



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 100 No. 37

Friday, March 27, 2009

50¢ Plus tax

Briefs

Baby falls into pool; rushed to hospital

A 16-month-old boy was rushed to a West Palm Beach hospital after he fell into a swimming pool at his home in the Four Seasons Subdivision Thursday.

According to Detective Ted Van Deman, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), the boy and his 3-year-old sister got out of the back door of their home around 1 p.m. Thursday, March 26. They then made their way through a child safety device and climbed onto a deck on the pool.

The boy then fell into the pool, he said.

Detective Van Deman said the child's mother was in a bathroom inside the home at the time. When the baby fell into the pool, his sister went into the home and got her mother, added the detective.

He said the mother pulled her baby out of the pool and began performing CPR on him until medical personnel from the Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue Department arrived and took over.

The OCSO detective said the child was taken to Raulerson Hospital, then airlifted to St. Mary's Hospital around 3:15 p.m.

As of newspaper deadline, there was no information released on the child's condition.

Pet Rescue to hold adoption event

Humane Society Pet Rescue, FL, Inc. of Okeechobee will hold a "Babies only" adoption event on Saturday, March 28, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Tractor Supply parking lot at the Publix Plaza. If you are searching for that "purr-fect" puppy or kitty, come and take a "furry" baby home. For more information, please call 863-532-1110.

Plat books now available

The 2009 Okeechobee County plat books have arrived. They may be purchased at the Okeechobee Soil & Water Conservation District office located at 452 Hwy. 98 North across the road from Superior Auto Care. If you want to have it mailed, call 863-763-3619 x 205.

Drought Index

Current: 702
Source: Florida Division of Forestry
Local Burn Ban: None

Lake Levels

12.30 feet
Last Year: 10.21 feet

Sponsored By:
 Pogeys 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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Gambling compact reviewed

Report indicates Florida will lose money at first but will see increase

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A recent study indicates that while the State of Florida needs to enter into a gaming compact with the Seminole Tribe, it may not be a financial boon to the state at its inception.

The Florida TaxWatch study states that financial gains from the compact would actually be offset by losses in other state gambling revenues from the Lottery, pari-mutuels, slot machines and card rooms. It predicts there will be losses in state sales tax revenue as well.

Still, in the long run, Florida cannot lose with the compact, the study claims.

"In the early years it's possible for the state to not come out ahead. The state will essentially be losing more money from oth-

er tax-source losses than gaining through the compact," said Robert Weissert, the director of communications and external relations for Florida TaxWatch. "But, it's impossible for the state to lose money. The final conclusion of the report is that even though there are losses because of other revenue sources declining, there's still a net increase after five years."

"There will be more money coming into Florida if they sign the compact," he added. "Of the net gain, some of the money will

probably go to the counties. But, that wasn't estimated for this report."

Basically, said Mr. Weissert, Florida TaxWatch researchers used reports and statistics from other cities and states with gaming casinos -- such as New Orleans, La., and Biloxi, Miss. -- as the basis for their report. He went on to say those figures were then "extrapolated to show what Florida would lose."

"Based on the experiences in other states, and other factors, we projected out the amount

of money otherwise gained in pari-mutuels, etc., turned in last year," explained Mr. Weissert. "It's a lengthy process to get to these numbers."

The report, written by Kurt R. Wenner, Florida TaxWatch director of tax research, states that different forms of gambling can "cannibalize" each other. This means there will be reductions in tax revenues from existing gaming due to the offering of new gaming.

See **Gambling** — Page 5

Softball: OHS girls win



Victoria Blevins takes a pitch during the first inning of Okeechobee's softball victory over Forest Hill Tuesday.

Lady Brahmans beat Forest Hill

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee girls softball got back to the .500 mark with an impressive 12-0 victory over Forest Hill Tuesday night.

A trio of pitchers, Samantha Harrell, Courtney Wilson and Taylor Douglas combined to shutout the Falcons and Okeechobee scored five times in the first and four more in the third to win a key district game.

Brahman Coach Kim Hargraves said Forest Hill (1-11), wasn't expected to provide much competition and she wanted her team to not let down against a lesser opponent.

"We don't need to lessen ourselves to that level. We need to stay upbeat and make the plays we need to make and do the fundamentals," she said.

Hargraves said her team (6-6), has a lot of work to do to raise their level of play. She said part of the problem this year has been the schedule. A couple of teams cancelled and a tournament the team was expected to play in last month also fell through. She noted



Naomi Stevens reached second base on an error as Forest Hills Rachel Hernandez (left) awaits the throw.

not playing games has hurt her team a bit. The team will play three games this week and will play in the Kissimmee Classic next week with a chance to play in as many as five games. Okeechobee is due to play Riverdale of Fort Myers in the first round. Riverdale is (14-2) this year.

Taylor Douglas got the offense off on a good start Tuesday. She ripped an RBI double inside the right field line in the

first inning to score Naomi Stevens who had reached on an infield hit to lead off the first. A three base throwing error on a ground ball by Wilson pushed across three more runs in the first.

Douglas came out of the bullpen later in the game and looked very good. As a left hander she has the potential to be the staff ace in the next

See **Brahmans** — Page 5

Tournament user fees eliminated

County hopes to attract more tournaments to Okee-Tantie and Scott Driver ramps

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

In an effort to attract more fishing tournaments, Okeechobee County Commissioners, at their meeting on Tuesday, March 25 revised policies at Okee Tantie Campground and Marina and C. Scott Driver Park.

Commissioner Margaret

Helton, who introduced the subject, said she felt those policies caused the parks to lose many fishing tournaments.

Local fisherman Mike Cramer of Lakeport and bait shop owner Greg McClain agreed.

"You are driving away tournament fishermen," asserted Mr. Cramer.

Mr. McClain stated that other places do not require liability insurance.

"You have made the process too difficult," he said.

Previously, it cost tournament fishermen \$2.50 per boat for a one day tournament at the Okee-Tantie Recreation Area

See **Fees** — Page 5

Jorje Botello named coach of the year

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Jorje Botello was named the Treasure Lake Conference Coach of the Year last month in a vote of area coaches.

Although the first year coach didn't have a great record, (4-11), he was nominated by Jensen Beach and was praised for having a respectful team with good sportsmanship.

"It's not a bad award to get considering your going up against coaches at Suncoast and Jensen Beach. It was definitely an honor to be recognized by other coaches. I was very honored and humbled to



Jorje Botello.

See **Coach** — Page 5

County supports OMS economic development

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Actions speak louder than words. Okeechobee County Commissioners backed up their verbal support of economic development by acting to commit \$75,000 to the cause.

At their meeting on Tuesday, March 24 the board voted to give \$75,000 that had been budgeted for economic development to the economic development program proposed by

Okeechobee Main Street.

The program is designed to expand local businesses and attract new businesses under the leadership of a full time economic development director. One of the goals of the program is to bring in industry that will produce products to be sold out of town to bring in new money. At first the funding would come from both private and government sources. How-

See **County** — Page 5



Submitted photo

KOA tennis tournament

KOA hosted another exciting tennis tournament this year. Pictured are the participants. Approximately 50 of the guests compete in this event. The winners are as follows: Ladies singles: first - Ghis Laine Bouchard, second - Cathy Fay, third - Pam Henderson, fourth - Helen Naylor. Men's singles: first - Ron Benson, second - Art Batemen and Jean-Jean Joly (tie), third - Bob Johnson. Mixed doubles: first - Udel Schroeder and Pam Henderson, second - Ron Benson and Pat Pfiel.

Basic training

Army National Guard Pvt. Jonathan E. Smith has graduated from Basic Combat training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission and received instruction and training exercises in drill and ceremonies, Army history, core values and traditions, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, rifle marksmanship, weapons use, map reading and land navigation, foot march-

and field maneuvers and tactics. Smith is the son of Thomas Smith IV of Royal Palm Beach, and Laura Wiggins of Okeechobee.

He is a 2003 graduate of University High School, Miami, Fla.

Local resident mobilized for Iraq deployment

Army National Guard Spec. James H. Lashley, a 1997 graduate of Okeechobee High School,

for operating base in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Operation Iraqi Freedom is the official name given to military operations involving members of the U.S. armed forces and coalition forces participating in efforts to free and secure Iraq. Mission objectives focus on force protection, peacekeeping, stabilization, security and counter-insurgency operations as the Iraqi transitional governing bodies assume full sovereign powers to govern the peoples of Iraq.

of the U.S. military and multinational forces are also assisting in rebuilding Iraq's economic and governmental infrastructure, and training and preparing Iraqi military and security forces to assume full authority and responsibility in defending and preserving Iraq's sovereignty and independence as a democracy.

Lashley, a military police member with three years of military service, is normally assigned to the 810th Military Police Company, Tampa.

eligible for pension

Many widows are not aware they may be entitled to a VA Death Pension. The Death Pension, more commonly known as a widow's pension, is an income based program through the Dept. of Veterans Affairs and is available to eligible veteran's widows.

To be eligible, the veteran must have served at least 90 days active service with at least one day during a war-time period and received a discharge under other than dishonorable conditions. The

of the veteran's death and have an income below the established maximum annual pension rate. If a widow previously applied and was denied due to income, they may reapply if their income situation has changed and there are increased out-of-pocket medical expenses — they may now possibly be entitled.

Also, veteran's widows in a nursing home may apply and a family member can assist in the application. For more information please contact the County Veterans' Service Officer, Betsy Grinslade, at 863-763-8124.



Submitted photo/Sandra Pearce

Grand Champion Swine

Shelby Kirton (center) raised the Grand Champion swine in the 2009 4H and FFA Livestock Show. At right is the Swine Judge from Ohio, Randy Shipley. At left is Miss Okeechobee Alex Ming.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Water Conservation Month

At their meeting on Tuesday, March 24, Okeechobee County Commissioners proclaimed the month of April to be Water Conservation Month in the county. Commission chairman Cliff Betts, right, presented the proclamation to Gary Ritter, head of the South Florida Water Management District's Okeechobee Service Center.



Submitted photo/Sandra Pearce

Grand Champion Swine

Shyanne Prescott (left) raised the Reserve Grand Champion swine in the 2009 4-H and FFA Livestock Show. At right is the Swine Judge from Ohio, Randy Shipley. At center is Miss Okeechobee Alex Ming.

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There's a wonderful world around us. Full of fascinating places, interesting people, amazing cultures. Important challenges. But sadly, our kids are not getting the chance to learn about their world. When surveys show that half of America's youth cannot locate India or Iraq on a map, then we have to wonder what they do know about their world. That's why we created MyWonderfulWorld.org. It's part of a free National Geographic-led campaign to give your kids the power of global knowledge. Go there today and help them succeed tomorrow. Start with our free parent and teacher action kits. And let your kids begin the adventure of a lifetime.

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Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Partly sunny with a high near 86 and winds from the south between 5 and 10 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy with a low around 68 and winds from the south southeast between 5 and 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 91 and winds from the south between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday night: Mostly cloudy with a low around 70 and a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Winds will be from the south around 10 mph.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy with a high near 79 and a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Winds will be from the west southwest around 10 mph.

Sunday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 53.

Winds will be from the west northwest around 5 mph.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Wednesday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 7-5-9; **Play 4:** 4-3-4-6; **Fantasy 5:** 4-5-6-28-35; **Mega Money:** 9-14-17-18 MB 17; **Florida Lotto:** 2-6-11-18-38-48; **Powerball:** 10-20-23-47-54 PB26 x2. Numbers drawn Thursday, **Cash 3:** 7-7-4; **Play 4:** 6-2-9-5.

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- Are All Warranty Packages The Same?
- Have You Checked The Pool Company's References?

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A woman is being held without bond in the county jail following her arrest on outstanding warrants that charge her with violating her probation on a number of charges.

Jeannie Renae Chapman, 36, S.E. 93rd Trail, Okeechobee, was first arrested at 1:45 a.m. Tuesday, March 24, on a felony charge of possession of cocaine. She was also arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and resisting a law enforcement officer without violence.

She was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$6,500.

Chapman was also arrested by Officer Justin Bernst, of the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with violation of probation - burglary of a structure and violation

of probation grand theft.

After she was booked into the county jail, Chapman was then arrested on additional Okeechobee County warrants that charge her with violation of probation - possession of carisoprodol, violation of probation - possession of hydrocodone and violation of probation - alprazolam.

Chapman is being held without bond on all of the violation of probation charges.

An OCPD arrest report by Officer Bernst states that he stopped a blue GMC sports utility vehicle in which Chapman was the passenger. However, continued the report, Chapman told the officer that her name was Melanie McCarthy.

After searching the vehicle,



Jeannie R. Chapman

Officer Bernst then reportedly searched Chapman's purse. Inside the purse he reportedly found three used syringes and a glass pipe with "... a waxy white substance." That substance was field tested and indicated a positive result for the presence of cocaine, stated the officer's report.

The officer then placed the woman under arrest and ran a check on her identification. The results of that check indicated that her real name was Jeannie Chapman.

Officer Bernst stated that the syringes will be sent to the Judicial District 19 Crime Lab in Fort Pierce for testing since no substance was visible on the inside of the syringes.

The brand name for the muscle relaxant carisoprodol is soma, and the brand name for alprazolam is xanax. Common brand names for hydrocodone include vicodin and lortab.

Teen at Level 10 charged with felony

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A teenage boy housed in the Securicor Juvenile Correctional Facility was arrested Tuesday and booked into the Okeechobee County Jail.

Burnie Wilburt Reed, 16, of Fort Lauderdale, was arrested March 24, on a felony charge of introducing contraband into a juvenile detention facility. He

was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of marijuana under 20 grams.

After being booked into the county jail, Reed was transported to the Department of Juvenile Justice Detention Center in Fort Pierce.

A report by Deputy Donald Ellis, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), states that Reed was arrested after a green leafy substance

was found in a photo album that belonged to the teen.

The substance was field tested and indicated a positive result for the presence of marijuana, continued the report.

Deputy Ellis went on to state that the approximate weight of the suspected marijuana was .2 grams.

Securicor is also known as the Level 10 facility.

Trio charged in boat, motor thefts

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

MOORE HAVEN — Three men, including two from Okeechobee, have been arrested by a Glades County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) detective in connection with the theft of a pontoon boat and an outboard motor.

Arrested in the case was Jeremy Eugene Beecham, 26, Old Lakeport Road, Lakeport; Patrick Allen Williams, 34, S.E. 34th Ave., Okeechobee; and Gerald Warren McMillan, Jr., 41, U.S. 441 S.E.

Beecham has been charged with grand theft, organized dealing in stolen property and burglary of an occupied structure. He was booked into the Glades County Jail under a bond of \$150,000.

Williams was charged with grand theft and organized dealing in stolen property. He, too, was booked into the Glades County Jail and his bond was set at \$10,000.

McMillan was also charged with grand theft and organized dealing in stolen property. However, he is being held in the Okeechobee County Jail without bond. He was arrested here on a



Jeremy E. Beecham



Patrick A. Williams



Gerald W. McMillan, Jr.

Some of the other items, including a laptop computer and two cell phones allegedly stolen by Beecham in a home burglary, have also been found.

Sgt. Harris went on to say he was helped locally by Detective Bryan Lowe of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO).

McMillan was arrested in Okeechobee on March 20, by Detective Lowe on a warrant charging him with violation of probation, which was brought about by the Glades County charges.

Department of Corrections records indicate McMillan was sentenced to prison on July 17, 2003, after being found guilty of aggravated battery with intended harm. He was released from prison on Feb. 21, 2008, and was placed on nine years probation.

Because he is jailed in Okeechobee, McMillan has yet to have his first appearance hearing in Glades County so his bond has not been set on those charges.

The Okeechobee Community Choir

under the direction of Sandy Perry, will present the 11th Annual
Easter Cantata

Alpha & Omega, along with the Holy City, Ladies' & Mens' Ensembles, an Easter Drama, Ave Maria, & Handel's Hallelujah Chorus, where audience participation is encouraged, and more!

Presented at

The First United Methodist Church
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Friday,
April 3
7PM

Saturday,
April 4
7PM

Sunday,
April 5
3PM

The 50 Voices Comprising This Season's Choir Represent Singers from Sixteen local Churches who began rehearsing in February. Selections will be accompanied on a stirring 1945 Reuter Pipe Organ or Grand Piano.

Soloists: Albert Cauilan, Melisa Eddings, Calex Esperagoza, Bob Hanson, Michael Hutchison, JoAnn Kane, Lonnie Kirsch, John Koepke, Jim Leidy, John Olsen, Anton Silva III, John Sufficool, Willard Suits, Kathryn Wilkinson, Victoria Williams, Cathy Wolford, & Mike Zierden.

VERY IMPORTANT - NEW! DUE TO STANDING-ROOM ONLY CANTATAS, A TICKET WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION. TICKETS ARE FREE AND AVAILABLE FROM MEMBERS OR CAN BE OBTAINED MON-SUN 8:30 AM-7PM FROM THE RECEPTIONIST AT OKEECHOBEE HEALTH CARE FACILITY (OHCF), 1646 HWY 441 N. IF SPACE PERMITS, ATTENDEES WITHOUT TICKETS

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3 DAYS ONLY

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Tuesday, March 31st,
Wednesday, April 1st.

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Sebastian - 1515 US Hwy 1, Ste 104
772-388-2343

Okeechobee - 3545 Hwy 441 S
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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.

Another accident on State Road 70 West

SPEEDERS: I wish the sheriff would put some traffic details on State Road 70 West for a while, especially in the mornings between 7 and 8 a.m. If you drive the speed limit, the cars will fly by you like you are standing still. In the afternoon between 5 and 6 p.m. it is also really dangerous, especially when large trucks pass in the no passing zones.

REVENUE: The city and county are missing out on some serious revenue by not doing more to curtail the speeders.

DRIVERS: I drive 70 west everyday as well and I was relieved when they put in the turning lanes. There was nothing more unnerving than watching a tractor-trailer bear down on you as you waited to turn left off of the highway. Many of the more nutty drivers are the out-of-towners passing through. Placing a trooper by the churches would do a world of good.

TICKETS: I would love it if the traffic patrol staked out State Road 70 West for awhile. Somebody needs to slow down that traffic.

Why can't we put grocery bags in recycle bins?

WONDERING: How come we can't put plastic grocery bags in the recycle bins?

IN THE WIND: Don't know the answer, but there are more of them blowing around the streets than I think go out the grocery store door every day.

RECYCLE: Plastic grocery bags Type 2 (high-density polyethylene film - HDPE) and Type 4 (low density or linear-low density polyethylene film - LDPE/LLDPE) can be recycled at your local supermarket and other locations. Once the bags are recycled, they are made into lumber, trashcan liners or plastic bags. Drop off plastic grocery bags Type 2 and Type 4 at your local grocery store, if you cannot recycle them through your curbside program. Most grocery stores will accept plastic bags and have recycling bins inside the store.

REUSE: Doesn't anyone reuse the grocery bags? I line the small wastebaskets in the house with them, put newspapers in them before putting out for the trash collectors, store things in them to keep them from getting dusty.

MORE USES: There are a lot of uses for those plastic bags. When the kids have a friend over they nearly always need a bag to put dirty or wet clothes in. If we accumulate more bags than we need, we drop some off at the thrift stores — they need always need them.

Beware of fake cops

DON'T STOP: I have instructed my girls just as my dad did to me when I was a teenager driving. On very dark roads, late at night if an unmarked police officer is behind you, and indicates that you should pull over, slow your speed, put your hazards on and call your local police department and explain the situation. Young girls get nervous very easy, especially if they are new drivers. There are a lot of dark roads in Okeechobee and it would be very easy for someone to pretend that they are an unmarked police car. By the time you pull over and realize that something is going on, it will be much more difficult to get out of the situation.

CALL FOR HELP: These days all the teenagers have cell phones. If an unmarked car is trying to get you to pull over, I think the thing to do is call 9-1-1 and tell the dispatcher what is happening. The dispatcher will know if it is a real cop or not. And if it is not a flashing blue light, don't pull over at all. All of the cops have blue lights (sometimes in combination with other colors). Don't pull over if it is just a flashing white or yellow light.

County to lay off workers

ECONOMY: I am not surprised the county has to lay off workers. There just isn't much money to go around these days. And the change in the homestead exemption rules made it even more difficult for the county to raise money. I would say county employees should be on the look out for anyone illegally claiming homestead exemption or agriculture classifications. The county needs the revenue and it could be your job that is cut next.

Energy savings policy

SAVE ELECTRICITY: To start, all light bulbs will be replaced with an energy saving device that will use no electricity. The energy saving device will not be as bright as the light bulb but it uses no electricity. You will place the energy saving device into a receptacle and light the string in the middle. This is a win-win situation. You have light and not one kilowatt of electricity is being used.

SAVINGS: How about replacing electric dryers with old fashioned clothes lines? The clothes are dried and no electricity is needed. (But you will have to use some fabric softener.)

Okeechobee County Board of Commissioners

CULVERT: If you live on a paved county maintained road and will ever in the future be replacing your home or plan to build on it you will have to pay an additional \$3,500 to \$7,000 to fix the county's land. They are demanding that you install a 30' culvert with concrete mitered ends and pave with asphalt or concrete from the road to your property. This property that you are being asked -- no TOLD -- to fix doesn't even belong to you.

NO SURPRISE: When they paved my road they took out my 30' concrete culvert and replaced it with a smaller metal one and I have had problems with flooding in my driveway ever since. When we had the hurricanes, I had to use a boat to get to my house. The biggest problem I see is that they are having their meeting during the day when many are working.

NONSENSE: It is not a new county standard that the construction of a new driveway culvert, installed in a county right-of-way, has to be a 30 ft long, 24 inch diameter, aluminum pipe with concrete mitered ends. Nor is it new that the county can authorize the alternative use of HDPE plastic pipe and pre-formed mitered ends, which is greatly less expensive. However, what is new since May 2008, is the requirement that the new driveway connection must be paved with asphalt or concrete rather than the long-standing practice of using less expensive compacted crushed shell. Is that pavement requirement really necessary, especially in rural areas? Interestingly, after one year, the driveway culvert becomes the County's responsibility to maintain and, if necessary, replace at its cost. So, this pavement requirement also makes it more expensive for the County. The county commissioners should repeal that nonsense.

RECONSIDER: The Board should also reconsider Sec. 58-39. Distinguishing county-maintained roads, which provides that "The county shall define and require different colored street signs to be used for private roads and easements as opposed to publicly maintained streets and roads." Whether or not property is located on a private or county-maintained road should be noted on land and tax records, not this comical concept of different colored street signs.

BIG PICTURE: After the last flood the county came out and redirected the water to the west just in front of my house and the two houses to the west. This was done just because the person on the end complained earlier about the water standing in the ditch too long. I have lived here a lot longer than anyone and never had a problem until now. The water is always gone in less than 24 hours, now it takes days and even weeks to go down. Thanks Okeechobee for doing such a good job messing with the drainage! Think about the whole picture not just one person.

IRONIC: I realized that we always had to put in a culvert, but unless it was on a state highway, it did not require concrete or preformed ends. It is also ironic that in this ordinance if the county has to replace the culvert that they will put shell rock back in and the landowner has the option to do concrete or asphalt.

Coming soon: A new look to an old friend

By Tom Byrd

Nothing is permanent except change. That statement is true more so today than ever before. We live in a changing world. We're all struggling to come to grips with a changing economy. Citizens are adapting to new technology that could change our lives for the better. The newspaper you're holding in your hands is also making a change. It's a major change for us, but one we're confident will be positive for our readers and advertisers. Beginning with the April 1 edition, your *Okeechobee News* may appear a little bit different to you. We will begin publishing our newspapers in the new, modern "compact" format vs. the traditional "broadsheet" format. It marks the first major format change in many years for the company and reflects a design that studies have shown is preferred by readers and advertisers alike. But no matter how you look at it, it's still your hometown newspaper!

The most noticeable difference, of course, is the size of the product. The new "compact" is smaller — but don't let its size fool you. The new "compact" offers tremendous advantages over the broadsheet and more and more newspaper companies are starting to take notice:

- The new size provides greater convenience to readers. It's easier to hold, easier to read.
- The new format allows us greater flexibility when it comes to packaging and design. We're confident you'll like the way content and features are organized and presented in next week's edition.
- Most important, the new compact will allow us to expand the use of color throughout the publication. With the new format, you'll see much more color. The pages will be more exciting and the photographs will be more vibrant.

We're also confident the new format will be attractive to our advertisers. We recognize times are tough and many businesses are struggling to survive. We are constantly in search of ways to improve our products and provide advertisers with an effective and cost-affordable way to reach consumers in their market. We think the new format gives our advertisers more "bang for their buck!"

The new compacts provide greater impact for advertisers. Again studies have shown that readers tend to recall — and react — to advertisements in compacts at a greater rate than they do in traditional broadsheets.

The No. 1 complaint from our local advertisers over the years involved "ad clutter." Frankly, there were too many ads on a page — and the more ads on the page, the less likely their ad was to be spotted by a reader.

Compacts conquer that challenge. The overall page size is smaller. There are fewer ads on a page, so each ad stands out much more than if it were on a page crowded with dozens of small ads.

Finally, the new compact is much more efficient for us to produce. That's important in these tough economic times. The *Okeechobee News* is Okeechobee's longest continuing business — the paper has been Okeechobee's community newspaper since 1915 and we have every intention of continuing in that role.

We're not ashamed in the least bit to say this move will help us streamline our efforts, control costs and be more environmentally friendly. That's beneficial to our readers and advertisers, not to mention our company and its employees.

Despite the new look, rest assured everything else you've come to expect from your *Okeechobee News* remains the same. We're still your hometown newspaper providing you with the same great news and information you've come to expect from us. We hope you like our new look. Please let us know your thoughts and suggestions for improvements. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to serving you in the future!

Editor's note: Tom Byrd is vice president of operations for Independent Newspapers, Inc. Tom welcomes your comments and suggestions and can be reached at FLpublisher@newszap.com.

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

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

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

Highlands Social Dance Club welcomes the public to their dance every Friday, from 7 until 10 p.m. at the Sebring Lions Club on Sebring Parkway, one mile east of U.S. 27 in Sebring. Tickets are \$5 for members and \$6 for guests. For information, call 863-471-0559 or 863-385-6671.

Compulsive overeaters are invited to a weekly meeting. **Overeaters Anonymous** (OA) meets at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Avenue on Fridays, 6 until 7 p.m. (Use 4th Street entrance.)

Overeaters Anonymous is not a diet club. There are no dues, fees or weigh-ins. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop eating compulsively. For more information call Loretta at 863-763-7165 or 863-697-0206.

Saturday
Just for Today Club of Okeechobee, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972 (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **A.A.** weekend noon Open Discussion; **N.A.** Sickest of The Sick Group Step Study 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.

Ballroom dancing in Okeechobee A group class in ballroom dancing is being offered in Okeechobee at Church of Our Saviour Parish Hall, 200 N.W. Third Street on Saturday afternoons at 4 p.m. The cost for the hour lesson is \$10. Private instructions are also available. Come and enjoy the fun with or without a partner. For more information call 772-794-9040.

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

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 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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News Editor: Katrina Elsen
National Advertising: Joy Parrish
Circulation Manager: Janet Madray

Independent Newspapers, Inc.
• Joe Smyth, Chairman
• Ed Dulin, President
• Tom Byrd, Vice President of Newspaper Operations
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Gambling

Continued From Page 1

"Additionally, the diversion of consumer spending from taxable purchases to casino gaming reduces sales tax revenues," stated the report.

Governor Charlie Crist and the Seminoles entered into an agreement in 2007 that would allow the tribe to provide higher stakes slot machines as well as blackjack. These are not available at other gaming facilities in the state.

In return, the Tribe promised that the state would receive \$100 million in the first year; \$125 million in the second year; and, at least \$150 million in the third year.

However, the Florida Supreme Court nixed the pact and ruled that Gov. Crist exceeded his authority and that such a deal must be approved by the Legislature.

The Tribe, however, has gone ahead with its expansion plans.

Over a 10-year period it is estimated that the compact would result in the state receiving \$2.9 billion in revenue sharing. If the state does get that much, states the report, estimated total losses to the state in other revenue sources would be \$1.79 billion -- or, 61 percent of the projected revenue sharing from the Seminoles to the state.

The net added revenue to the state would be \$1.12 billion -- or, 39 percent of the shared revenue, added the report.

Also, the report continues, due to the mainly non-taxable nature of Indian Tribes, the extent to which Seminole economic development replaces current non-tribal businesses or non-tribal economic growth will determine if the state -- or, local governments -- will gain or lose additional tax dollars.

Mr. Weissert said additional employment brought about by the casinos was not part of the study released March 20.

"The focus on this report was only on projected revenues," he said.

Despite the potential revenue losses, Mr. Wenner states in his report that the state needs the compact. He points out that if gaming continues on tribal lands

then the state gets nothing in revenue sharing and is actually losing money -- an estimated \$200 million annually by the fifth year.

"Florida cannot afford to have Class III gaming at any Indian casino without a compact to share in the revenue," stated Mr. Wenner.

For more, the entire report can be viewed at www.floridatxwatch.org/research.

Florida TaxWatch is a non-partisan, non-profit research institute. As an independent research institute and taxpayer watchdog, Florida TaxWatch does not accept money from Florida state and local governments.

Fees

Continued From Page 1

and \$3.50 per boat for two days. At the Scott Driver Boat Ramps it cost tournament fishermen \$5 per boat for one day and \$6 per boat for two days. Individual sport fishermen did not pay this fee. Tournament fishermen were previously required to have liability insurance while individual sport fisherman were not. There are no tournament size requirements at either park. However, it is encouraged and hoped that the larger tournaments would use Scott Driver. Tournaments will still have to pay the appropriate fees to use certain park facilities such as the meeting room.

In other business, the board also spent a considerable amount of time listening to the concerns of Larry Gabor who protested the county's policy requiring homeowners to put in concrete mitered ends to driveway culverts and pave their driveways over the county right of way. He requested a moratorium of the policy during

these tough economic times protesting it created a undue hardship on homeowners. He also requested a moratorium on the requirement to put sod on building sites.

Commissioner Joey Hoover, who is in the asphalt business and was on the planning board when this ordinance was adopted, answered Mr. Gabor's statements. He said that if driveways were not paved, the edge of the pavement would deteriorate at the driveway as vehicles turned off the pavement. Then the citizens would have to pay to have the road repaired. He said that paved driveways prevent erosion and that the shell rock on an unpaved driveway would eventually wash into the ditch blocking the ditch and filling up the culvert. Once again the road department would have to clean out the ditch at tax payers' expense.

Mr. Hoover said that one man at the end of the street could cause a lot of expense to the other home owners on the street because of flooding due to an improperly installed driveway.

"It is for the overall benefit of all citizens, Mr. Hoover said.

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it," Mr. Gabor asserted. "There is no road damage being done when a shellrock drive is put in properly."

The board took no action on Mr. Gabor's request for a moratorium.

In a road related action, the board finally created the position of road maintenance technician after discussing it for the last two meetings. This position involves technical work in the area of zoning, permitting and inspections. Among other things the person in this position would be concerned with plans/blueprint review certification, basic, intermediate and advanced work zone traffic control certification and asphalt/pavement certification.

In other action, the board:

- approved change order number 2 on the courthouse rehabilitation project which will result in an addition of \$27,898 to the cost and a 42 day extension of time;
- proclaimed the month of April to be Water Conservation Month in Okeechobee County;

- approved the use of Douglas Brown Community Center for the six week summer youth program of Chaka's Stars Foundation at a cost of \$1,625 which was calculated to be the county's cost of operating the facility during that time;

- declined to authorize a one year extension of Timothy Schneider's specialty painting license;

- appointed Herb Nix as an alternate member of the construction industry licensing board;
- tabled until next meeting action on an animal control ordinance;

- authorized the sheriff to apply for six law enforcement grants;

- authorized expenditure of \$40,000 for culvert installation at the industrial park; and

- set a meeting date of April 30, the fifth Thursday in April rather than the usual fourth Thursday.

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

Brahmans

Continued From Page 1

couple of years.

"I played well. I really like pitching. I feel for the first game on the mound I did well. I can hit

my spots better and I have things to work on." Douglas said she tends to over throw sometimes and just needs to practice more to refine her pitches.

Hargraves said she likes the fact that Douglas throws hard and is left handed. She noted if Douglas meets per potential, she likes

her chances.

"The big thing with Taylor is her confidence. If she believes in herself she is going to be unstoppable," she said.

Douglas said she believes the Kissimmee Classic is going to be very important for the team's success this year. She said it won't

just be the games on the field that matter. "It's important for our team bonding because we are such a young team. We have a lot of things to work on as a team. We are going to be the team for the next few years and I have high hopes for the rest of this year and for next year."

Coach

Continued From Page 1

get an award like this."

Coach Botello said the vote was a big surprise to him. He noted it didn't just take into account a win loss record but the improvement a team has shown. He noted he was proud of the

way his girls fought this year and that he is on the road to building a solid program.

"There's only one place to go from here. We can't go back down. We must go further. We are stressing club soccer now. We'll do what we can and build from here."

The girl's also got Jordan Aspden and Laura Saucedo named

first team all conference. Megan Clements and Stephanie Horvath were named to the second team. Rachel Fairchild earned honorable mention. All but Clements were seniors this year.

"I'm really proud of the girls we got nominated, they were real team leaders and will be hard to replace," Botello added.

Clements had a great year in the Brahman net and averaged 24 saves per match. She was named the team MVP at their banquet held in early March. Other award winners were Fairchild as defensive player of the year, and Ashtyn

Brown as offensive player of the year. Heather Tinsley won the most improved player award, and Saucedo was named the District player of the year. The Brahman Award went to Aspden.

Botello said the off season will be very important to the future of the program. He has encouraged the girls to play club soccer. Fifteen girls from the junior varsity, middle school and varsity teams have gotten involved so far. Celia Fox runs the summer travel league in Okeechobee.

County

Continued From Page 1

ever, the goal is to phase out government funding over a two or three year period as private funding increases.

Mark Smith made the presentation about the program to the board. He said that private individuals had pledged \$33,250 and the city donated \$15,000. With the furniture, office space and in kind services donated he said that a total of \$75,000 had been pledged to date.

Commissioner Ray Domer questioned if this were the time to act. He noted that there are other things the board could do to promote economic development such as keeping taxes down.

"If you continue to do nothing that is exactly what you can expect in results," was the opinion of newly sworn in Commissioner Joey Hoover. He thought the board should try to make something positive happen. He reminded the board that this program will also help existing businesses.

"This is the best effort and best plan," was the opinion of commissioner Clif Betts "If we don't invest now times might get worse."

Mr. Betts thought that some existing businesses might be thinking of expanding because land is cheaper and contractors are looking for work.

The vote was 4 to 1 with Mr. Domer casting the lone dissenting vote.

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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 <p>"GREAT INVESTMENT!" Frame 2/1 not far from town. Home has been freshly painted, needs some cosmetic work but is a great value and would make a wonderful investment property #202503 \$58,000</p>	 <p>"WATERFRONT WONDERFUL" CBS 3/2 w/1 car carport & screened porch to enjoy! Home also has a waterfront buildable lot beside it that comes with the home. This is a great deal! #202500 \$135,000</p>
 <p>"WELL MAINTAINED" Nice 3 Bd, 1 Ba home close to town, some remodeling work in progress. Call to see property. #201941 \$70,900</p>	 <p>"BREATHTAKING VIEWS" Two story breathtaking 5/3 CBS home Rim Canal in Larodo Shores. Balcony to sit on and enjoy. Tile & hardwood floors. New roof in 2006, reverse osmosis water. #94541 \$325,000</p>
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style
The Buckhead Ridge VFW Post 9528, Hwy 78 West., will have a "Casino Royale" on Saturday, **March 28**, from 6 until 10 p.m. There will be casino games, door

Obituaries

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

Raymond La Fortune, 79
OKEECHOBEE — Raymond La Fortune, of Okeechobee, died March 26, 2009. He was 79.

He was born May 22, 1929. Mr. La Fortune proudly served our country in the U.S. Army. He was a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church and worked as a private yacht captain.

He is survived by his wife, Aline La Fortune of Okeechobee; three daughters, Coleen, Carol and JoAnn; sons, Marty, Gary, Robert and Jeffrey; brother, Richard J. La Fortune; sister, Mary; nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Interment of remains with graveside services will be 1 p.m. Monday, March 30, 2009, at Evergreen Cemetery with Father Hugh Duffy officiating.

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

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory, 205 NE 2nd St., Okeechobee, FL 34972.

Roger A. Burton, 64
PORTAGE LAKES, Ohio — Roger A. Burton, of Portage Lakes, died suddenly to complications from Leukemia on March 24, 2009. He was 64.

Born in Hattiesburg, Miss., on Aug. 10, 1944, he was raised in Okeechobee, Fla., and had lived in the Portage Lakes area for the past 45 years. He served in the Ohio National Guard, was employed by Wheel International, former President of Akron Traffic Club and was a member of Wayfarer Masonic Lodge 789.

He was a graduate of the class on 1962 from Okeechobee High School, and a member of the undefeated basketball team that made it to state that year.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bobbie and Vera Burton.

He is survived by his "Darlin" wife, Pam (Gay); mother-in-law, Jo' daughter, Stephanie (Billy) Laskowski; step-daughters, Kelly Selby (fiancé Dan Hinton), Kerri (Jimmy) Mauro; step-son, Zach (Stacy Selby); grandsons, Ben Mauro and Max Selby; brother, Wayne Burton; sisters-in-law, Patsy (Bob) Helbling, Paula (Mike) Haddad; nieces, nephews and many, many friends.

Calling hours will be today, March 27, 2009, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Schermesser Funeral Home, 600 E. Turkeyfoot Lake Road (Route 619 in Green), with a Celebration of Life service on Saturday at 1 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, 23297 Commerce Bank Road, Cleveland, OH 44122.

hold Spring Fest

On Saturday, **March 28**, Okeechobee Christian Academy is having its very first Spring Festival and Open House. The purpose of the event is to invite the local community to come and see the changes ongoing at the school. The school is offering an open enrollment period with scholarships available. We would like to also say thank you to Okeechobee for supporting the school for 31 years. The event will include free activities such as face painting, kids activities, live music, a bounce house and a free barbecue pork and chicken lunch! The event will take place from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. with tours of the school on the hour from 10:30 a.m. For more information, please call 863-763-3072 or go to the website: www.Okeechobeechristianacademy.net.

Radio show discusses children's needs

WWFR 91.7 FM and 100.3 FM will have Dale Kostakos, director of community resources and Kathy Derringer, Vice President of the Baby Steps Division, helping people succeed, on Saturday, **March 28** at 7:30 a.m. They will be discussing meeting the needs of developmentally delayed babies and children and youth with mental or behavioral problems and their families, as well as meeting the needs of physically and mentally challenged adults. This discussion will be rebroadcast again at 1 and 6 p.m. For more information contact 772-320-0770 or www.hpsfl.org.

registration for 2009 Spring Softball Season

Registration for the 2009 Spring Softball Season will begin Monday, **March 30**, at the Parks & Recreation office on 640 N.W. 27th Lane (Sports Complex parking lot). An organizational meeting for all interested players, managers, and officials will be held on Wednesday, April 15, at 7 p.m. at the Okeechobee Civic Center located at 1750 Highway 98 N.

Team fees are as follows: Men's League -- \$375 + (\$25 ISA fee); Women's League -- \$325; Co-Ed League -- \$325. To participate in these leagues, fees must be paid no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, April 24. All checks must be payable to "B.O.C.C." (Board of County Commissioners). Games are tentatively scheduled to begin the week of May 4. For additional information, please call the Recreation Department at 863-763-6950.

4Hers, celebrity servers

The Okeechobee 4-H Bits and Spurs Horse Club's Mounted Drill Team will be "celebrity servers" at Golden Corral on **March 31** to 5 to 8 p.m. Tips given the servers will go to help pay for the team's entry fees and equipment.

Help with electric bills

Are you over 60? Is your FPL electric service being disconnected? Are you low income? If the answer to those three questions is yes, please call Kim at Okeechobee Senior Services, 863-462-5180. We have additional EHEAP funds available.

This month's "Dine with the Doctor" medical series presentation will take place at Raulerson Hospital on **March 31**. Dinner serving time is 4:45 p.m. and the doctors presentation will begin at 5:30 p.m. Have you ever wondered what happens in the Radiology Department? Do you not, stop by for dinner and enjoy Alex Vennos M.D., Board Certified Radiologist, present the radiology process and describe the new State-Of-The-Art equipment at the hospital. Dinner is only \$5 for the entree', salad, rolls, dessert, and beverage. R.S.V.P. to Bill Casian at 863-824-2702 for a reserved seat.

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Funds sought to open a YMCA in Okeechobee

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

Last year, local members of the community began gathering together to begin to formulate ideas of what Okeechobee needs in a local YMCA and possible locations and things a YMCA can offer local citizens. The next step in a Y coming to fruition in Okeechobee is to complete a feasibility study which will take approximately 60 days to complete once it is paid for.

The feasibility study will cost between \$18,500 and \$19,000. This study will allow the Y to make sure of the size, possible locations and the presence of a smart business plan ensuring funding for many years to come.

The YMCA of the Treasure Coast currently has six locations throughout their district and are looking to expand programs into Okeechobee County.

If you've been in one Y, you've only been in one YMCA. All YMCAs are unique and cater to the needs of the community which supports them. YMCAs are funded through program fees, membership fees and fundraising.

All monies that go through a YMCA are private funds other than any grants or funds from organizations such as Children's Services Council, United Way or any other organization which supports their local Y.

YMCA receives NO funds from ad valorem taxes. In addition, all funds raised for the Okeechobee future Y would be placed in a restricted account to only be spent in Okeechobee.

When opening a new YMCA, the community leaders involved have to show that they are mission focused with presenting the need for a Y and that it will be financially viable.

Just what will it cost to bring a YMCA to Okeechobee? According to Mr. John Lass it will take a \$1.5 million endowment to open the YMCA in Okeechobee and approximately \$8 million to build it. They expect to need to allocate a 10-acre footprint of land for the Y in Okeechobee. There are two locations on the table for a desired location for the Y: rodeo grounds on U.S. 441 North; county land at the Okeechobee Sports Complex.

It will also take continued community support through utilization of the facility in order to maintain the programs and membership of the facility. The estimated operating budget of the facility would be approximately \$1.5 million.

Since the idea of a Y came about, a steering committee has met to discuss funding options for the feasibility study as well as possible locations for the Y. The following individuals were present at the last meeting: Brandon Tucker, Keith Walpole, Margaret Helton, Ted Kelchner, Jim Vensel, J.D. Mixon, Greg Thogersen, John Lass, and Cindi Fairtrace.

The fee structure for this study can be broken up into three one-third payments benefitting fundraising. A business plan will also be developed by the Y and the committee so that the fundraising approach in the community will be more appealing.

Mr. Lass is the President, CEO

of the YMCA of the Treasure Coast which serves Martin, St. Lucie, Okeechobee and Indian River counties. Throughout the counties, they strive to, "build strong kids, strong families, and strong communities."

The Y strives to bring families together and create bonds within families by providing them with activities that they would otherwise be unable to afford to do together, allowing them to grow as a family.

Despite its name, the YMCA is not just for the young, not just for men and not just for Christians. It is, however, as their history illustrates, an association of members who come together with a common understanding of the YMCA mission and a common commitment to the YMCA's vision of building strong kids, strong families and strong communities.

According to their Web site, across the U.S., 20.2 million members are part of 2,663 local YMCA associations. Each association is different, reflecting the needs of the local community. A Y may have a facility with a gymnasium, pool, child care center or even a school. It may be a storefront operation delivering community-based programs such as job training or youth and government. It may be a camp, or it may be a satellite program in a local school. It may be all of these things and more.

Whatever the facilities, whatever the programs, what doesn't change are the people. What every YMCA has in common is a dedicated group of people: volunteers, staff, members and

donors—all of whom are committed to the YMCA mission. It is the people of the YMCA who build strong kids, strong families and strong communities—and you can help.

The nation's 2,686 YMCAs respond to critical social needs by drawing on their collective strength as one of the largest not-for-profit community service organizations in the U.S.

Today's YMCAs serve children and adults of all ages, races, faiths, backgrounds, abilities and income levels.

YMCAs are committed to helping:

- Children and youth deepen positive values, their commitment to service and their motivation to learn;
- Families build stronger bonds, spend time together and become more engaged with their communities; and
- Individuals strengthen their spiritual, mental and physical well-being.

For more than eight decades, YMCAs have offered Adventure Guides and similar programs that bring parents and children together.

YMCAs are collectively the nation's largest providers of health and well-being programs and are always working to promote healthy living for millions of Americans through YMCA Activate America®.

In addition to the programs offered to communities, there are also financial assistance programs—made possible annually by more than \$1.6 billion in public and private support—opens all

YMCA programs to those in need who could not afford to provide these opportunities to their children and their family.

YMCA is volunteer founded and volunteer led, YMCAs depend on the generosity and dedication of their 548,926 volunteers across the U.S.

If you would like to donate funds towards the feasibility study or be involved on the steering

committee for the new Y, or both, please contact Brandon Tucker at 863-763-4010. Donations can also be sent to YMCA of the Treasure Coast - Okeechobee Branch P.O. Box 309 Okeechobee, FL 34973-0309.

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



Submitted to the Okeechobee News

Property owners meeting

Treasure Island Property Owners were pleasantly encouraged with the attendance at their March 18, meeting of County Administrator Lyndon Bonner, Commissioner Margaret Helton and Certified Code Officer Beth Albert at this community meeting. Also in attendance were Betty Foster and Dave Anderson with the sheriff's crime watch program. The objective of the meeting was working together to promote goodwill and respect for each other by keeping our properties neat and clean, also to keep a safe, drug and crime free community. Let's all do the same for all of Okeechobee. Pictured are, left to right, Jay Davies, George Zielinsky, Mrs. Albert, Mrs. Helton, Nancy Zielinsky, Mr. Bonner and John Christopher Bonner.



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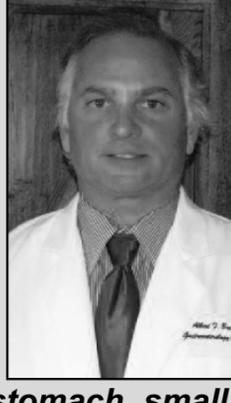
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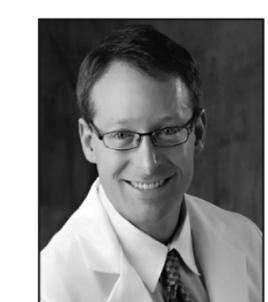
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The 2008 - 2009 Okeechobee News Medical Information Guide is available at <http://specialsections.newsap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=56360&pagenum=1>
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Andrea Rieffel Croslyn, 1990 OHS graduate, and colleague Bala Ambravaneswaran, have



Submitted photo

From left to right are: Elizabeth Wells, Principal of Evans Middle School, Evansville, Ind.; Bala Ambravaneswaran; and Andrea Rieffel Croslyn, formerly of Okeechobee. Bala and Andrea were recently honored for their community service program at Evans. The furniture, handcrafted in India, was given as part of the program's Diversity Day in May 2008.

been honored in Evansville, Ind. The Jefferson Award, founded by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, recognizes individuals nationally for community work and public service. The Evansville Award was sponsored by The Evansville Courier & Press.

The local winners were recognized Thursday, March 19, at the Celebration of Leadership Awards program. Mrs. Croslyn and Ambravaneswaran initiated a program at the Evansville Middle School where 85 percent of the 500 students receive free or reduced price lunches. The program was designed to give students a boost with science and math. The math scores went up dramatically, as verified by the school principal.

As employees of GE Plastics, now SABIC Innovative Plastics, the pair decided to apply business management principles to teaching middle school students. First they conducted a study to identify student needs, which, said Mrs. Croslyn, was done as a

normal business procedure. They chose a middle school because research showed that students at that age level were most open to new ideas and mentoring.

Beginning in 2005, Andrea and Bala worked with students to create an outdoor pond and study space with benches and tables. They also brought in engineers from the company to plot the locations of the feature of their pond, such as rock and vegetable gardens, a sundial and plants. Subsequently, other SABIC employees with a wide variety of jobs held roundtable discussion about careers, finance, and other topics of interest to the students.

The mentors encouraged the students not to be afraid of science and math, to think ahead to college, and to understand and appreciate diverse cultures and ways of thinking. They organized science and math workshops, put on a diversity fair, and took their charges on field trips. The teachers at the school were enthusiastic about the collaboration.

In addition to initiating and implementing the school program, Ms. Croslyn also served as a Big Sister to an individual student. She helped connect other SABIC employees in the Big Brother/Big Sister program. School Principal Liz Wells said that Croslyn is an ideal example for girls at the school.

After graduating from OHS, Mrs. Croslyn went on to The University of the South in Seawee, Tenn., to major in chemistry and minor in Russian. Subsequently she earned her doctorate in analytical chemistry and environmental engineering at the University of Florida.

Her colleague Ambravaneswaran, a native of India, has a doctoral degree in chemical engineering. He is convinced that in his work at Evans Middle School, he has not only made a difference to kids, he has become a better parent in the process.

Andrea Croslyn is the daughter of Robert and Karen Rieffel. She is married to Michael Croslyn,

son of Jim and Becky Croslyn. Michael Croslyn is a 1990 graduate of O.H.S. and The University of Southern Indiana as well as an Air Force veteran. He is a Certified Public Accountant with the firm of Harding Shymanski and Company in Evansville. They are parents to Corinne, 10; Nicholas, 7; and Cooper, 4.

Andrea's corporate duties include considerable travel, not only in the U.S., but to India, the Netherlands, and China. When asked by a cousin how she finds

time to raise three youngsters and win community service awards, she replied, "I raise my three as best I can, and will maybe finally get some sleep myself when I'm dead. It's all good fun, though! Seriously, if Michael wasn't such a fantastic dad and partner to parent with, I definitely would not have time for anything like this!"

The Croslyns enjoy returning to Okeechobee one or two times a year to visit family and high school friends.

South Bay site considered for inland port

By Nina G. Wills
Special to INI

SOUTH BAY — The Port of Palm has announced plans establish a 3,500-acre Inland Logistics Center (ILC) in the southern Lake Okeechobee region.

The announcement came at a community meeting in South Bay on March 20.

The industrial and commercial center would include warehouses and would serve as a distribution hub for cargo. According to Port authorities, the center would also create thousands of jobs for residents — a welcomed reprieve from the area's economic decline. Over 100 people attended the forum including city leaders and commissioners from Belle Glade, Pahokee, and South Bay.

"We are planning for the future growth of western Palm Beach County. We have many voices, but my hope is that we will walk out of here with one message, one voice. We know that we need that port in our communities. We know that the job market is very bleak right now," said Shirley Walker-Turner, mayor of South Bay.

Edward Oppel, chairman of the Port of Palm Beach District Board of Commissioners, explained that this would be the first of many informative exchanges of dialogue between the Port and the community.

"It's all about jobs and economic development for the Lake region. That's all we're about. It's not a port project; it's a jobs project. It's a one stop-shop that we think will provide a lot of the

economic solutions for this area," Oppel said.

By 2015, there will be a demand for 40-80 million square feet of additional distribution space in South Florida alone, according to a Martin and Associates Market Assessment Analysis. The feasibility study determined that 1 million square feet of space employs approximately 300-900 individuals depending upon the level of automation of the center.

Manuel Almira, executive director of the Port of Palm Beach, explained that if the inland logistics complex is 40 million square feet and has 500 employees per 1 million square feet there would be 20,000 new jobs created. This number does not include possible jobs that are indirectly associated with the complex, such as restaurants.

On May 1, the Port of Palm Beach will be accepting requests for qualifications from businesses or parties interested in selling their land for the site location. By Aug. 1, the Port will have selected site location finalists and will extend invitations to negotiate. Also, the Port wants to develop a public private partnership that includes private sector financing and a minimal amount of public funds to develop this project, according to Mr. Oppel.

Mr. Oppel said Port authorities would partner with workforce development to offer proper training.

"As long as we keep it within the Lake Region, no one will be a loser. Everyone will be able to take advantage of the jobs offered

through this inland logistics center," Mr. Oppel said.

In Sept. 2008, the Palm Beach County Commissioners voted to endorse a plan for the future development of the complex along U.S. 27. Commissioners felt it was in the best interest of the county to officially support the center since Hendry and Martin Counties were

also vying for the location site.

"The inland port has to be in the Glades area. Jobs is exactly what this area needs. It's the one thing that will change the entire face of the Glades. It will make the Glades what it should have been a long time ago," Palm Beach County Commissioner Jess Santamaria said.



Submitted photo/OKMS

Main Street Mixer

The American Red Cross hosted the March Okeechobee Main Street Mixer on Tuesday, March 24. Over 50 guests including Okeechobee Main Street President Maureen Burroughs, American Red Cross Okeechobee Service Center Director, American Red Cross Center Specialist, Debbie Riddle, Julie Shook, American Red Cross Volunteer, Frank Riddle and Okeechobee Main Street Executive Director, Toni Doyle enjoyed a night of networking, refreshments and door prizes. Special thanks to The American Red Cross, Tires Plus Total Car Care, Preya Persaud, MPT, Mike's Okeechobee Guns and Total Car Care Detailing & Pressure Washing for providing the great door prizes and thank you to Raulerson Hospital for providing the refreshments. Next month's Main Street Mixer will be held at Elite Title, Inc. 311 N.E. Second Street. The public is always invited to attend.

FWC graduates ready for woods and water duty

A new group of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) law enforcement officers will soon begin patrolling the woods and waters of the state.

Twenty-six FWC recruits became officers after graduating Friday from the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy in Tallahassee. The recruits attended the academy for six months and received a wide array of training, which included accuracy with firearms, alligator handling, vessel operation, defensive tactics, all-terrain vehicle operation and BU/DUI identification. They will spend an additional three months with a field-training officer.

The new graduates are assigned to counties throughout the state. Two of the officers come from different states. Officer Jarod Molnar is from Georgia and is assigned to Palm Beach County, and Officer Evan Laskowski is from Maryland and is assigned to Glades County.

The FWC's Division of Law Enforcement protects and manages 755 species of wildlife and more than 700 species of fish. The division patrols 34 million acres of public and private land, 8,200 miles of tidal shoreline, 3 million acres of lakes and 12,000 miles of rivers and streams. FWC officers are authorized to enforce all state laws and federal fisheries and wildlife laws.

The graduates and the counties they are assigned to are as follows:

Craig Baker — Broward
James Bonds — Alachua
Raquel Daniels — Monroe
Tiffany Davis — Monroe
Michael Davis — Okeechobee
Thomas Enos — Broward
Joshua Greenier — Monroe
Justin Henry — Citrus
Jordan Hilliard — DeSoto
Stephen Judah — Polk
Harold Lanier — Brevard
Evan Laskowski — Glades
Michael Milillio — Monroe
Jarod Molnar — Palm Beach
Christopher Pettey — Martin
Samuel Riggs — Citrus
Henry Rockwell — Hendry

Lonnie Sushil — Lee

Rene Taboas — Dade

Jamie Young — Palm Beach

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* Ads will run in the Wednesday Okeechobee News and weekly publications.

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DEADLINES
Wednesday 11 a.m. Tuesday for Wednesday publication
Friday 11 a.m. Thursday for Friday publication
Sunday Friday 10 a.m. for Sunday publication

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- Private parties only
- 2 items per household per issue

Announcements

100
Important Information: Please read your ad carefully the first day it appears. In case of an inadvertent error, please notify us prior to the deadline listed. We will not be responsible for more than 1 incorrect insertion, or for more than the extent of the ad rendered valueless by such errors. Advertiser assumes responsibility for all statements, names and content of an ad, and assumes responsibility for any claims against Independent Newspapers. All advertising is subject to publisher's approval. The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject any or all copy, and to insert above the copy the word "advertisement". All ads accepted are subject to credit approval. All ads must conform to Independent Newspapers' style and are restricted to their proper classifications. Some classified categories require advance payment. These classifications are denoted with an asterisk *.

Independent Newspapers will never knowingly accept any advertisement that is illegal or considered fraudulent. In all cases of questionable value, such as promises of guaranteed income from work-at-home programs or other offers to send money in advance for a product or service - we advise you to check with the Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Line at 1-800-220-5424, and/or The Better Business Bureau, 800-464-6331 for previous complaints.

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Lost 0135
SET OF KEYS - Lost Saturday, March 21st. Please call (863)763-1146

Garage/Yard Sales 0145
BASSWOOD - LARGE YARD & GARAGE SALE - Thur, Fri & Sat, 8 am - 3pm, 3935 NW 29th Ave. Men's & women's clothes, shoes, purses, tools, yard goods, Tandem axle trailer, set of 6 oriental wall hangings w/mother of pearl, Jennie air stove top 2 burners & grill.

OKEECHOBEE - 03/27 and 03/28, 10 - 4, 4422 HWY 441 NORTH, Huge Multi-Family yard sale and Inventory Clearance sale at ARS Powersports on Hwy 441 N just past high school, motorcycle helmets and accessories, clothing, huge savings!

OKEECHOBEE - March 28, 2009, 7 am to 4 pm, 2581 SE 6th Ave, Palm Creek Estates multi family neighborhood garage sale one day only. Located behind Home Depo.

TAYLOR CREEK ISLE, HUGE MOVING SALE - 2536 SE 31st st., Fri & Sat 8 am - 3 pm. Furniture, lamps, decorative items and much more.

Employment 200
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A/C SERVICE TECH
With min. 5 yrs exp. Must have clean DL & own tools. Good pay, benefits. DFWP No phone calls accepted. Apply in person at 312 SW 2nd Street, Okeechobee.

Employment Full Time 0205

SUNSHINE PAYDAY LOANS
Seeking Clerical Help for Okeechobee location. Good working conditions. Will train. Fax resume to (863)453-6138

SUPERVISOR/COOK

Immediate opening at Okeechobee Juvenile Detention Center food service department. Institutional cooking and hands on experience preferred. Competitive Wages, Benefits. Must pass background check and pre-employment drug screen. Contact Brad at 863-357-9922 ask for Kitchen or fax resume to 863-357-0205 or email to HR11@ABL.MANAGEMENT.COM EOE

Employment Medical 0210

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

CNA, LPN or RN
Experienced only need apply. For nights, weekends & some weekdays (6pm-6am). Smoke free environment. Must be CPR Certified & able to pass drug & TB tests. Background check also req'd. Fax resume to: PO Box 1268, Okeechobee, FL 34973

Employment Wanted 0220

SUPER GOOD Cleaning person seek's work, thorough, trustworthy, dependable, diligent reasonable (863)824-0545

Financial 300

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Business Opportunities 0305

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

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

Services 400

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

Handyman Services

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

Guns/Supplies 0619

SUNCOAST GUN SHOW
March 28th & 29th, 2009
Sat. 9 - 5, Sun. 9 - 4
HAVERT L. FENN CENTER
2000 Virginia Ave, Ft Pierce, FL
BUY - SELL - TRADE
Concealed Weapon Class \$40
Daily 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.
suncoastgunshows.com
For info 772-462-1521

Handyman Services

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

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

Top Soil

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

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
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Health & Reducing Equipment 620
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Household Items 630
Jewelry 635
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Musical Instruments 660
Office Supplies/Equipment 665
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Restaurant Equipment 690
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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

Appliances 0515

DOUBLE STACKED- Washer/Dryer \$400 080 (863)801-5850

Buildings & Sheds 0537

STEEL BUILDINGS
Recession Disc Avail 30x40-105x105
Call for Deal, Avail Ltd
www.sca-grp.com
Source #15M
Phone: 863-578-4141

Furniture 0610

Beautiful Rectangle 1/2 inch-Glass 6 ft. Table on glass pedestal w/6 Cream color parsons chairs \$400 (561)6258456 PBG

Guns/Supplies 0619

SAVAGE - 7mm Rem Mag, bolt action mod #110, Bushnell High Contrast Scope \$450 (863)697-6095

Health & Reducing Equipment 0620

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

READING A NEWSPAPER...
saves you money by providing information about best buys.
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Miscellaneous 0655

FLEA MARKET INVENTORY-large variety, taking offers for entire stock only. Call for appt (863)610-1120

Pets/Supplies 0670

YORKIE PUPPIES - Registered. 1 Male, 1 Female. Shots & Wormed. \$400 (863)801-1348

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

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

Lawn & Garden 0850

MURRAY - Ride mower 14.5 hp, 42" cut, Ind Eng, Hydro Dr, garage kept, ex cond \$300 (863)357-7161

SNAPPER MOWER - Model # SR150, 14 hp Kohler Eng, 30" cut, electric start, used very little, \$500. (863)763-3036

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

Apartment 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

Apartment 0905

CLOSE TO TOWN: 2BR Only \$750 mo. Pets okay upon approval. Call 561-255-4377

EFFICIENCY w/att garage in shaded, beautiful sw residential area. \$700 mo incl water/sewer/elect & dish (863)697-2065

FIRST MONTHS RENT FREE - Freshly painted, newly carpeted 2 bedroom 1 bath duplex apartment (863)634-9850

IN TOWN - 2/2 very clean, w/D, lawn maint included, \$800 + \$300 sec. Call (863) 634-3572

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

OKEECHOBEE ESTATES 2 BR, 1 BA Duplex Apt. Newly remodeled. Tile floors throughout. Stove, Fridge, Nice, quiet area. \$625 mo. + last mo. & sec. (863)467-0627

TAYLOR CREEK CONDO 1BR/1BA, 1st floor, furnished, pool & tennis, boat dock, rec room, very nice. Reasonable 561-324-4902 or 561-582-8693.

Condos/Townhouses Rent 0920

Bass Capital Townhouse - 2br/2ba, fully furn., yearly or seasonal, walking distance to lake. (863)983-5260

IN TOWN - Clean 2.5 BR, 1BA, w/W&D hook up, lawn serv. Non-smk. env., Small pet ok. \$750 mo. + \$500 sec. 941-504-3954 or 941-366-6617

IN TOWN - Clean 2BR, 2BA, new appliances, laundry room, w/W&D, screen porch, lawn serv. Non-smk. env., Small pet ok. \$800 mo. + \$500 sec. 941-504-3954

KINGS BAY - Very clean 2/2/1 CBS home, w/D, incl lawn, \$950 Mo., \$950 Sec (863) 801-9163

Roommate 0950

ROOMMATE NEEDED - Master Bdrm, w/lg walk in closet & attached Den, Master Bath w/Lg. Jacuzzi Tub. Access to Lg. yard w/fence & back porch w/Hot Tub. Newly renovated. (863)634-8007

Rooms To Rent 0955

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

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

Waterfront Rentals 0965

HOUSE w/Lake Okee Access, picture perfect 2/2 w/2 car carport, boat house/2 slips, dock, well landscaped, incl lawn svc \$950 mo (863)610-1276

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

Real Estate 1000

Business Places - Sale 1005
Commercial Property - Sale 1010
Condos/Townhouses - Sale 1015
Farms - Sale 1020
Houses - Sale 1025
Hunting Property 1030
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Property Inspection 060
Real Estate Wanted 065
Resort Property - Sale 1070
Warehouse Space 1075
Waterfront Property 1080

Houses - Sale 1025

TREASURE ISLAND - 1981 SWMH 2/1, \$55,000 Preferred Properties, Debra Pinson 863-801-9163

Waterfront Property 1080

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

Mobile Homes 2000

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

Mobile Home Rent 2015

A 55+, 2BR/2BA Mobile Home in Indianwood, 2 golf courses, partially furn., w/d, \$550 mo. or sale \$25,000. (772)341-6617

ALLA 56' 1981, 2 Bdrm w/sunroom in adult park. (863)697-2065

AMERICAN 38' 1990, Travel trailer w/ att sunroom, 8' ceilings, Lot #39 Dew Drop Inn Park 8761 Hwy 78 W. \$4500 (863)697-2065

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

BUCKHEAD RIDGE - Dbl. Wide 2 BR, 2 BA, C/Air. \$500 mo. 3 BR, 2 BA, C/Air. \$600 mo. No pets. (863)763-4031

FLEETWOOD - Very nice 1992, 3/2 DW in clean quiet adult park, screen porch/carport. \$900 mo incl water/sewer/basic cable (863)697-2065

OKEECHOBEE - 2br, 1ba with large back porch & front porch on large scenic, wooded, fenced lot. \$800 mo. Also a 1 br, 1ba \$500 mo. Call 863-634-3451

Mobile Home Sale 2020

A 55+, 2BR/2BA Mobile Home in Indianwood, 2 golf courses, partially furn., w/d, \$550 mo. or sale \$25,000. (772)341-6617

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

DEW DROP INN - Custom 2/1.5 Fully furnished, nice cov patio. REDUCED (863)763-3945

HOMES OF MERIT '95 - DW, 2BR, 2BA w/Screen Rm. Great shape. 1.35 ac fenced. \$95,000 neg 863-610-0399

KISSIMMEE RIVER EST - 1br mobile, on beautiful corner lot, \$45,000 or best offer, (863)763-8761

Older 5th wheel - 2/3 BR w/lg addition, on Taylor Creek. 55+ Riverbend Park. GREAT DEAL \$7000 (828)208-0980

Taylor Creek - On rented land, 2/2 with Florida room, Lot Rent \$260 mo., Asking \$15,000. (863)763-2856

Recreation 3000

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

AIRBOAT HULL - Apache, 12', with good trailer & cage works, no motor, \$1500 or best offer. (863)357-5754

BROWNING - 18' open bow, with trailer, inboard/outboard Merc cruiser, 175 hp, 4 cyl eng. \$2000 neg (863)763-5253

CAROLINA SKIFF - 40 hp motor \$1700 (863)763-8132

Campers/RVs 3010

BONANZA 35' 1980 Travel trailer w/2 tipouts and att screen room. \$3000 Lot #39 Dew Drop Inn Park (863)697-2065

COACHMAN 34' 1998 RV w/tpout and att sunroom. Like new cond. \$8000 in adult park. (863)697-2065

Country 28' RV w/attached sunroom \$4000 in adult park. (863)697-2065

JOURNEY MOTORHOME '87 - 30 ft. Affordable living, drive it or park it. \$6000 cash (863)763-9377

Motorcycles 3030

HONDA SHADOW 750 - 2004, With trailer, many extras \$3000 (863)634-4765

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

Public Notice 5005

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 20TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR GLADES COUNTY, FLORIDA... DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR LONG BEACH MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2005-1...

Public Notice 5005

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA... JUDGE F. SHIELDS McMANUS... IN RE: ESTATE OF CONNIE L. CRANFORD Deceased...

Public Notice 5005

PUBLIC NOTICE CONSIDERING OF ADOPTING A CITY ORDINANCE... PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA will on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter possible, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave., Okeechobee, FL conduct a PUBLIC HEARING on and thereafter to consider final reading of the following Ordinance into law: NO. 1043: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA: PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FOR PERSONS 65 AND OLDER AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 196.075, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR SCOPE OF THE EXEMPTION AND PROCEDURES FOR MAKING APPLICATION FOR THE ADDITIONAL EXEMPTION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE...

Public Notice 5005

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA will on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter possible, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave., Okeechobee, FL conduct a PUBLIC HEARING on and thereafter to consider final reading of the following Ordinance into law: NO. 994: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA: PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE AMENDMENT TO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, ORDINANCE NO. 716; DIVISION 5 THEREOF; FROM SECTIONS 90-561 THROUGH 90-600; PROVIDING FOR REVISION OF THESE SECTIONS IN THEIR ENTIRETY; PROVIDING FOR CREATION OF DIVISION 5 SIGN ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR ENACTING A UNIFORM SIGN CRITERIA; PROVIDING FOR REGULATION OF SIGNAGE AS PROVIDED HEREIN; SETTING FORTH DEFINITIONS; REQUIREMENT OF PERMIT AND MAINTENANCE; PROVIDING FOR EXEMPT AND PROHIBITED SIGNS; PROVIDING FOR TEMPORARY SIGNS; PROVIDING FOR SIGNS IN COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL AREAS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS AND SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE...

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 1-04-37-35-0020-0000-0120 Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida...

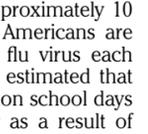
Public Notice 5005

NOTICE OF MEETING Okeechobee County Construction Industry Licensing Board... The Okeechobee County Construction Industry Licensing Board will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 3:30 PM. The public meeting will be held at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, located at the 1728 N.W. 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida. For more information, contact Barbara Cash at the Planning and Development Department, 499 N.W. 5th Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972; (863)763-5548.

Health Department Report

Happy Birthday - Wash your hands!

By Melissa Boney, R.N. Okeechobee County Health Department... Did you know that each year in the U.S. there are approximately 52 million cases of the common cold? And that approximately 10 to 20 percent of Americans are infected with the flu virus each year? It has been estimated that there are 164 million school days missed each year as a result of acute illnesses.



Melissa Boney

Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are a good alternative when there are no soap and water available. Actually, these sanitizers are better than soap and water when killing bacteria and viruses. When buying hand sanitizers, you should make sure it is alcohol-based by at least 60 percent. Some sanitizers do not contain alcohol therefore is less effective in killing germs. Apply a small amount, approximately a 1/2 tsp in the palm of your hands. Rub them together making sure the sanitizer covers your fingers, palms, and the top of your hands completely. Continue rubbing hands together until they are dry. However, if your hands are visibly dirty, soap and water would be best.

Prevention is always best when dealing with illnesses such as the common cold or the flu. Developing good hand washing habits will always help in keeping you healthy. It doesn't take much time or effort to do but will pay off when it comes to your health. *Melinda Boney is an R.N. at the Okeechobee County Health Department and Okeechobee High School.

Woman accused of spitting in deputy's face

By Eric Kopp Okeechobee News... A woman was arrested and taken to the county jail when she was reportedly stopped for speeding then allegedly spit in the deputy's face.



Cynthia Tommie

Cynthia Tommie, 39, Frank Shore Road, Okeechobee, was arrested March 24, on a felony charge of battery on a law enforcement officer. She was also arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence and disorderly conduct.

Tommie was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$23,500. The woman was stopped Tuesday in the 200 block of U.S. 441 S. at 12:49 a.m. for traveling 65 mph in a 40 mph zone, stated an arrest report by Deputy Steven McKinley of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO). After stopping the woman the deputy stated he noticed two open beer bottles, from which someone had obviously drunk, in the center console of her Toyota sports utility vehicle.

When the deputy told the woman he was going to have her perform some field sobriety exercises she became enraged and started cursing and threatening him, stated the report. At one point she intentionally spit in the deputy's face, the report added.

A female deputy then arrived and searched the woman. At the jail, Tommie refused to get out of the deputy's patrol car and had to be forcibly removed by corrections officers, stated the deputy.

Deputy McKinley went on to state in his report that a breath test was administered at the jail. On the first breath sample her blood alcohol content (BAC) was .222 and her second BAC sample was .219, indicated the deputy's report.

The legal limit in Florida is .08. Deputy McKinley went on to state in his report that he issued Tommie traffic citations for illegal speed, having an open alcoholic beverage in the vehicle and for driving under the influence.

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).

• John Ellis Marlowe, 45, U.S. 441 S.E., was arrested March 25 on a warrant from Kentucky charging him with two counts failure to register as a sexual offender. His bond was set at \$11,000.

• Richard Davis Combs Jr., 56, S.E. 30th St., Okeechobee, was arrested March 24 by Deputy Bart Potter on a felony charge of false imprisonment and a misdemeanor charge of domestic battery. His bond was set at \$1,000.

• Randall Veazie, 32, N.E. 18th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested March 24 by DOC's Joseph Cracchiola on charges of violation of probation - escape, violation of probation - battery on a law enforcement officer and violation of probation - resisting a law enforcement officer with violence. He is being held without bond.

• Tiffany Platt, 22, S.E. 16th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested March 25 by Deputy Sarah Green on a charge of fraudulent use of a credit card. Her bond was set at \$5,000.

• Ronald Bryant Clements, 48, N.W. 10th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested March 25 by Deputy

Randal Parker on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - grand theft. He was released on his own recognizance.

• Paulette Smith, 37, S.W. Third Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested March 25 by Deputy Joseph Hall on a Polk County warrant charging her with failure to appear - worthless checks. She is being held without bond.

• Jessie James King, 45, N.E. 14th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested March 25 by DOC's Alfredo L. McFarlane on a felony charge of violation of probation - tampering with physical evidence. He was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of violation of probation - possession of drug paraphernalia. He is being held without bond.

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.

Public Notice 5005

NOTICE TO CREDITORS... The administration of the Estate of CONNIE L. CRANFORD, deceased, File Number 2009-CP-000039 is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34974. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

Public Notice 5005

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated the 16th day of March, 2009, and entered in Case No. 22-2008-CA-000290, of the Circuit Court of the 20th Judicial Circuit in and for Glades County, Florida, wherein DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR LONG BEACH MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2005-1 is the Plaintiff and DAVID MONTEZ, OTTAWA, INC., THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF DAVID MONTEZ, UNKNOWN TENANT(S); JOHN DOE; JANE DOE AS UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY are defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash AT FRONT STEPS, SOUTH DOOR OF COURTHOUSE, at the Glades County Courthouse in Moore Haven, Florida, at 11:00 a.m., on the 30th day of April, 2009, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

Public Notice 5005

From the Southeast corner of the Northwest one-quarter of the Northwest one-quarter of Section 27, Township 42 South, Range 30 East, Glades County, Florida; proceed South 05°56'07" West, along the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District right of way a distance of 338.80 feet to the Point of Beginning. From said Point of Beginning proceed South 89°54'43" East, a distance of 1371.57 feet to the Western right of way of the Seaboard Coastline Railroad; thence South 06°15'14" East, along said road right of way a distance of 167.75 feet; thence South 89°54'04" West, a distance of 1413.24 feet to the Eastern right of way of the aforesaid Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District; thence North 05°56'07" East, along said road right of way a distance of 169.40 feet to the point of beginning.

Public Notice 5005

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE SALES, MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Disabled persons who, because of their disabilities need special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Senior Deputy Clerk Administration whose Post Office is located at the Lee County Justice Center, Room 3112, 1700 Monroe Street, Ft. Pierce, FL 33901. Telephone: (239) 335-2299 or 1 (800) 955-8771 (TDD) OR 1 (800) 955-8770 Via FL Relay Service, no later than 5 days prior to the Court Date. Dated this 20th day of March, 2009. Joe Flint Clerk of the Circuit Court

Public Notice 5005

By Jennifer Bevis Deputy Clerk... The Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast - Region 20 and the Treasure Coast Workforce Consortium announces a meeting of the Executive Committee to which all persons are invited: Date & Time: Friday, April 3, 2009 - 8:00 a.m. Place: Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast University Park 594 NW University Blvd., Suite 100 Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986

Public Notice 5005

PURPOSE: To discuss matters concerning the Workforce Investment Act, Workforce Employment Opportunities, the Welfare Transition Program, One-Stop Career Centers, Federal Stimulus Funding and the Workforce Development Board. A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast University Park 594 NW University Blvd., Suite 100 Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986

Public Notice 5005

Should any person wish to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the above referenced meeting, they will need to ensure a verbatim recording of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based, in order to provide a record for judicial review. 315012 ON 3/27/09

Public Notice 5005

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Public Notice 5005

By Barry C. Silk (c)2008 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

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 1-18-37-36-0010-0000-0220 Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida...

Public Notice 5005

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

Public Notice 5005

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

Public Notice 5005

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Public Notice 5005

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Public Notice 5005

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

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 100.00 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 AND COMMENCING AT THE 1/4 SECTION CORNER ON THE WEST BOUNDARY LINE OF SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 37 NORTH, RANGE 36 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA; RUN THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 08 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE 1/4 SECTION LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 180.00 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 00 DEGREES 04 MINUTES 22 SECONDS EAST PARALLEL WITH THE WEST BOUNDARY LINE OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF SAID SECTION 17 FOR A DISTANCE OF 102.00 FEET; THENCE RUN 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; THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 08 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 112.30 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 00 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 07 SECONDS EAST 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 NORTH, RANGE 36 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ALSO KNOWN AS LOT 141-D, FOUR SEASONS ESTATES, AN UNRECORDED SUBDIVISION 1-17-37-36-0A00-00003-140D Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida...

Public Notice 5005

Name(s) in which assessed: MICHAEL GRANT

Public Notice 5005

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.

Public Notice 5005

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

Public Notice 5005

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

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Public Notice 5005

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Public Notice 5005

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED 2009TD004... 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 100.00 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 AND COMMENCING AT THE 1/4 SECTION CORNER ON THE WEST BOUNDARY LINE OF SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 37 NORTH, RANGE 36 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA; RUN THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 08 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE 1/4 SECTION LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 180.00 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 00 DEGREES 04 MINUTES 22 SECONDS EAST PARALLEL WITH THE WEST BOUNDARY LINE OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF SAID SECTION 17 FOR A DISTANCE OF 102.00 FEET; THENCE RUN 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; THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 08 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 112.30 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 00 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 07 SECONDS EAST 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 NORTH, RANGE 36 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ALSO KNOWN AS LOT 141-D, FOUR SEASONS ESTATES, AN UNRECORDED SUBDIVISION 1-17-37-36-0A00-00003-140D Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida...

Public Notice 5005

Name(s) in which assessed: MICHAEL GRANT

Public Notice 5005

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Public Notice 5005

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

Public Notice 5005

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Public Notice 5005

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED 2009TD005... 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 100.00 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



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Freedom Outreach Fishing is back

By Teresa Mataushek
Okeechobee News

Freedom Outreach Fishing Series II is back!

Freedom Outreach Fishing is sponsored by Freedom Outreach Ministries. The first of six tournaments will be held on Sunday, March 29 at Lock 7 boat ramp.

All tournaments will be held at Lock 7 boat ramp from safe light until 2 p.m. Entry fee for each tournament will be \$80. Entry will include Big Fish Pot and Classic Fund. There is a 70 percent payback on all tournaments.

Participants must fish at least four of the six tournament in order to qualify for the Classic, which will be held on Sept. 27. The Classic is a one-day event with a \$120 entry fee.

In case of low water levels Taylor Creek will be used as a back up ramp.

Rules for the tournaments are as follows:

- Limit of five fish per boat.
- 12 inch minimum.
- No culling at the ramp.
- 1/4 pound penalty per dead fish.
- Short fish disqualification.
- Operating aerator and live well is mandatory.
- Life jackets are mandatory while gas engine is in operation.
- Safe boating and fishing practices must be observed at

all times.

- Kill switch must be attached to driver any time combustion motor is running.
- Any participant under 18 years of age must have signature of parent/legal guardian on registration form.
- No drugs, no alcohol.
- 1 lb. penalty per minute for late weigh-in. After 15 minutes late, teams will be disqualified.
- All fish are to be lake released.
- No radios or cell phones except in case of break down or emergency.
- Only artificial lures with the exception of pork rinds may be used.
- In case of tie, the two places will be added together and winnings divided equally.
- Exemption cards will be handed out at registration.
- Polygraph tests may be administered at tournament officials' discretion.
- Tournament officials' decisions are FINAL!

Please register early. For more information or for registration forms, please call 863-634-3790 and or 863-634-9889.

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



Submitted photo/Humane Society Pet Rescue, FL

Adopt a pet

Three sweet little kittens waiting for a home of their own. Adopt 1, 2 or all 3. Females, 15 weeks old. Adoption fee is \$75 each call 863-532-1110 or email reunitepets@aol.com Humane Society Pet Rescue FL, Inc., Okeechobee.

Christian Team Trail draws 37 boats

The Christian Team Trail was held Saturday, March 7, 2009, at Okee-Tantie with 37 boats.

First place was Bob Owens and Fred George with 14.89 lbs.; second place was Mike Krause and James Krause with 14.44 lbs.; third place was Bill Rose and Craig Smith with 11.45 lbs.; fourth place was Jimmy McMillan and Jerod McMillan with 11.03 lbs.; fifth place was Les Tory and Jack Harrison with 10.41 lbs.; sixth place was Mac Russell and Beau Rodgers with 9.91 lbs.; seventh place was Leroy Bauer and Joe Wozar with 9.25 lbs.; and eighth place was Donnie VanDyke and Rick Buttenbach with 8.96 lbs.

Big Fish winners were Robert Stafford and Dalton Yancy with a 4.52 lb. fish and Second Place Big Fish winners were Carl Lewis and Hunter Broggie with a 4.44 lb. fish.

April 4 will be the Christian Team Trail Bill Conway Bass Classic Tournament. Weigh in at 1 p.m. at Okee-Tantie.



Submitted photo
Big Fish winners in the March 7 Christian Team Trail tournament were Robert Stafford and Dalton Yancy with a 4.52 lb. fish.



Submitted photos
The Christian Team Trail was held Saturday, March 7, 2009, at Okee-Tantie with 37 boats. First place in the March 7 Christian Team Trail fishing tournament went to Bob Owens and Fred George with 14.89 lbs.



Submitted photo
Second place in the Christian Team Trail tournament on March 7 went to Mike Krause and James Krause with 14.44 lbs.

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Tennis teams have rough afternoon against Jensen

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Jensen Beach High School showed why they are one of the best tennis programs in the area when they swept the Okeechobee High School tennis teams in Okeechobee Tuesday afternoon.

Jensen won the boys match in lopsided fashion 7-0, and didn't lose a set. The girls match was much closer but the Lady Falcons pulled out a tough 5-2 victory.

On the boys side Stefan Hogle defeated Corey White 6-0, and 6-2. Anthony Agee defeated Zach Fowler 6-0, and 6-1. Michael Kuhns defeated Alex Nielson 6-1, and 6-0. Mark Langer defeated Max Norman 6-0, and 6-0. Matt Romano defeated Kyle Lunt 6-0, and 6-3.

Lunt, a sophomore, said it helps him to play better plays, "It helps a lot. It gives you experience. I hope to move up in the next couple of years and get better," he said.

Lunt dropped the first set and didn't have a single break point on Romano's serve. He was competitive in three games but couldn't match Romano's quickness, and pace on the ball.

Lunt put together a good stretch of tennis early in the second set and only trailed 4-3 at one point. He said he tried harder and got a good pep talk from his coach Bryan Van Camp.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Kyle Lunt had a tough time in a straight set loss to Matt Romano of Jensen Beach Tuesday.

"I played okay today. I could have played better. They were a very solid team and he played really good baseline tennis," he added.

In doubles Hogle and Agee defeated White and Fowler 8-2. Kuhns and Langer defeated Nielson and Norman 8-1.

The girls played well and were in every match. Kari Berger extended Kylie Carson to a third set and played very well despite a 6-3, 3-6, 5-7 loss. Berger and Carson banged away at each other for close to two hours before a winner was determined.

Shaina Ragamat lost to Sarah Montgomery 6-3, and 6-3 in another good match. Alisha Wilcox had a chance to serve for the second set before she fell to Emma Dwyer 6-4, and 7-5. Katie Walker battled with Katie Olivera and lost 6-2, and 6-4. Number five seed, Liz Turner got off to a good start and used her stronger strokes and baseline game to defeat Aubrey Moran of Jensen Beach, 6-2, and 6-4.

In doubles play, the team of Katherine Ragamat and Katie Walker lost to Carson and Montgomery 8-4. Okeechobee got their second victory behind the doubles team of Shaina Ragamat and Alisha Wilcox. They beat Dwyer and Olivera 8-3.

The tennis teams hosted Lincoln Park on Wednesday. The teams travel to Martin County on Monday and return home to play a tough Treasure Coast squad on Tuesday, March 31.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Liz Turner won in straight sets, the only singles player to get a win for Okeechobee against Jensen Beach.

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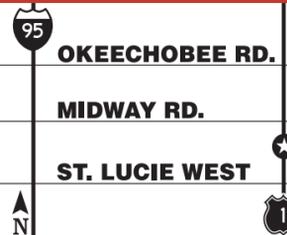
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Your Internet Representative Hank Basile at Sunrise-Ford.com

OHS flag football team hosts home game



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Meaghan Thomas (left) and Lois Billie (right) try to grab the flag of Alexa Wilhelm of Seminole Ridge during a touchdown run in the first half.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Okeechobee QB Deanna Davis attempts a short pass as Ashley Fragale converges for Seminole Ridge. Also in photo is Billie Jo Freeman (left).

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The scores might have been a little lopsided Tuesday but the Okeechobee High School junior varsity and varsity flag football games were very exciting Tuesday at Brahman stadium.

The JV girls lost to Seminole Ridge 48-0 and the varsity girls dropped a 45-0 decision to the Lady Hawks.

Kori McMahon returned two interceptions for touchdowns in the varsity game to lead the Hawks, (3-1). Okeechobee fell to (0-3).

The Hawks made interceptions a habit on Tuesday. Charlene Thome scored the first touchdown on a pass from Hillary Mears and a two point pass gave Seminole Ridge an 8-0 early lead. On Okeechobee's next drive, McMahon picked off a pass over the middle and returned it 16 yards for another score.

Seminole Ridge Coach Austin Bowe said his team played well and have now tossed three shutouts in a row, "A lot of our girls have played since they were 6 and 7 years old at a league in Loxahatchee. That experience is important. This is a tough game to learn."

After Morgan Crawford caught a first down pass for Okeechobee, Kaitlin Callaghan picked off another pass and returned it 21 yards for a touchdown and a 20-0 lead.

McMahon's second interception of the half led to another touchdown when she scampered 20 yards for a 26-0 lead. Cassie Colgan and Deanna Davis shared time at QB for Okeechobee and neither player could get the offense going.

Seminole wrapped up the scoring in the half with Thome grabbing a 30 yard pass from Mears. Thome added a 25 yard scoring run. Alexandra Decesare returned another interception for 25 yards and a score to make it 45-0 at the half.

Coach Bowe said his team works hard on defense and on creating turnovers. "You can frustrate an offense that way. It gives you momentum especially when you can score on defense," he said.

Kiesha Cleckley was praised by Seminole Ridge for some excellent defensive plays. She broke up some passes for Okeechobee.

"There is definitely a lot of talent on Okeechobee. They made some nice plays on us. They have a JV program for the first time which is important. You got to get the girls out there at a young age and create a hunger and desire for flag football to win," Bowe added.

In the JV contest interceptions also hurt Okeechobee as Seminole Ridge jumped out to a 20-0 early lead and were never threatened.

Morgan McClain returned an interception for a touchdown, Shelby Obermeier caught a six yard pass from Alexa Wilhelm, and Wilhelm rushed for a three

yard touchdown for the Hawks JV.

Chaqueisha Silvers had a QB sack for Okeechobee. Lois Billie pulled several flags and added

a couple of pass receptions for Okeechobee. Nettira Ridley and Meaghan Thomas also grabbed some flags for the Brahman defense.

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