotto: 7-16-17-34-44-47; **Powerball:** 3-7-13-34-47 PB 30 x5. Numbers selected Thursday are: **Cash 3:** 6-1-1; **Play 4:** 3-8-3-5.

Fair

Continued From Page 1

half off. The Okeechobee Idol contest begins at 7 p.m. with preliminary competition. This will be a judged contest with points being awarded for voice quality, stage comfort, timing and overall entertainment. The contest is open to contestants with the exception of band members karaoke hosts and performers in the music industry of any kind. Finals will be held on Thursday, March 19. Anyone interested in competing should contact David Lee at 863-261-3354.

Bike Night is Tuesday, March 17. Bikers with a valid motorcycle license will get in for \$2. Tuesday also marks the beginning of the youth livestock show which will be open for spectators. Armbands for Tuesday are \$20 from 5 p.m. until 11 p.m. The dairy show begins at 5 p.m. and the bike show begins at 7 p.m. with a \$10 entry fee. ZZNOT will perform from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m.

Wednesday, March 18, is Student Dollar Night. The admission is \$1 with a student ID from 5 p.m. until 11 p.m. The steer show will be held on Wednesday at 4 p.m. with the beef breeding show following. There will also be a traditional karaoke contest hosted by David Lee with cash prizes.

Thursday, March 19, is Food Drive Night. Bring in three cans of food for \$2 entry to the fair. Okeechobee Idol Finals begin at 7 p.m.

Friday is TGIF night. Armbands are \$20 for 5 p.m. until 1 a.m. The swine show begins at 4 p.m. on Friday. The Blue Grass Festival features The Larry Gillis Band at 6 p.m.; Palms Bluegrass Band at 7 p.m.; New River Boys at 8 p.m.; and The Untold Riches at 9 p.m. until 10 p.m.

Saturday, March 21, is Bluegrass Celebration Day with armbands for \$25 from noon until 1 a.m. The small animals show is at 9 a.m.; youth livestock sale is at 2 p.m. with the order of sale being steers, beef breeding, swine, and dairy. The Blue Grass Festival celebration continues all day Saturday with the following schedule: Untold Riches at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Palms Bluegrass Band at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; New River Boys at 3 p.m. and 9 p.m.; and the Larry Gillis Band at 4 p.m. and 5:45 p.m.

Sunday, March 22, marks the final day of the fair, Family day at the Races. The fair is open from noon until 8 p.m. with armbands

for \$20. The Cuning-Hams, a local bluegrass group will perform at 12:30 p.m.; 1:45 p.m.; and 3 p.m. Kendall Jackson, a teen from Lake Worth will perform contemporary Christian music along with current favorites at 1:15 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

David Lee will be the DJ at Large and the Demolition Derby begins at 4 p.m. Bleachers are available for seating at the Derby this year.

Each day there will be pig races; David Lee-DJ at Large; Show Me Safari Petting Zoo; and many other exhibits.

Come out and support your local Okeechobee County Fair.

Gates open at noon on Saturdays and Sundays and at 5 p.m. weekdays. Daily tickets for \$5 and 10 day passes for \$30 are available at the fair's website. For more information about the fair visits www.okeechobeeountyfair.com

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

At Your Service

Okeechobee News

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Call 800-282-8586 to report a missed newspaper or poor delivery.

Additional copies of the newspaper are available for 50 cents Wednesday and Friday and 75 cents for Sunday at the office. Home delivery subscriptions are available at \$18.00 for three months.

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Raid nets suspected marijuana

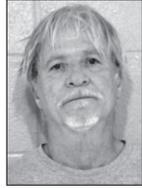
By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

After executing a search warrant on a S.E. 59th Drive home, members of the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force arrested two men and seized over 200 grams of suspected marijuana on Tuesday, March 10.

Russell A. Scott, the owner of the home, was arrested on a felony charge of possession of marijuana with intent to sell, and a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$5,500.

Another man was arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of marijuana under 20 grams and possession of drug paraphernalia. In all, task force members found a total of 213.3 grams of suspected marijuana in the home, stated the report.

According to an arrest report by a task force detective, the search warrant was executed at 1:50 p.m. after the home was entered and secured by members of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) Special Response Team (SRT) and other



Russel A. Scott

OCSO deputies. During a search of the home, the detective said a red bag containing a green leafy substance was found in a bedroom.

According to the detective's report, that substance weighed 179.3 grams.

The detective's report went on to say that a similar substance was found in a

stance was found in the living room and in a second bedroom. The detective indicated that the total weight of the substance found in the second bedroom was 5.1 grams.

All of the substances found were field tested and all indicated a positive result for the presence of marijuana, the report indicated. Also found was a metal hand-held scale, small plastic bags and pipes similar to those used for smoking marijuana, added the report.

Pizza delivery helps solve local burglary

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

The moral of the story is: if you're going to steal a check from someone don't order a pizza then use that check to pay for it.

But, according to a local detective that's just what Billy Joe Davis allegedly did.

Davis, 45, U.S. 441 S.E., was arrested Friday, March 6, and

charged with burglary of a residence, grand theft, forgery and uttering a forged instrument.

Davis was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$10,000.

An arrest report by Detective Susan Morrison, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), states a burglar apparently entered the victim's home

took a variety of items that had an estimated value of \$10,000.

Among the items allegedly taken was a 37-inch flat screen television, a 55-inch projection television, two DVD/VCR players, \$400 in cash, jewelry, jars containing coins and a computer system with a monitor, printer, keyboard, modem and surge protector.

As the crime scene was being processed, Detective Morrison said OCSO Crime Scene Investigator Jackie Moore recovered a handprint from a lamp inside the victim's home.

Detective Morrison stated in her report that the break-in was discovered on Feb. 14 when the victim returned home.

The victim later learned that pizza had been delivered to her home and that whoever ordered it had paid the delivery person with



Billy Joe Davis

one of her personal checks.

The victim then went to her bank and got a copy of the check and made note of the driver's license written on the back of the instrument. That number, stated the detective, was not the victim's.

According to the detective's report, that driver's license number was issued to Davis. Detective Morrison said he ordered \$41 worth of food, wrote the check for \$50 and gave the delivery person a \$9 tip.

He said as of Wednesday, March 11, none of the stolen items have been recovered.

Jail trusty arrested on drug charge

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A trusty at the Okeechobee County Jail has been arrested and charged with bringing prescription pills into that facility.

Jose Ruben Nunez III, 24, N.W. First St., Okeechobee, was arrested March 10 by detectives from the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on a felony charge of conspiracy to introduce contraband into a detention facility.

His bond has been set at \$5,000.

Records indicate that Nunez was sentenced to one year in the county jail following his conviction on Oct. 15, 2008, on a charge of violation of probation - driving while license suspended - habitual offender.

Nunez was arrested Tuesday after it was determined that he brought roxycodone pills into the jail, stated a task force detective's report. The 30mg pills are a schedule 2 narcotic.

The trustee was responsible for cleaning bathrooms and such

at the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office.

According to the detective's report, members of the task force found the narcotics hidden on the grounds of the sheriff's office. They then took the pills and replaced them with placebos.

The report states that Nunez went to work at the sheriff's office and returned to the jail around 4 p.m. A check by the detectives found that the pills were missing from their hiding place.

The report goes on to state that Nunez has been removed from trustee status and returned to the jail's general population.

Once the narcotics were found, detectives took the pills to a local pharmacy to be identified.

Roxycodone is a brand name of the powerful pain reliever oxycodone.



Jose Ruben Nunez III

Student arrested on pot charge

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A 12-year-old middle school student was arrested Wednesday, March 11, on a misdemeanor charge of possession of marijuana under 20 grams.

According to an arrest report by Deputy William Suggs, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), the Yearling Middle School student was found to be in possession of a green leafy substance while on school grounds.

The deputy's report went on to state that the substance was field tested and indicated a positive result for the presence of marijuana. The suspected pot weighed 7.0 grams with the packaging, added Deputy Suggs.

The student was issued a Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) referral and turned back over to school officials.

The juvenile's name was not released because the charge is a misdemeanor.

Arrest Report

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

- Syreeta Lianetta Johnson, 38, N.W. 11th St., Okeechobee, was arrested March 6 by Deputy Corporal Aric Majere on a DOC warrant charging her with the misdemeanor of battery. Her bond was set at \$2,500. She was also arrested on another DOC warrant that charged her with the felonies of violation of probation - forgery (two counts), violation of probation - uttering a forged instrument (two counts) and violation of probation - grand theft.
- Melissa Wise, 26, N.E. 60th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested March 6 by Deputy Lieutenant Keith Murrish on a warrant charging her with violation of probation - driving under the influence. Her bond was set at \$500.
- Walter F. Moorehead, 26, W. Aintree Drive, Loxahatchee, was arrested March 6 by Deputy Lt. Keith Murrish on a warrant charging him with failure to appear - grand theft, failure to appear - grand theft firearm and failure to appear - armed burglary of a structure or conveyance. He is being held without bond.
- Randy Gerald Whaley, 31, N.E. First Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested March 6 by Deputy Brian Cross on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - grand theft. He was arrested again on March 9 on Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - grand theft (two counts), violation of probation - credit card fraud and violation of probation - misrepresentation. He is being held without bond.
- Ryan Bass, 27, N.E. 60th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested March 7 by Deputy Lt. Keith Murrish on a St. Lucie County warrant charging him with violation of probation - grand theft. He is being held without bond.
- Magin Cardenas, 21, N.W. Fourth St., Okeechobee, was arrested March 7 by Officer Ryan Holroyd on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him

with failure to appear - driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$5,000.

- Nicole Marie Powers, 20, S.W. Park St., Okeechobee, was arrested March 7 by Officer Ryan Holroyd on charges of dealing in stolen property, giving false information to a pawnbroker and grand theft. Her bond was set at \$10,000.
- Katie Lynn Harden, 24, S.W. 24th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested March 8 by Deputy Max Waldron on a charge of grand theft. Her bond was set at \$2,500.
- Curtis Gordineer, 20, N.E. 103rd Ave., Okeechobee, was

arrested March 9 by Deputy Sergeant J. Royal on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - possession of marijuana. He is being held without bond.

- Robert A. Pohl, 45, S.E. 33rd Terrace, was arrested March 11 by Deputy Lt. Keith Murrish on a warrant charging him with felony battery. His bond was set at \$2,500.

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

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Pawn receipt helps police solve burglary

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A receipt from a pawn shop in Okeechobee has led to the arrest of an area man on several felony charges.

William Brandon Bailey, 22, Ninth St., Buckhead Ridge, was arrested March 5 on charges of armed burglary of an unoccupied dwelling, grand theft-firearm, grand theft, dealing in stolen property and defrauding a pawnbroker. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$11,000. Jail records indicate that he has been released after posting bond.

According to an arrest report

by Detective Bryan Lowe, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), Bailey was arrested after he reportedly pawned several items at the pawn shop. The items, stated the detective, included several pieces of jewelry, a hand-held grinding tool and a Remington pump shotgun. The report states the items were taken from a N.W. 110th St., home in Okeechobee County on Feb. 26.



William B. Bailey

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Mon., @ 3:00 & 7:00. Tues & Thurs. @ 7:00 & 9:00.

THEATRE III "MADEA GOES TO JAIL"
Fri. @ 7:00 & 9:00. Sat, Sun. & Wed. @ 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00.
Mon., @ 3:00 & 7:00. Tues & Thurs. @ 7:00 & 9:00.

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

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

Red, White & Moo!

Okeechobee COUNTY FAIR

March 13th - 22nd 2009

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY AGRI-CIVIC CENTER
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(ENTRANCE ON HWY 710 ONLY DURING FAIR)

Hildebrand Rides Inc.

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
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www.okeechobeeountyfair.com

GILBERT CHEVROLET, WASTE MANAGEMENT, SALVO BATTERY & TIRE, DR. TIM IOANNIDES, MD, National City, ROYAL CONCRETE CONCEPTS, INC., CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF OKEECHOBEE, QUAIL CREEK PLANTATION, GYFFREY FEED CO., CULPEPPER & TERPENING - DICKERSON, INC., EVERGLADES FARM EQUIPMENT - STATE FARM INSURANCE, DODGE, SEVENTH GRAD

Speak Out/Public Forum

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

Marijuana grow houses raided

TAX IT: Sunday's paper reported another two grow houses raided. I think that marijuana should be legalized for medicinal purposes and that you must have a prescription and that pharmacies be the only way that it can be dispensed. There are more people killed every day by overdoses of alcohol and pain medications where as I don't recall ever hearing of anyone dying from marijuana overdose. It is not unusual to see people staggering to their car after leaving a bar and having an accident that kills someone. Yet, I have never heard of any one being so inebriated from marijuana that they lost control of their vehicle and caused an accident or death. I think alcohol should be illegal.

DRUGS: Sunday's paper also reported the death rates of drug overdoses and abuses. How fitting that article and the grow house article were in the same paper. It was warning people to beware. Just because it is prescribed doesn't mean it can't kill you. The problem is not the prescription. The problem is taking the prescription as directed. I have had several acquaintances die due to not following the directions of the prescription and overdosing. At the same time, there are people out there taking the medication to get high only to overdose.

GOVERNMENT: Well, if the U.S. Government would just step up to the plate and legalize it they could take control of the marijuana. Put it under the jurisdiction of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms they can sell it much like cigarettes are sold. Though maybe fewer in a package? I don't know maybe 20 is a good number. There will be companies growing and processing it like Marlboro, Kent and Raleigh (Do they still make those in North Carolina?) And like cigs and alcohol, everyone is allowed to grow and process some for your own consumption.

ILLEGAL: I personally would never, ever legalize marijuana. It's just the way I was raised ... in my entire life it's been illegal. We have enough drunk teenagers and adults on the road as it is. As far as medical purposes, there would have to be the strictest policies in place. As it is now, prescription drugs are the number one drug of choice. People who use/sell prescription drugs know all the ends and outs of getting them. It's become an epidemic all over the United States and in Okeechobee.

Death of a juvenile in the county jail

HEARTBREAKING: How sad, these young kids put themselves in these situations and must feel like there is no light at the end of tunnel. Being 16 and charged as an adult on aggravated assault charges ... what could have been the worst outcome of these charges? Certainly not worth taking your life over but at that age they just don't understand. Either way, a sad and most likely an avoidable situation.

OFFICERS: The parents are not from Okeechobee and neither was the teen, but he was in jail here because he was accused of committing a crime here. I feel sorry for the corrections officers who will have to deal with this. They probably had no idea he would even consider doing that. He was in a cell by himself and must not have been on suicide watch -- they have special cells for prisoners who are on suicide watch. I wonder if any of the other prisoners could see what he was up to.

Water, water everywhere

CONSERVE YEAR ROUND: I am glad the water managers are enforcing the water conservation measures as this should be year round. Florida was not meant to support this many humans. We cannot keep wasting water. Watering the grass is wasting water. Plant native grass and let nature take care of it. Sure it will be brown part of the year but that is how it is supposed to be. Up north the grass is not green year round. Nature has cycles. For too long they tried to use Lake Okeechobee as a giant reservoir and it just about killed the lake. The lake is meant to have natural highs and lows. That means to be healthy, it should sometimes get down to 9 or 10 feet and other times get up to 15 or 16 feet. You can't manage it as a reservoir and have a healthy lake.

SOUTH SIDE: People who want the lake level to stay higher than 14 feet so they can have more water for personal use should do some research. The land on the north side of the lake is higher than the lake level, sure. I believe the elevation around Southwest 28th Street is about 18 feet. However, the south side of the lake has areas that are only 11 feet above sea level. If the dike breaks, those people will be under water. You have to think about the whole lake and the whole area, not just your own canal or fishing hole.

Why can't I buy American?

SEAFOOD: I go to my grocery store to get seafood, shrimp, clam, fish, even frog legs are all from Vietnam, Bangladesh, China and on and on except oysters. Why is this? There was one product from America. I wouldn't even visit these countries and I don't trust their food. Why do we have to go all the way to the docks to get these products? I turn on the T.V. this a.m. and ads were pushing food from Chile. We are the most heavily regulated and have the safest food in the world. Why can't I buy it?

SEASONAL: If you want to eat American grown foods then you have to not eat things that are out of season. If you want a melon in December then you will have to get them from another country. Same with seafood as most fish migrate.

LOCAL FOOD: American farmers do produce the best and safest food supply in the world. And if you want to take advantage of that, you have to adjust your diet to what is available during different times of the year. If you buy what is locally in season you also reduce the amount of fuel it takes to transport the food. That is healthy for you and for the environment.

MORE SPEEDING

DEPUTIES: Kudos to the Sheriff's office! This morning as I waited for the bus with my young son (in the dark), we saw a motorcycle road deputy on patrol in Dixie Ranch. We weren't at the bus stop more than two minutes when he had someone pulled over on 80th. Some of these little ones are standing alone in the dark waiting for the bus and those who live out here should know better than to fly down 80th. The high schoolers are out even earlier in the dark. It has gotten so bad that I've had to sit with my teenagers in the morning because I'm afraid they will be hit. Thank you to the sheriff's office and I hope to see you out here more often!

SLOW DOWN: You still cannot turn off of 98 without someone speeding past you as you turn in. It is a shame; everyone in a hurry to go nowhere. Truth is, the only difference it makes is how much risk you put yourself and others at for an accident. And the accident we had out here last week was senseless!

FYI: Obama's first 50 days

SPENDING: President Barack Obama pledged to keep his so-called stimulus plan free of earmarks. Unfortunately, no such pledge has been made about the omnibus spending measure consisting of the nine uncompleted appropriations bill from last year's appropriations process. The \$410 billion omnibus is loaded with an estimated 9,287 earmarks. Last week, the House passed the bill by a margin of 245-178; a debate is expected in the Senate this week. It's loaded with identical projects from the President's government spending plan and contains many wasteful earmarks. Rep. Mike Pence (R-Ind.) told Congressional Quarterly that "our nation currently faces record deficit numbers and the Democrat leadership's only plan is to pass another bloated bill and dig us in a deeper hole of debt." If President Obama wants to cut spending, he should order Congress to strip all earmarks before the bill is presented for his signature.

Guest Commentary

Youth conservation centers open children's eyes

By Rodney Bareto
FWC Chairman

The day is coming when today's youngsters will take over control of the fate of Florida's fish, wildlife and habitats. We must first introduce them to these treasures before we step aside, or we risk entrusting them with things they have never learned to love and protect.

We talk about this a lot in the conservation community, especially at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). We have so isolated our children from nature, out of fear for their safety, that we have been a barrier between children and the birthright nature offers them. We don't let them climb trees anymore or catch tadpoles or even play in the woods.

The FWC is teaming up with partners and mobilizing volunteers to develop and operate

new facilities where families and children can interact with nature and learn the skills that will open a whole new world of adventure for them. The first one already is operating. It's the Beau Turner Youth Conservation Center, about 30 miles east of Tallahassee. More are on the way.

The Beau Turner Youth Conservation Center offers kids the opportunity to see, hear, smell and touch the face of Mother Nature. Kids can catch fish there and learn hunting skills and hunter safety. The center offers summer day camps, and it's all accessible to handicapped individuals. Everything at the center runs entirely on solar energy. Parents can register their 12 to 16 year-old children for a variety of free classes, for which the FWC will provide all the necessary equipment and materials. The FWC is deeply grateful to Turner and his family for turning the center into a reality.

Meanwhile, my fellow FWC Commissioner Dick Corbett is spearheading a team to research potential locations for more youth

conservation centers in other parts of the state, including the Tenoroc Fish Management Area in Lakeland. Tenoroc already has nature trails, fishing ponds, an archery range and shotgun and rifle ranges that will reduce the startup costs for a new center there. Danon Moxley, Tenoroc's manager, has developed strong working relationships with stakeholders and volunteers to make the center a reality.

The vision is to offer regularly scheduled programs to get youths actively involved in the outdoors. The centers will be places where young people and families participate in outdoor activities and share experiences that will strengthen their connection with, and support for, fish and wildlife conservation. That's what we must accomplish before we pass the cause of natural resource stewardship on to the next generation.

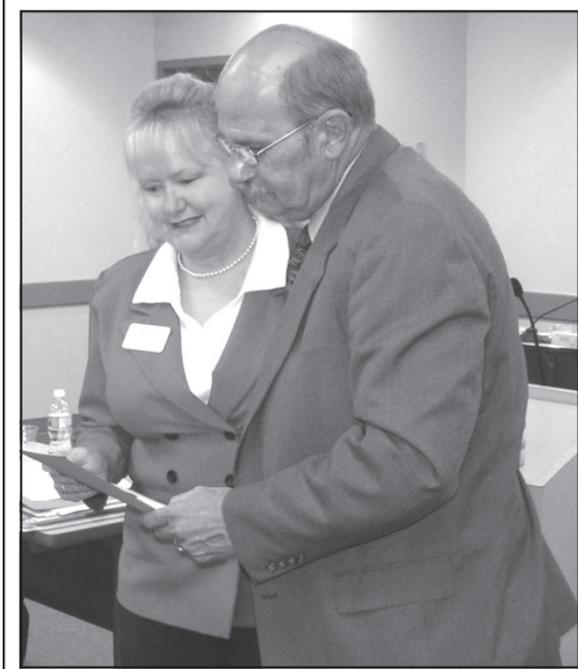
The FWC's Office of Recreation Services has developed facilities concepts and plans, so construction can move ahead as soon as we can find funding for

the centers. We will search high and low for funding, and we are counting on part of the money to come from the Wildlife Foundation of Florida. Those of us who love Florida and want to be part of this effort should consider making a donation to the foundation to support the FWC's youth conservation centers.

Too many of today's kids have never caught a fish, and too many have never experienced the special kind of bonding that takes place within families on an outdoor adventure. Yet, they stand to inherit natural treasures they won't even recognize or understand. We have to change that, and the time is short.

You can make a tax-deductible contribution to the foundation by sending a check or money order to Wildlife Foundation of Florida Inc., P.O. Box 11010, Tallahassee, FL 32302 or by visiting the foundation's Web site at: www.wildlife-foundationofflorida.com.

You can learn more about the Beau Turner Youth Conservation Center at: MyFWC.com/huntered/BTYCC.htm.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

American Red Cross Month
At their meeting on Thursday, March 10 Okeechobee County Commissioners proclaimed the month of March to be American Red Cross Month in Okeechobee. Commission chairman Clif Betts presented a copy of the proclamation to Debbie Riddle of the Red Cross.



Courtesy photo

March of Dimes

Congratulations to Everglades Winners of the "Top Fund-raising School Trophy" for the March of Dimes. Thank you to everyone at Everglades Elementary School for making this event a success. Front row, left to right: Mrs. Hollin, student council sponsor, and team co-chairman, Cassidy Bond, Ross Laskey, fifth grade student council officers. Back row left to right: Mrs. Cassels, team co-chairman and Steven Fonseca, fifth grade student council officer.

Community Calendar

Friday

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

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

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

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

Compulsive overeaters are invited to 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.

Restoration ministries meets the second Friday of each month to help with addictions, depression, etc., at 7 p.m. For more information call Miss Kathy at 863-357-9083.

Saturday

Worship in Song at the Living Word of Faith Church of Okeechobee, 1902 S. Parrott Ave., on the second Saturday of the month beginning at 6 p.m. There is no charge to attend and all Christian singers and musicians are welcome to take part. For information, contact the church at 863-763-6869; Pastor Lee Minton at 863-763-3373; or, Sister Yvonne Price at 863-467-6657.

Teen Talk from 6 until 8 p.m. at the Jesus Holy Ghost Crusade Mission, 1401 N.E. Park St. Every teen is invited. Topics of education include: AIDS; free HIV testing; STDs; personal issues; domestic violence; abstinence; abuse of drugs; sex abuse; plus, educational materials and prevention tools. Call 863-634-9340 or 863-357-6248, for information.

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

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

The Society of Young Magicians will meet from 10 until 11 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Avon Park. For information, call Dick Laneau at 863-467-9540 or 727-345-4323.

Barnyard Buddies meets from 10 a.m. until noon at the County 4-H Extension office at 458 U.S. 98 N. Everyone who would like to be part of the Barnyard Buddies is invited, or you can sign up at the Okeechobee County 4-H Extension office Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. For information, call the extension office at 863-763-6469.

The Living Word of Faith, 1902 S. Parrott Ave., gospel music singing at 6 p.m. For information call 863-763-6869.

Sunday

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

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

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



Submitted photo

"Big Red at Chalo Nitka"
Seacoast National Bank employees and families participate in the Chalo Nitka parade with their 1947 Dodge pickup they call Big Red!

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

Marvin Brantley faces fine of \$500 a day

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Once again Marvin Brantley is facing a fine because of the junk on his S. Parrott Avenue property. At their meeting on Tuesday evening, March 10 the City of Okeechobee Code Enforcement Board once again looked at the condition of Mr. Brantley's property. The case has probably come up more times than board members can recall.

This time it is different because a buyer for the property is involved. The case last came up during the January code enforcement board meeting. Mr. Brantley was not at that meeting, however, code enforcement officer Fred Sterling said that the day before Mr. Brantley had told him that the sale of the property was a "done deal" and closing would take

place in a few days.

At the January meeting Keith Duffy of Parrott Avenue Partners told the board he was in the process of buying the property and putting in a shopping center. He promised that the property would be cleaned up.

In order to give Mr. Duffy time to clean up the property, the board postponed action on the case for 60 days.

Mr. Brantley did not appear at Tuesday night's meeting. However, Mr. Duffy was there once again. He said he had had trouble with his financing but the sale of the property was scheduled to close on the 19th. He said that Mr. Brantley has been putting some of the junk in front of the fence to display it for sale. He was using the proceeds from those sales to pay for removal of the rest of

the junk.

"It's not really his fault," stated Mr. Duffy of Mr. Brantley. "He's trying to close."

City attorney John Cook said it was the same story 20 years ago. He said he didn't think the board was concerned if Mr. Brantley sold any of his junk. It was Mr. Cook's opinion that Mr. Brantley could not display his junk in front of the fence.

Mr. Duffy expressed confidence that the sale would close on the 19th. He said that after closing he would have the property cleaned up as soon as possible. He said the sale contract called for Mr. Brantley to remove the junk within six months of closing. He also said that as of the date of closing, there would be no junk in front of the fence.

"This cat and mouse game

has gone on for too long," stated board member Les McCreary.

Board chairman Jamie Gamiotea noted that Mr. Duffy has shown an interest in the community and he would hate to complicate his business dealings. He noted that his very first board meeting concerned Mr. Brantley, "He keeps us employed," Mr. Gamiotea said of Mr. Brantley.

Mr. Brantley was fined \$500 for every day of noncompliance beginning April 1.

Turning to other action, the case against Gwynn and Linda Johnson was not heard because Mr. Sterling said they were given until June 1 to come into compliance.

Mr. Cook informed the board that the S.E. 12th Avenue of Jason Estes had been foreclosed. He said a lien had been filed against

the property for a code violation fine of \$1,150 after the foreclosure went into effect. Upon Mr. Cook's recommendation the lien was removed and the property was assessed a \$500 administrative fee.

Mr. Sterling told the board that the N.W. 10th Avenue property belonging to Financial Resources of America has been an eyesore for the last couple of years. He said he had been unable to contact the owner. The board voted to impose a fine of \$50 a day for every day of noncompliance beginning the day the property is posted with the notice of the fine.

Marie Fenton was fined \$50 a day for every day of noncompliance beginning the day her S.E. 12th Avenue property was posted. She had been cited for general cleaning and beautification.

At the end of the meeting the board spent a considerable amount of time discussing recommending to the city council that the code enforcement officers be given the authority to write citations. Then the violator would either pay a fine or contest the charges before a judge. It was argued that this system would take away the personal touch of the code enforcement board and remove citizens from the process. At the same time, it was acknowledged that this process might be good for repeat offenders and it would speed things up. In the end the board decided to schedule a workshop on the topic at a future date.

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

Coquina Board conducts routine business

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The Coquina Water Control District Board of Supervisors met Wednesday morning, March 11 and conducted several items of routine business.

Board attorney Tony Young reported that he had talked with attorney Tom Conley concerning swapping easements on J5 Ranch

property. He was waiting for further word from Mr. Conley.

Several landowners had traditionally not been paying the Coquina assessment. Recently the Coquina board determined that they had no grounds for exemption and began assessing them. These landowners had threatened a lawsuit. However, Mr. Young said he had heard nothing

more from them.

Chairman Melvin Byars said he planned to advertise for bids for ditch and culvert work. He said that by the time the bids were opened he would have an idea how much money they would have to spend on the project. He said they could move money from one account to another if necessary.

"I think if we look at this budget item by item we can pull some money out it," My Byars asserted.

The meeting recessed until the next morning to reconvene at the shop and look at possible road and drainage projects.

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

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Fla. Blood Centers sets dates for donation sites

The citizens of Okeechobee are among the most faithful of donors to the community's blood supply, in 2008 donating more than 2,100 units of blood.

Last year, Florida Blood Centers were informing people that only 65 percent of the population of the United States were eligible to give blood. This percentage was due to disease, individual health conditions, exposure to at-risk populations, greater diversity in travel, etc. However, since that time, the figures have been re-evaluated and it is now known that only 37 percent of the population are eligible to donate making it even more important for those eligible donors to "Come to the Big Red Bus!"

Florida Blood Centers will be

hosting local blood drives beginning this Friday, March 13, at the Okeechobee County Fair from 11:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and again on Saturday, March 14, at the fair from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Donors on these days will receive a free ticket to the fair!

Sunday, March 15, will see the Big Red Bus at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Buck Head Ridge from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Be sure to get your Beef O' Brady wings coupons!

Donations can also be given at the fair on Sunday, March 15, from noon until 6 p.m. Visitors to the Big Red Bus will receive a free fair ticket.

Other dates for local blood drives are:

- Tuesday, March 17, Rauler-

son Hospital, noon until 7 p.m., free Beef O'Brady wings coupons,

- Thursday, March 19, Ancient Oaks, 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m., free Beef O'Brady wings coupons and ice cream coupons,

- Friday, March 20, Oasis Village, Hwy 441 S.E., 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. free Beef O'Brady wings coupons,

- Friday, March 20, Concert at Fairgrounds, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.,

- Saturday, March 21, Concert at Fairgrounds, noon to 6 p.m.,

- Friday, March 27, Publix, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.,

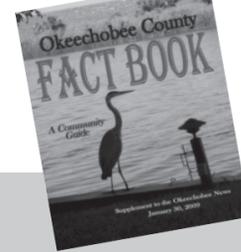
- Friday, March 27, Health Fair at Laurel Oaks, 1801 N.W. Third Lane, noon to 4 p.m.,

- Saturday, March 28, Wal-Mart, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.,

- Tuesday, March 31 - Indian River State College, 3 to 9 p.m.,

- Sunday, April 5 - Golden Corral, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free breakfast coupon, and

- Friday, April 10, Wemmer Orthodontics Drive at U-Save (3 buses) 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Available 24/7 at

<http://specialsections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=59786&pagenum=1>

School board approves policy changes

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County School board met on Tuesday, March 10, and approved several additions to board policy and the 2009 Summer School Schedule as well as some expulsions.

The board approved the several different policy changes being spurred as a result of Senate Bill 1712, Ethics in Education.

The first section for this bill falls under Complaints Against Employees. School boards are required to have a policy in place for the reporting of complaints against school board employees that affect the health, safety or welfare of students.

At the previous meeting Superintendent Dr. Patricia Cooper also added that she has had a lengthy discussion with the Okeechobee County Education Association and a memorandum of understanding will be written to put in writing full awareness that nothing will be placed in a personnel file without full investigation and full awareness of the employee.

The second policy change concerns Professional Ethics with a policy that addresses adherence to ethical standards by school personnel.

Also as a result of Senate Bill 1712, the board approved the policy regarding Violation of local, state and/or federal laws. This policy details reporting procedures for any violation of laws by school board employees.

The last policy approved concerns the Report of Misconduct which will provide guidelines for mandatory reporting and investigation of employee misconduct that affects the health, safety or welfare of students. This policy details the Superintendent's responsibilities for this reporting and also explains a direct penalty to the Superintendent if it is not done correctly.

In other business the 2009

Summer School Schedule was approved by the board which has been tapered down due to budget restraints and extra efforts from the high school and middle schools to offer credit retrieval programs throughout the school year.

The district will have all summer school at Yearling Middle School. The third grade reading camp and K-12 ESE students in trainable mentally disabled, profound mentally disabled and autistic classes will all be held from June 9, until June 26, from 8:15 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. Programs will operate Monday through Friday with transportation provided. Routes will be streamlined

with limited stops to save money for the district. Students will be served breakfast and lunch.

The only concern for the district was eliminating the high school credit retrieval program for seniors who are short credits for graduation. This concern was alleviated by having an agreement with Indian River State College for any seniors that would need that service.

The board also approved three expulsions and made many student and employee recognitions.

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

WATER'S EDGE DERMATOLOGY

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

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<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">Big Daddy Bull Dogger \$ 9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Three Eggs, any style with your choice of country fried steak or smoked sausage double hash browns or home fries toast or two biscuits with a bowl of country gravy</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">The Trail Rider \$ 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Three Eggs, any style Rib Eye steak with your choice of hash browns, home fries or grits toast or two biscuits with a bowl of country gravy</p>

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Duncan wins boat in drawing

By Teresa Mataushek
Okeechobee News

Russ Duncan of Okeechobee was the lucky winner of a 10 ft. Bass Hunter boat complete with trailer and trolling motor, in a fundraiser to benefit Big O' Teen Anglers.

The boat was donated to the Big O' Teen Anglers Inc. by Bill and Janis O'Keefe. The anglers sold tickets for this boat, and the drawing was held on March 1.

The winning ticket was sold to Mr. Duncan by Brandon Rucks, 10. Brandon, came in second place by selling \$500 worth of tickets. Ryan Edwards, 13 came in first place by selling \$800 worth of tickets.

All monies raised from this drawing will go towards helping to send three of the anglers and their families to the Southern Divisional's BASS/Florida Bass Federation Nation competition in North Carolina on April 2-3.

Ryan Edwards, 13, state champion, April Floyd, 12, a four time Casting Kids state champion and Luke Farmer, 10, will all be competing on April 2-3.

These three anglers will be competing against anglers from Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Florida and Kentucky. This is the third year in a row that the Big O' Teen Anglers Inc. has sent at least one or two of their anglers to



Russ Duncan (center right) was the lucky winner of the 10 ft. Bass Hunter boat complete with trailer and trolling motor, which the Big O' Teen Anglers Inc., held a drawing for. Brandon Rucks, 10 (center left) sold Mr. Duncan the winning ticket. Bill and Charlie Hays, and Janice Floyd came along with Brandon to present Mr. Duncan with his prize!

compete at state and/or national competitions.

"We would really like to thank all of our local and non-local sponsors for helping keep our Jr. Bass Club running," said Charlie Hays, Youth Director, Florida BASS Federation Nation. She continued, "We could not do it without them. Without them, these anglers wouldn't be able to have

these opportunities. Thank you!"

The Big O' Teen Anglers Inc., currently has 22 anglers on the state roster.

There are still tickets available for the Motorguide 24 volt 70 pound thrust, trolling motor. Tickets are 6 for \$5 or \$1 each. For ticket information please call Charlie Hays at 863-763-2332. Monies raised from this drawing

will also go towards sending the three anglers to the Southern Divisional's in North Carolina. Anything left will go towards sending all of the anglers in the club to the state competition in August in Kissimmee.

Post your opinions at www.newszap.com. Teresa Mataushek can be reached at tmataushek@newszap.com.



Submitted photo

Snake anyone?

Charles Eaton Jr., hooked this 5 foot Cotton Mouth while fishing on Lake Okeechobee on Feb. 24. Have a prize catch from a recent fishing trip? Send it to the Okeechobee News at tmataushek@newszap.com and look for it in the outdoors column.

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Community Events

Hospice to hold yard sale

Hospice of Okeechobee will host a yard sale at the blue volunteer building, next to the Hamrick Home, 411 S.E. Fourth Street, on Thursday, March 12, from 8 a.m. until noon, Friday, March 13 from 8 a.m. until noon. There are many new items to choose from. All monies raised will go towards the care for the patients in the Hamrick Home and patients who choose to stay in their own homes. For more information call 863-467-2321.

Library presents free program

Paul Buster is an excellent historian, storyteller and singer of Seminole stories, legends, and songs. Join Mr. Buster for a fun-filled evening of Seminole culture at the Okeechobee Library on Friday, March 13, at 7 p.m. The program is provided by the Florida Humanities Council and is free and open to the public. The Okeechobee Friends of the Library will provide light refreshments.

Highlands Social Dance Club

The Highlands Social Dance Club hosts ballroom dancing on Friday, March 13, from 7:30 p.m. at the Sebring Lions Club on Sebring Parkway. Music will be provided by the Big Band Sound of The Skylarks. Free ballroom dance instruction is available at 6:30 p.m. Dance the night away to waltzes, cha-chas, foxtrots, rumbas, jitterbug and other ballroom favorites. All Club dances are open to the public. Appropriate dress required. Admission is \$5 for members and \$7 for non-members. For more information call 863-471-0559.

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.

Church sponsors 'Gold Party'

The youth of First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St., are sponsoring a gold party on March 14. If you have old, unwanted gold jewelry or anything else made of gold, bring it to the church between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Professional gold buyers will be on hand to give you top dollar for your gold. Sell as much gold as you want and you will be helping the youth group raise money for their summer mission trip to London. A free meal will be provided to all who attend. Call 863-763-4021 for more information or to make an appointment.

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.

Cash for College at IRSC

To help college bound students of any age obtain financial aid, Indian River Community College will be hosting a "Cash for College" event on Saturday, March 14, at 10 a.m. at IRSC campuses in Okeechobee, Fort Pierce, St. Lucie West, Stuart, and Vero Beach. Professional help will be available, so bring your tax return. For more information, contact the IRSC Call Center at 1-866-792-4772 or visit www.irsc.edu.

Pet adoption event planned

The Humane Society Pet Rescue FL, Inc. of Okeechobee will hold a pet adoption event at the spring festival in Flagler Park on March 14 and 15. If you have been thinking of adopting a pet, come out and meet some of our "furry friends." They would love a new home! For more information, please contact Belinda at 863-532-1110 or by email at reunitepet@aol.com.

Radio discusses CASTLE

Saturday, March 14 at 7:30 a.m. 91.7 FM and 100.3 FM will have Gundula Hargraves, marketing director, CASTLE on to discuss Child Abuse and neglect, the memory field, and how to prevent the abuse by helping families in crisis. The discussion will be rebroadcast again at 1 and 6 p.m. For more information please contact CASTLE, Child Abuse Services, Training and Life Enrichment at 772-465-6011 or www.exchangecastle.org.

SAL steak dinner planned

The Sons of the American Legion will sponsor their monthly ribeye steak dinner on Sunday, March 15, from 3 until 6 p.m. at the American Legion Post 64, 501 S.E. Second Street. Dinner includes: live entertainment, ribeye steak, baked potato, salad, homemade dessert, roll and butter and iced tea or coffee for a \$12 donation.

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.

Volunteers needed to help children

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

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Pancake breakfast at Lakeport Fire Department

The Lakeport Volunteer Fire Department will hold an all you can eat pancake breakfast on March 21, at 7 a.m., at their fire station in Lakeport. All money collected is to purchase future equipment. The breakfast will feature pancakes, sausage patties and coffee or iced tea until they are sold out. Price is \$3 for all you can eat. Come out and support the Lakeport Volunteer Fire Department.

Relay for Life fundraiser

The City of Okeechobee's Relay for Life team "Hunt for a Cure" will hold a fundraiser at City Hall on Saturday, March 21, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Included in the fundraiser will be a bake sale, car wash, and rummage sale. All proceeds go to benefit Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society.

Fancy ME! (machine embroidery) meeting

If you have an embroidery machine, plan to buy one or are just interested in the concept, please join us at our next meeting. It will be held on Saturday, March 21, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. in the Red Cross classroom, 323 N. Parrott Avenue. Bring your machine and lunch for a fun-filled day. Metallic thread is known to present a special challenge to machine embroidery so we decided we would take that on as a group project this month. Bring a couple of your designs and your metallic threads to see what you can create. For more information please call Joan at 863-467-0290 or Corry at 863-467-2231.

Obituary

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.

Cynthia E. Lamb, 74

BUCKHEAD RIDGE — Cynthia E. Lamb, of Buckhead Ridge, died March 11, 2009, at her home. She was 74.

She was born Oct. 24, 1934, in Fall River, Mass.

She was preceded in death by her brothers, Jimmy Dowd and Buddy Dowd; and sister, Beatrice Arrants.

She is survived by her husband, Blake C. Lamb Jr. of Buckhead Ridge; daughter, Cheryl Lamb of West Palm Beach; two sons, Craig Lamb of West Palm Beach and Mark Lamb (Julie) of Venice; two sisters, Shirley Varanese of Fall River, Mass. and Phyllis Panchley of Hobe Sound; and her brother, Stephen Dowd of Oswego, N.Y.

Memorial services will be held at a later date.

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

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

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Teen

Continued From Page 1

Brewer was charged as an adult, he was being treated as a juvenile and was held in a specific housing area for juveniles.

"At this point I have found no suicide note, and there is no evidence of foul play," said Detective Ted Van Deman of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), who is the lead investigator on the case. "Brewer was alone in his cell and the other inmates were in their cells."

Detective Van Deman explained that when dinner was being served Tuesday, Brewer did not respond to get his meal.

A corrections officer then asked another inmate to tell Brewer it was meal time. When the inmate went to the teen's cell he found Brewer's body.

An arrest report by OCSO Detective Rosemary Farless indicates that Brewer was arrested for twice threatening his 15-year-old girlfriend with a semi-automatic handgun. On one occasion he threatened the victim and held the gun to her head. The second charge stemmed from him holding the gun to the victim's side.

Mr. White said it's not unusual for someone of Brewer's age to be bound over for adult court.

He went on to state that since 2001, when he became the jail administrator, there have been no other suicides. An inmate did re-

cently die in the jail, but that was due to a medical issue.

Both Mr. White and Detective Van Deman said if there are indications an inmate is contemplating suicide then precautions are taken.

"Should anybody get placed on suicide watch they are seen each week by a psychiatric nurse," Mr. White said.

The inmate is also placed on suicide watch and is housed differently.

"In suicide watch, they take away all the inmate's stuff and all they have is a gown -- a suicide shroud. They have no blankets or sheets and they must stay in the shroud as long as they are on suicide watch," explained Detective Van Deman.

Mr. White said there also was no indication that Brewer "had any problem with drugs."

According to records, Brewer is the second inmate at the county jail to commit suicide in the county jail in recent years. Donald R. Grice was found dead in his cell on Sept. 1, 1992. Grice had been found guilty on Aug. 28, 2002, of two counts of premeditated first-degree murder in what was known as the Ivory Cue murders.

Following his conviction Grice, then 40, was placed on suicide watch in the special cell so that corrections officers could watch him. However, according to state law, the bathroom area had to be partitioned so that inmates had some privacy.

Queen

Continued From Page 1

Donny Arnold is pageant director. Leslie Stokes is the pageant coordinator, training the girls to put on an exciting show, titled "That Girl" which will begin at 7 p.m.

The Leslie's Dance Studio dancers will perform throughout the evening. Emcees for the pageant are David Lee and Bridgette Waldau. Rafael Pacheco, of Creations in Fotografia is the pageant's official photographer.

While the pageant for the general public begins at 7 p.m., the competition begins earlier in the day with individual interviews with a team of well-qualified out of town judges. The on-stage judging will include evening gown and swim suit competitions. The young ladies will also be questioned on stage as a part of the final determination of who will have the honor of becoming the 2009 Miss Okeechobee County Fair.

The winner and finalists will receive a number of prizes and awards will also be presented to "Miss Photogenic" and "Miss Congeniality." This year will also include a business achievement award.

"This is more than just a beauty pageant," Donny Arnold says. "We are looking for a girl who is proud of her accomplishments and her community."

Mary Kathleen Barber, 2008 Miss Okeechobee County Fair, represented Okeechobee with great style and grace, not only at the Miss Florida Teen USA pageant but also around the state and our community. You can follow her busy year on the Okeechobee County Fair's website, www.okeechobeeountyfair.com.

The 2009 contestants for the Miss Okeechobee County Fair are, in alphabetical order: Megan Christine Clements; LeeAnn Elizabeth Davis; Miranda Lindsay DuBois; Valerie Lynn McKee; Alexandria Taylor Ming; Erin Mariah Moore; Cassandra Leigh Murray; Brittany Marie Nethers; Dianna Marie Rodriguez; and Kathleen Alexander Turner.

Megan Clements is 16 years old and a junior at Okeechobee High School (OHS). She plans to attend Duke University in North Carolina where she will attend pre-med school and become a forensic pathologist/coroner.

LeeAnn Davis is 15 years old and a sophomore at OHS. She plans to attend the University of South Florida where she will pursue a masters degree in zoology, with bachelors degrees in psychology and animal behavior with a minor in dance. After

college she hopes to become an Orca researcher at a Dolphinarium facility.

Miranda DuBois is 17 years old and a Senior at OHS. She plans to attend Indian River State College (IRSC) to finish her associate degree and then continue into a registered nursing program, where she can learn and pursue her dream job of becoming an obstetrician.

Valerie McKee is 16 years old and a junior at OHS. After she graduates, she has aspirations to become a Florida FFA State Officer, serving as an agricultural ambassador and traveling to schools across the state. She hopes to use the scholarships that she receives through FFA to attend Florida State University or University of Florida to major in communications, which will aid her in her ultimate goal and dream of becoming a Christian inspirational author and speaker.

Alexandria Ming is a 15 year old sophomore at OHS. She plans to attend IRSC to attain her associate degree and then transfer to a university which will best prepare her for a career in the Central Intelligence Agency.

Erin Moore is a 17 year old junior at OHS. She plans to attend the University of Florida to obtain a degree in business. She would like to buy a sell shoes all over the world for major businesses.

Cassandra Murray is 17 years old and a senior at OHS. After graduation she plans on continuing to college to pursue a degree to become an anesthesiologist.

Brittany Nethers is a 19 year old who graduated from OHS in 2008. She plans to attend school in Virginia at the School of Equisage Home Study to become certified in equine and also canine massage.

Dianna Rodriguez is a 19 year old who graduated from OHS in 2007. She is currently a junior in college at Palm Beach Atlantic University where she is pursuing her doctoral degree in pharmacy. She wants to use her degree working in retail and research pharmacy.

Kathleen Turner is 17 years old and a junior at OHS. She plans to attend Florida State University where she hopes to be a member of the FSU Marching Chiefs Band while pursuing a dual major in literature and psychology. She plans to return to Okeechobee after college to work as a Christian Psychiatrist.

These ten young ladies will vie for the title of 2009 Miss Okeechobee County Fair. Come enjoy the show that these young ladies will put on tonight, Friday, March 13, at 7 p.m.

Prom dresses available for high school students

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

As the date of the high school prom nears, parents and other caregivers of students are beginning to prepare for the season.

With all the items involved, the costs add up quickly. Girls typically purchase dresses, shoes, costume jewelry, corsage and/or boutonniere as well as other accessories.

Some girls will have their hair done by professionals as well.

Dresses have such a range of costs depending on where the dress is purchased. Consignment shops typically carry prom dresses that could be as low as \$50; larger retail or formal bridal boutiques carry dresses that could cost as much as \$2,000 or more.

Prom dates may also include the costs of the dinner before prom and rentals of special vehicles such as limos.

With costs skyrocketing, some

girls do not have the funds available to attend prom, even without all the extras.

In response to concerns heard from her own daughter's high school age friends, three years ago Pam Chesley decided to organize a "prom dress rescue" to help girls who want to attend their high school prom but cannot afford to buy a prom dress.

Through the donations from the community to the Prom Dress Rescue, Mrs. Chesley has been able to coordinate approximately 60 dresses for girls at Okeechobee High School for prom. Mrs. Chesley is currently accepting donations of prom dresses which can be dropped off at the OHS Gatehouse at the main entrance. The fittings for dresses this year will be April 15, 16, and 17, during school hours.

The dresses are free for the students to use. Their goal is to double the number of dresses placed with students this year so

they need as many donations as possible so they will have the best selection.

Carol Bryant is on hand at the Okeechobee High School during fittings where the Prom Dress Rescue's master seamstress Judy Rowland alters the dresses as needed in order to provide the most dresses to the most girls.

These alterations allow the girls to find that perfect dress even if it isn't perfectly sized. The master seamstress has all the necessary equipment on hand with sergers, sewing machines and a variety of colors of thread to match any dress.

Spread the word to all high school age girls that this valuable resource is available to help especially in these economic times.

To make a donation, volunteer to help or more information about the program contact Pam Chesley at 863-946-2736 or 863-634-7158.

Vegetables

Continued From Page 1

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The Foster Grandparent Program is looking for more volunteers to assist in the local elementary schools and headstarts. Grandparents, both male and female, are greatly needed. There will be a spring training course in Okeechobee and there are monthly training sessions at the meetings held locally.

For information call the Area Agency on Aging at 1-866-684-5885; or go to www.myanswer-sonaging.org.

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

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

Bank joins CASTLE in the ongoing battle against child abuse

CASTLE, the premier agency for the prevention of child abuse on the Treasure Coast, is proud to announce that the National City Foundation, a charitable giving arm of the PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. (NYSE:PNC), has committed to a \$25,000 grant announced at the CASTLE STOMP OUT CHILD ABUSE "Giving Society" Breakfast on Wednesday, March 4 at the PGA Education Center in Port St. Lucie.

At this fundraising event, CASTLE launched the "Multi-Year Giving Society" where guests were given the opportunity to make a

contribution of their choice.

National City, now part of PNC, one of the original sponsors of the CASTLE organization, has a long history of financial support for the prevention of child abuse.

Through executive leadership, strategic investments and employee volunteerism, National City, now part of PNC, is helping to build strong communities and create financial opportunities for individuals, families and businesses.

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County to impose special assessment for EMS

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County Commissioners covered a wide variety of issues in a lengthy meeting on Thursday, March 12.

Retired judge and local historian William Hendry will be memorialized by having the main courtroom in the historic courthouse named after him. Commissioners voted to name the courtroom the William L. Hendry Courtroom at the request of attorney Elizabeth Maxwell representing the Okeechobee County Bar Association.

Mrs. Maxwell noted that the courtroom was used by Judge Hendry throughout his career. He had a private law practice in Okeechobee County for 27 years. He was attorney for the commissioners for 21 years and served as attorney for the City of Okeechobee for 10 years. He also served as county judge, circuit judge and chief circuit judge as well as serving in many civic and community organizations.

Mrs. Maxwell called the judge's achievements "extraordinary and exemplary."

The board spent some time discussing policies and procedures and clarifying rates at Okee Tantie Campground. There is no charge for a camper to bring in a boat and trailer. Beginning March 12, a camper who has a second boat and trailer will only be charged for one additional unit. In the past the second boat and trailer were each charged separately. Donnie Oden discussed in detail maintenance and renovation problems in the park.

Long term camper Don Abbot requested that the fish cleaning station and the pavilion be repaired. Commissioners took no action on those requests. However, rates, reservations policies and other procedures at the park

may be revised before the next season.

In a related matter, county administrator Lyndon Bonner referred to the two storm damaged boats at the park that were abandoned by their owners and offered for auction by the county. One of the boats was sold. There were no bidders for the other boat. Staff will be looking at the most feasible way of getting rid of the other boat. The purchaser of the first boat has volunteered to dispose of it at no cost to the county.

Mark Smith reported that since the last commission meeting, Okeechobee Main Street had raised \$24,750 in private donations toward their economic development program. That is 62 percent of the goal for private memberships the first year. He also said they had been donated the use of office space. Mr. Smith said they will also present their economic development program to the city council. Commissioners have not yet made a financial contribution to the program which is designed to help existing businesses and attract new businesses to the area.

In addition to fire assessments, next year it appears that county residents will have to pay a separate assessment for emergency medical services. Commissioners awarded a contract of \$40,020 to Willdan Financial Services to implement a municipal service benefit unit (MSBU) for emergency medical services/ambulance special assessment program. In addition they approved a \$19,500 contract to Nabors, Giblin and Nickerson to provide legal services related to the development and implementation of the MSBU. These contracts will be paid for from the landfill trust fund and are to be repaid with assessment funds.

Heather Encinosa of Nabors, Giblin and Nickerson noted that the assessment system was more

equitable. Everyone pays the same rate with an assessment. With ad valorem taxes, property owners that have higher valued property would pay a higher share of the cost.

"We are going in the hole on EMS by leaps and bounds," stated commissioner Noel Chandler.

In her financial update deputy county administrator Robbie Chartier noted that incomes from sales tax, building permits and impact fees are less than anticipated. At the next meeting commissioners will be presented with specific recommendations for cutting the budget. Staff has been directed to put together a letter to constitutional officers asking them to reduce their budgets also.

In other action, the board:
• changed the name of that section of N.E. 128th Ave. between S.R. 70 and N.W. 120th Ave. to honor the late George Goodbread;
• agreed to sponsor the state high school rodeo finals June 18-24 at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic center;
• discussed but took no action on adopting a new position of

road maintenance technician for the road department;

- conducted an executive session to discuss pending litigation with American Drilling Services;
- proclaimed March 12 to be Make a Wish Foundation of Southern Florida Day in Okeechobee County;
- proclaimed March 29 to be Children's Day in Okeechobee County;
- proclaimed April 5 to be Parents and Children's Day in Okeechobee County;
- proclaimed March to be American Red Cross Month in Okeechobee County;
- approved a change order granting a two week time extension on the jail emergency generator contract to begin when Florida Power & Light completes the installation of the new transformer; and

• took no action on property, liability and worker's compensation insurance coverage and continued with current coverage.

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

FWC tunes up its Web site

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has revamped its Web site, MyFWC.com.

"It's more of a reorganization of the site as opposed to a redesign," said the FWC's Scott Ball, who led the editorial side of the project. "We've reorganized the content according to subject matter and added a few other features to make the site easier to navigate."

The new home page menu reflects the arrangement of content into 14 topic-based sections, compared to 24 before the change. And by placing their mouse pointer over any of those

items, visitors will be able to see a sub-menu of topics found within that section.

Other pages now feature "breadcrumbs" (helpful links to enable visitors to return to related pages), and all pages now have a left-hand menu to improve navigation.

To help users get acquainted with the new site, a reference page outlines the basic organizational structure with links to the main sections and sub-sections. Go to MyFWC.com and look for "The new MyFWC.com" in the Quick Clicks box.

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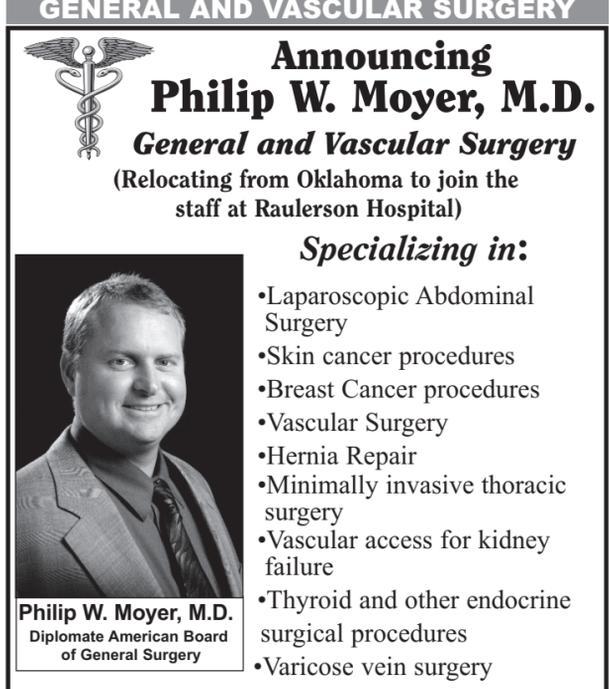
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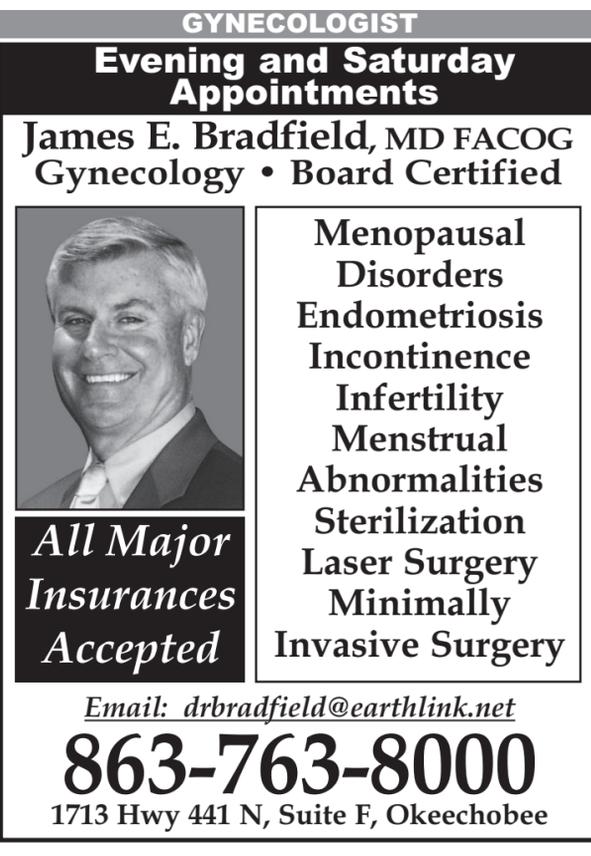
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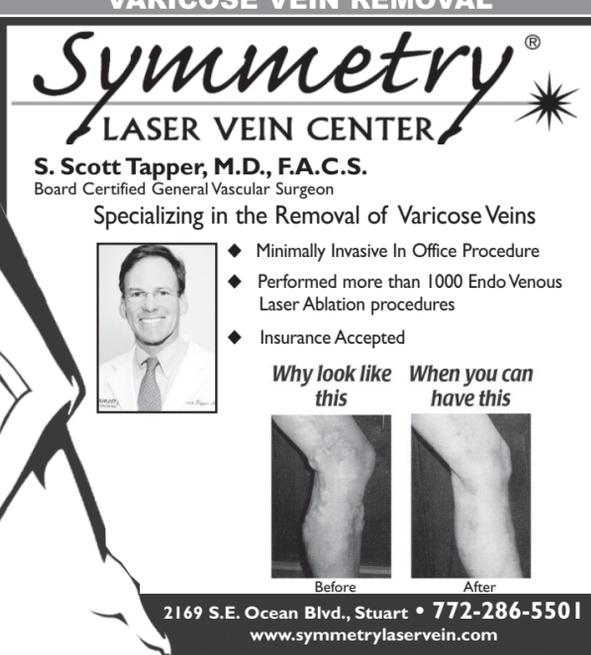
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Suncoast upsets Lady Brahmans softball team

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

For the past several years Okeechobee High School and Jensen Beach High School have dominated their district in girls softball. Now it appears that Suncoast wants to join the party.

"Were ready to join, were ready to be in the mix," Lady Chargers Coach Kari Williams said after her team shut out Okeechobee, 4-0, at the Lady Brahmans field on Tuesday night.

Lindsey Harris pitched a five hitter for the shutout and Suncoast got off to a good start with two quick runs to stun the Lady Brahmans, (5-5). Suncoast has beaten three teams ranked in the Top 10 of the Palm Beach Post Softball rankings. They are now 8-3 on the season. Both teams are 2-1 in district play.

Veronica Alred was 3 for 3 with a double and two runs scored for Suncoast. Hannah Cohn was 2 for 4 with a double and three runs batted in.

Brahmans Coach Kim Hargraves said her team is currently struggling at the plate. She noted her girls hit Harris hard in the fall and she's not sure why they didn't Tuesday night, "We are playing guessing games at the plate and were not comfortable. The girls are beating themselves up a little bit for whatever reason right now. The only thing we can do is teach them fundamental softball."

Okeechobee had their chances to score but just couldn't get the big hit. In the fourth Emily McCullough led off with a hard hit single and LeAnna Cotton reached on an infield single. However,

Harris struck out Emily Bosworth and Courtney Wilson and Cotton was gunned down trying to steal second base.

Cohn's single drove home Monica Alvarez with an insurance run in the fifth. Ashtyn Brown made a nice play for Okeechobee when she grabbed a line drive and turned it into a double play.

Alred made an exceptional defensive play in the fifth behind the plate. Victoria Blevins hit a foul pop that wasn't very far off the ground. Alred dove for the ball near the fence and made a great catch to keep her team fired up.

"For three years we've been trying to beat this team. It's a good win for us. We pitched well and we hit the ball well. It was a great team effort, an all around effort by everybody," Coach Williams noted.

Okeechobee got runners on in the fifth and sixth innings as Jewel Buck walked in the fifth and Taylor Douglas ripped a double in the sixth. LeAnna Cotton tried to get a Douglas home but Harris turned a nice double play that nailed Douglas at the plate.

Coach Hargraves said her girls just need to stay positive and that there is a lot of the season left to improve and get back to the post season, "There is a full moon tonight and weird things happen. I'll tell the girls to stay optimistic and learn from this. In the district



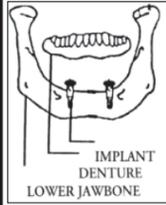
Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
LeAnna Cotton watches a foul ball during the sixth inning of Tuesday's game with Suncoast.

tournament we'll get another chance. I've seen some major upsets in district tournaments."

The Okeechobee girls next home game will be March 24 against Forest Hill. The Brahmans

annual Junior Varsity tournament will be held on Friday and Saturday at Okeechobee High School.

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

Garage/Yard Sales 0145

FREEDOM OUTREACH MINISTRY YARD SALE OKEECHOBEE, Sun., Mar. 15th 9am-7, 912 NW 2nd St. (2 blocks west of the Gate Shoppe on NW 2nd St.) Furniture, Clothes, Tools, Toys, Electronics, H/H Items...

Garage/Yard Sales 0145

OAK PARK 3548 SW 20th Street Sat. 3/14, 7a-12p. Exercise, lawn equip., Household, boys clothes & MORE!!

Garage/Yard Sales 0145

SUPER YARD SALE - Dawn to noon only, SAT- 3/14, 1881 SE 24th Blvd. Taylor Creek Isles.

Services 400

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

Caregivers

WANTED COMPANION/CARE-TAKER for ambulatory elderly lady. Need one for live-in arrangement in comfortable home in gated adult community in SW Okeechobee. Room and board, plus salary. Also need part-time companions to relieve the live in care taker a few days a week. Start in April. Only mature female applicants considered. Must provide references and pass background check. Call (863)467-5553. Leave message if no answer.

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

Top Soil

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

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
Music 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

Livestock 0855

Miniature zebu cows, 3 bulls and 2 heifers. Good for small acreages. Call to see (863) 801-4417 or (561) 352-3015

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

Golf Clubs/Equipment 0618

CLUB CAR, 1997- New paint, batteries & tires w/folding windshield & charger \$1800 (863)253-2617

CLUB CAR FOUR SEATER - 2000, w/folding windshield & lights, charger \$2,650 (863)253-2617

Health & Reducing Equipment 0620

POWDER COATED STEEL WEIGHTS, TOTAL 65 LBS. \$40 (863)801-1272

Miscellaneous 0655

IONIZERS - 2 - Like new, black tower model. \$175 (863)763-3932

Large Musical Carousell with table \$200 (772)205-0121

WATER SYSTEM - Complete, 1.5hp pump, water softener, Pressure tank. New \$1250. Asking \$650. (863)763-3932

Television 0715

THREE Color 27" TVs - \$40 each. FIRM (863)610-0685

Tools 0725

METAL LATHE - 6"x18" Manual feed with lots of tooling. Very good shape. \$450 (863)357-5754

Wanted To Buy 0740

FLORIDA ART - A.E. Backus, H. Newton, A. Hair, G. Buckner, Highwaymen Big \$\$ (772)562-5567

WANTED: 3 Wheeled bicycle (863)467-4567

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

Wanted: FLORIDA ART

A.E. Backus, H. Newton, BIG \$\$ (772)562-5567

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

Roommate 0950

FEMALE looking for female roommate for house in Oak-park. \$325/mo. All utils. incl. Call 863-261-5789

Rooms To Rent 0955

OKEE, Furnished Rm. Single occ., private entrance, w/d. \$140/wk & deposit, utils incl. (863)763-7331 leave msg.

Waterfront Rentals 0965

TREASURE ISLAND - 3BR, 2BA, with shed. \$800 move in. \$750/month. Call 863-824-0981

Houses - Rent 0930

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

Rentals 900

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

Apartments 0905

BEAUTIFUL SAMANTHA'S GARDEN APTS - In Town, 2br/2ba, W/D, \$850 mo. + \$500. sec. (863)634-5780

KINGS BAY - (Two) 2/2, \$695 per mo 1st & last, no pets. (863)763-7301 or (863) 697-1623

Condos/Townhouses Rent 0920

BY OWNER: 3/1.5 CBS Desirable S.W. area 2204 SW 3rd Ave. (\$124,500) (863)357-8305

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

Lots - Sale 1045

5 Acres - 5 minutes north of town off 441, cleared \$79,900.00 (561)801-3002

Waterfront Property 1080

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

Mobile Homes 2000

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

Mobile Home Rent 2015

BEST VALUE 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

CABIN - 1/1, \$525. MO + Sec & elec.

also 1/1 RV, BHR \$400 mo. + Sec & elec. 55+ Comm (863)763-7164

MOBILE HOME - 1BR/1BA, all util.

\$650 mo. 863-763-2098 or (863)610-1092

Houses - Rent 0930

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

Real Estate 1000

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

Farms - Sale 1020

TEN ACRE RANCH - 3/2 MH, 7 stall barn, RV incl, cross fenced, \$162,000 MUST SELL, Bank owned, call agent (863)697-0288

Houses - Sale 1025

BY OWNER: 3/1.5 CBS Desirable S.W. area 2204 SW 3rd Ave. (\$124,500) (863)357-8305

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5 Acres - 5 minutes north of town off 441, cleared \$79,900.00 (561)801-3002

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Lots - Sale 1045

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Farms - Sale 1020

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

CHEVROLET CAVALIER 1996 - good condition \$900/ or best offer. (863)634-6843

TOYOTA SCION XB 2005 - 4-cyl. air bags, 1 owner, p/w, a/c, auto. CD, p/w, tinted windows 30MPG \$10000. (863)983-5357

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

Automobiles 4040

TWO STOCK CARS - One 1979 Malibu and one 1979 Z28 Camaro \$2400 for both or will separate. (772)923-7096

USED CUSTOM RIMS - 20" \$700 call (863)697-3524

Automobiles 4040

DEISEL DODGE RAM - 1992, 5 speed, extra tires, excellent condition, \$3000 neg (863)763-5253

Public Notice 5005

Public Notices 5005

Public Notice 5005
State Public - Legal Notice 5500

Public Notice 5005

IN THE CIRCUIT OF THE 19th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
 CIVIL DIVISION
 CASE NO.: 08-CA-669

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 ACRES, AN UNRECORDED PLAT PREPARED BY LEON H. WILLIS, COUNTY 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

312707 ON 3/6,13/09

Public Notice 5005

COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT REQUEST FOR BIDS ON DRAINAGE DITCH AND CULBERT INSTALLATION WORK

SEALED BIDS, IN DUPLICATE, THAT MUST BE PLAINLY MARKED ON THEIR EXTERIOR AS A "BID ON DRAINAGE DITCH AND CULBERT INSTALLATION WORK" WILL BE RECEIVED BY COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT AT THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT'S ACCOUNTANT WICKS, BROWN, WILLIAMS & CO., 504 NW FIFTH AVENUE, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972 (PHONE 863-763-2354) UNTIL 5:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, E.S.T. APRIL 14, 2009, THEN OPENED. HOWEVER, THE BIDS MAY NOT BE ANNOUNCED AT THE OPENING NOR WILL COPIES OF THE BIDS THEN BE PROVIDED TO ATTENDING BIDDERS.

THE OWNER FOR THE WORK IS THE COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT AND ALL CONTRACT AND TECHNICAL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MELVIN BYARS, C/O THE DISTRICT'S ACCOUNTANT WICKS, BROWN, WILLIAMS & CO. AT THE ADDRESS SHOWN ABOVE OR BY CALLING (863)634-4293.

A PERSON OR AFFILIATE WHO HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE CONVICTED VENDOR LIST FOLLOWING A CONVICTION FOR A PUBLIC ENTITY CRIME MAY NOT SUBMIT A BID ON A CONTRACT WITH A PUBLIC ENTITY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR REPAIR OF A PUBLIC BUILDING OR PUBLIC WORK. MAY NOT BE AWARDED OR PERFORM WORK AS A CONTRACTOR, SUPPLIER, SUBCONTRACTOR, OR CONSULTANT UNDER A CONTRACT WITH ANY PUBLIC ENTITY, AND MAY NOT TRANSFER BUSINESS WITH ANY PUBLIC ENTITY IN EXCESS OF THE THRESHOLD AMOUNT PROVIDED IN SECTION 287.017, FLORIDA STATUTES, FOR CATEGORY TWO FOR A PERIOD OF 36 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF BEING PLACED ON THE CONVICTED VENDOR LIST. PROOF OF LIABILITY AND WORKMAN COMPENSATION INSURANCE MUST BE PROVIDED.

NO BIDS MAY BE WITHDRAWN FOR A PERIOD OF 60 DAYS AFTER THE SCHEDULED CLOSING DATE FOR THE RECEIPT OF BIDS.

BIDDERS SHOULD ANTICIPATE THAT OWNER MAY NEGOTIATE SOME OR ALL OF THE ASPECTS OF A BID WITH ONE OR MORE OF THE BIDDERS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE LOWEST NEGOTIATED PRICE AND MAY AWARD A CONTRACT TO ONE OR MORE BIDDERS.

THE OWNER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE INFORMALITIES, AND TO RE-ADVERTISE.

THERE WILL BE A MANDATORY PRE BID CONFERENCE HELD AT THE DISTRICT SITE LOCATED AT 17429 NW 242ND STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972, ON TUESDAY MARCH 31, 2009 AT 9:00 A.M..

THE BID WILL BE FOR A ONE YEAR PERIOD, BUT THE OWNER RESERVES THE OPTION TO RENEW THE BIDS FOR ADDITIONAL YEARS AT THE BOARD'S DISCRETION. THE BOARD'S ENGINEER WILL BE PRESENT AT THE PRE BID CONFERENCE TO EXPLAIN ALL DETAILS AND SPECIFICATIONS ON THE PROJECT.

WILLARD M. BYARS
 CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 17429 NW 242ND STREET
 OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972
 (863)634-4293
 313529 ON 3/13,20/09

NOTICE OF HEARING OKEECHOBEE COUNTY CODE ENFORCEMENT SPECIAL MAGISTRATE

The Okeechobee County Special Magistrate will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. The public meeting will be held at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, located at 1728 N.W. 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida. For more information, contact Faye Huffman at the Planning and Development Department, 499 N.W. 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, (863) 763-5548 ext. 3001.

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

Faye Huffman, Secretary to the Code Enforcement Special Magistrate
 313404 ON 3/13,15/09

CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Okeechobee will meet in Regular Session on **Tuesday, March 17, 2009, 6:00 p.m.** at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. A copy of the agenda will be available on our website at www.cityofokeechobee.com or contact City Administration at (863) 763-3372 x 212.

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

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

By: James E. Kirk, Mayor
 Lane Gamietto, CMC, City Clerk
 312586 ON 3/13/09

Pickup Trucks 4050

CHEVY - 1951, Complete 350 Camaro eng & trans, needs hooked up. Body Mint \$3800 (863)801-9136

DODGE THUNDER ROAD HEMI 2005 - Loaded, 1 owner, V-8 Hemi w/chip Flowmaster exhaust dark tinted windows 20" factory chrome wheels SLT package \$13400. (863)983-5357

Public Notice 5005

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO SELL

1992 Norris Craft Boat No motor or trailer. Vessel abandoned in 2003 and is for sale for what is owed on the bill. The sale will be on the 11th day of May, 2009 at Lakeshore Marine, Inc. 313457 ON 3/13/09

READING A NEWSPAPER MAKES YOU A MORE INFORMED AND INTERESTING PERSON.

No wonder newspaper readers are more popular!

Public Notice 5005

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD003

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that DONALD C. MOONEY the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 3444 Year of Issuance: May-30-2002

Description of Property: COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 17, THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 57 MINUTES 33 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE SOUTHERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID SECTION 17 A DISTANCE OF 180.00 FEET TO A POINT LYING ON THE EASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF N.E. 64TH AVENUE; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 07 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 2,848.32 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 08 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 800.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 08 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 112.30 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 07 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 100.00 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 08 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 112.30 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 07 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 100.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 08 SECONDS EAST PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH BOUNDARY LINE OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF SAID SECTION 17 FOR A DISTANCE OF 800.00 FEET FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 08 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 112.30 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 00 DEGREES 04 MINUTES 22 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 100.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 08 SECONDS EAST PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH BOUNDARY LINE OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF SAID SECTION 17 FOR A DISTANCE OF 800.00 FEET FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 08 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 112.30 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 00 DEGREES 04 MINUTES 22 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 100.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING LYING IN AND COMPRISING A PART OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 36 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ALSO KNOWN AS LOT 141-D, FOUR SEASONS ESTATES, AN UNRECORDED SUBDIVISION 1-17-57-36-040-00003-140D Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed: MICHAEL GRANT

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Court, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida at 10:00 A.M., on the 16th day of April, 2009.

SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
 Okeechobee County, Florida
 /s/ Robin R. Parrish

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990: In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770 311632 ON 3/13,20,27,4/3/09

Public Notice 5005

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD001

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that SAMMY HANCOCK the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 2649 Year of Issuance: May-30-2002

Description of Property: WHISPERING PINES HEIGHTS LOT 12 1-04-37-35-0020-00000-0120 Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed: PAULA OCHOA

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Court, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida at 10:00 A.M., on the 16th day of April, 2009.

SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
 Okeechobee County, Florida
 /s/ Robin R. Parrish

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990: In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770 311630 ON 3/13,20,27,4/3/09

Public Notice 5005

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD002

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that ABDUL M CUMBER REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST 50 PERCENT AND the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 3487 Year of Issuance: May-30-2002

Description of Property: TALL PINES ESTATES LOT 22 1-18-37-36-0010-00000-0220 Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed: ALICE GOINS MICHAEL GOINS

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Court, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida at 10:00 A.M., on the 16th day of April, 2009.

SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
 Okeechobee County, Florida
 /s/ Robin R. Parrish

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990: In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770 311631 ON 3/13,20,27,4/3/09

TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Technical Review Committee of the City of Okeechobee will meet in Regular Session on **Thursday, March 19, 2009, at 10:00 a.m.**, City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. A copy of the agenda will be available on our website www.cityofokeechobee.com, or contact the General Services Department (863) 763-3372 x 216.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that if any person desires to appeal any decision made by the Technical Review Committee 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 are used for the sole purpose of back-up for the General Services Office.

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

By: Brian Whitehall, City Administrator
 Betty Clement, General Services Coordinator
 312593 ON 3/13/09

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ANSWER:

SUDOKU

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Level: Beginner

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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!

Girls tennis team defeats Sharks

By Charles M. Murphy
 Okeechobee News

Okeechobee High School's Girls Tennis Team continued their strong start with a 5-2 home victory over Sebastian River on Tuesday.

Senior Kari Berger defeated Kasey Cambelle 6-3, 6-3 to set the tone for Okeechobee. She served well, limited her unforced errors, and won some long rallies with Cambelle on a hot afternoon.

"I worked hard in the off season to improve. It's all timing for me. If you don't play for a long time your timing goes away. I just had to work harder at it," she noted.

Both sets were competitive as Berger led from the start. She held most of her serves and was able to break Cambelle once in each set to get the victory. She also unveiled a drop shot to win a nice point early in the second set. "It was a good match. She made

some good shots that made me run. I think were off to a really good start this year. I'm really pleased. Hopefully we will do well in districts."

Berger has lost just one match this year, (4-1).

Shaina Ragamat also is off to a good start this year. She defeated Allison Brombach, 6-1, and 6-3 in a strong performance Tuesday. Ragamat said it was a fun match and that she tried to reach as many balls as she could, "I focused on keeping more balls in play today. It was hot but I tried to not to let the heat get to me. I've improved a lot."

Ragamat moved up three slots in the depth chart this year from number five in 2008, to number two this year. She actually is enjoying a better record this year than she did last year.

"It was a big transition for me but it felt good to be number two and

winning. We are doing really well as a team. I thought with so many seniors leaving we'd have trouble this year, but we're doing really well," she added.

Ragamat said her goal is to be a district champion this year. She improved her match record to (5-1) Tuesday.

In other matches Alisha Wilcox of Okeechobee defeated Gage Ziehm, 6-4, 6-2. The doubles teams of Berger and Katie Walker defeated Brombach and Katelyn Ward 8-6, while the team of Shaina Ragamat and Wilcox defeated Kiara Touro and Sarah Hoffman, 8-0.

Sebastian River's Natalie Wolff defeated Katie Walker 6-2, 6-3, and Sebastian's Katelyn Ward defeated Katherine Ragamat, 6-4, 6-2 in other single's matches.

Okeechobee hosted Clewiston on Thursday. The girls also travel to Sebring on Monday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Shaina Ragamat is off to a great start this year.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Kari Berger had more weapons in her arsenal than her Sebastian River opponent and has slid nicely into the top seed this year.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Shaina Ragamat has been a strong number two seed for Okeechobee this year.



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar
Weightlifter qualifies
 The Okeechobee High School girls weightlifter from Okeechobee Freshman Campus Angelina Cardenas (left) was honored for her efforts qualifying for state competition from Mrs. Revels (center) and Mrs. Wiersma (right).

Boys tennis remains unbeaten

By Charles M. Murphy
 Okeechobee News

Okeechobee High School's Boys Tennis Team improved to (6-0) with victories over John Carroll and Sebastian River in boys tennis in the past week.

Coach Bryan VanCamp is off to a flying start as the new coach for OHS. He noted the John Carroll match on March 4, was a real test for all of his kids. Okeechobee won the match 4-3.

"Every match was very competitive. I'm thrilled that we didn't back down from the challenge. They boys have great character, and their team spirit was evident in the way they cheered for each other in doubles."

Corey White defeated Mateo Abandano 8-5 in the number one seed match. Zach Fowler also remained unbeaten with an 8-2 victory over D.J

Osgood. Alex Nielson also won his match 8-5 over Dominic Chotes. John Carroll made it interesting by winning the fourth and fifth seed singles matches. Nick DeCrescenzo defeated Max Norman 8-1 and Santiago Abondoro defeated Austin Willard 8-3.

Okeechobee clinched the match in doubles as White and Fowler teamed up to defeat Abandano and Chotes 8-1. John Carroll won the other doubles match behind Osgood and DeCrescenzo, 8-5, over Okeechobee's Nielson and Norman.

March 10, the boys opened their district schedule with an impressive victory over Sebastian River, 6-1. White and Fowler remained unbeaten in singles, and Okeechobee won all five singles matches.

"It was nice to finally get a district game under our belt," Coach VanCamp said, "We're heading into the toughest and most important part of

the season with several district matches in the coming weeks. Max Norman played very well on Tuesday. I expect him to play a big role in any success we have in district play."

White defeated William Kreigh 6-0, 6-2 and Fowler swept Alex Fajardo 6-0, 6-0. Alex Nielson won in straight sets over Camron Ray 6-4, 6-2, and Max Norman defeated Jeffrey Price, 6-3, 6-3. Kyle Lunt and Justin Hoover played additional singles matches and swept their opponents, 6-0, 6-0.

Okeechobee's only loss came as Jonathan Hudoff and Chris Wegman, a replacement doubles squad, lost to Kreigh and Fajardo, 8-4. The team of Nielson and Norman won their match, 8-2, over Price and Wolff.

The boys tennis team hosted Clewiston on Thursday. The boy's travel to Sebring on Monday and Port St. Lucie on Tuesday.

Public Notice 5005

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
 Case No.: 2009-CP-28
 Division: Probate

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF RICHARD A. BEGIN, Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE: You are hereby notified that an Order of Summary Administration has been entered in the estate of RICHARD A. BEGIN, deceased, Case Number 2009-CP-28, by the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 North West 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972; that the decedent's date of death was January 2, 2009; that the total value of the estate is 7,800.00, and that the names and addresses of those to whom it has been assigned by such order are:

NAME & ADDRESS
 Cheryl Uhler
 1110 North Meridian Street
 Lebanon, IN 46052-1810

Karen Shannon
 125 Falling Creek Drive
 Thomasville, NC 27360

Jeffrey Begin
 2927 Center Street
 Okeechobee, FL 34974

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT: All creditors of the estate of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent other than those for whom provision for full payment was made in the Order of Summary Administration must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE. ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER APPLICABLE TIME PERIOD, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this Notice is March 13, 2009.

Person Giving Notice: Alice Kay Begin

Attorney for Person Giving Notice: JEFFREY A. FADLEY, P.A. Fla. Bar No.: 035667
 Attorney for Petitioner: 807 South West 2nd Avenue Okeechobee, FL 34974 Telephone: (863)763-5733 Facsimile: (863)763-6199 313306 ON 03/13,20/09



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar
Soccer players honored
 The Okeechobee High School Boys Varsity Soccer team (left to right) Pablo Caballero, Raunel Denova, Reynel Denova, Jose Santibanez, Ivan Torres, Misael Alvarado, Matt Bauer and (not pictured) Raziel Castillo and Alan Najera were honored for being the district runner-ups for this season.



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar
Wrestling team honored
 The Okeechobee High School Varsity Wrestling Team was honored along with Coach Jauner (far right) at the Okeechobee School Board meeting for their various accomplishments as follows: (left to right) Donald Bush, District champion for four consecutive years, first in regionals, advanced to state competition all four years; Craig Cleckly, advanced to regionals; Tony Bowers, advanced to regionals; Mitchell Dean, advanced to regionals; Josh Gruber, district champion, fourth in regionals, advanced to state competition; and Tyler Hayes, district champion for four consecutive years, third in regionals, advanced to state competition all four years.

Boys lose heart breaker to Forest Hill

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Forest Hill's Dixon Llorens and Okeechobee's Dustin Stokes traded zeros on the scoreboard Tuesday as the two pitchers battled in an impressive baseball duel that Forest Hill won in extra innings, 2-1.

Not even a dramatic two-out seventh inning homerun by Jonathan Crawford, which sent the game into extra innings, could pull out a victory for Okeechobee, (4-6). Forest Hill won for only the second time in eight decisions, (2-6).

Stokes, who officially signed with Indian River State College after the game, and Llorens were dominant all night. The only run against either in the first six innings came as the result of a throwing error by Brahmans catcher Adam Tewksbury. Okeechobee was victimized by four errors on the night.

Brahmans Coach Dylan Tedders said he isn't surprised that every district game has been close so far. "This is the way I expect this district to be. I expect the games to be close with one swing of the bat — the difference between winning and losing."

Okeechobee had their chances but couldn't come through. In the eighth they had runners on second and third with nobody out. Brandon Farless reached on an error and pinch runner Kerwin Givens raced to third on a bunt double by Jake Davenport. Llorens bore down and struck out pinch hitter Brant Harden, Drew Selvey and Brice Buckner, to get out of the jam.

"We had our chances. We need the big hit and we didn't get it. No one is going to let you down and give something up, you have to earn it," Tedders noted.

Eddy DeJesus RBI double broke the 1-1 tie in the ninth against Brahma reliever Brice Buckner. It was Buckner's first appearance of the year on the mound following a bout with elbow tendonitis.

"One game doesn't make or break us. We got great pitching tonight from Stokes. He appears to be back to form. It was definitely a disappointment



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Dustin Stokes signs a letter of intent to play for Indian River State College as IRSC Coach O'Brien, High school principal Toni Wiersma and his parents look on.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Dustin Stokes allowed just an unearned run in eight innings on Tuesday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Jonathan Crawford is mobbed at home plate after his game-tying homerun Tuesday night.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Cameron Tewksbury slaps a tag on Mike Martinez of Forest Hill during the second inning of Tuesday's game.

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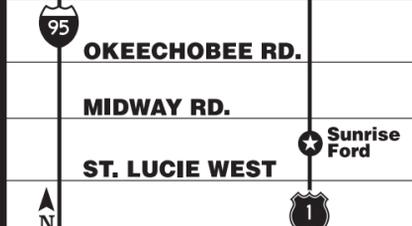
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