

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 100 No. 40

Friday, April 3, 2009

50¢ Plus tax

Three killed in car crash on SR 70 ... Page 7



Teen anglers compete ... Page 11

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Lake Levels

12.18 feet
Last Year: 10.27 feet

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

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U.S. Sugar buyout reduced

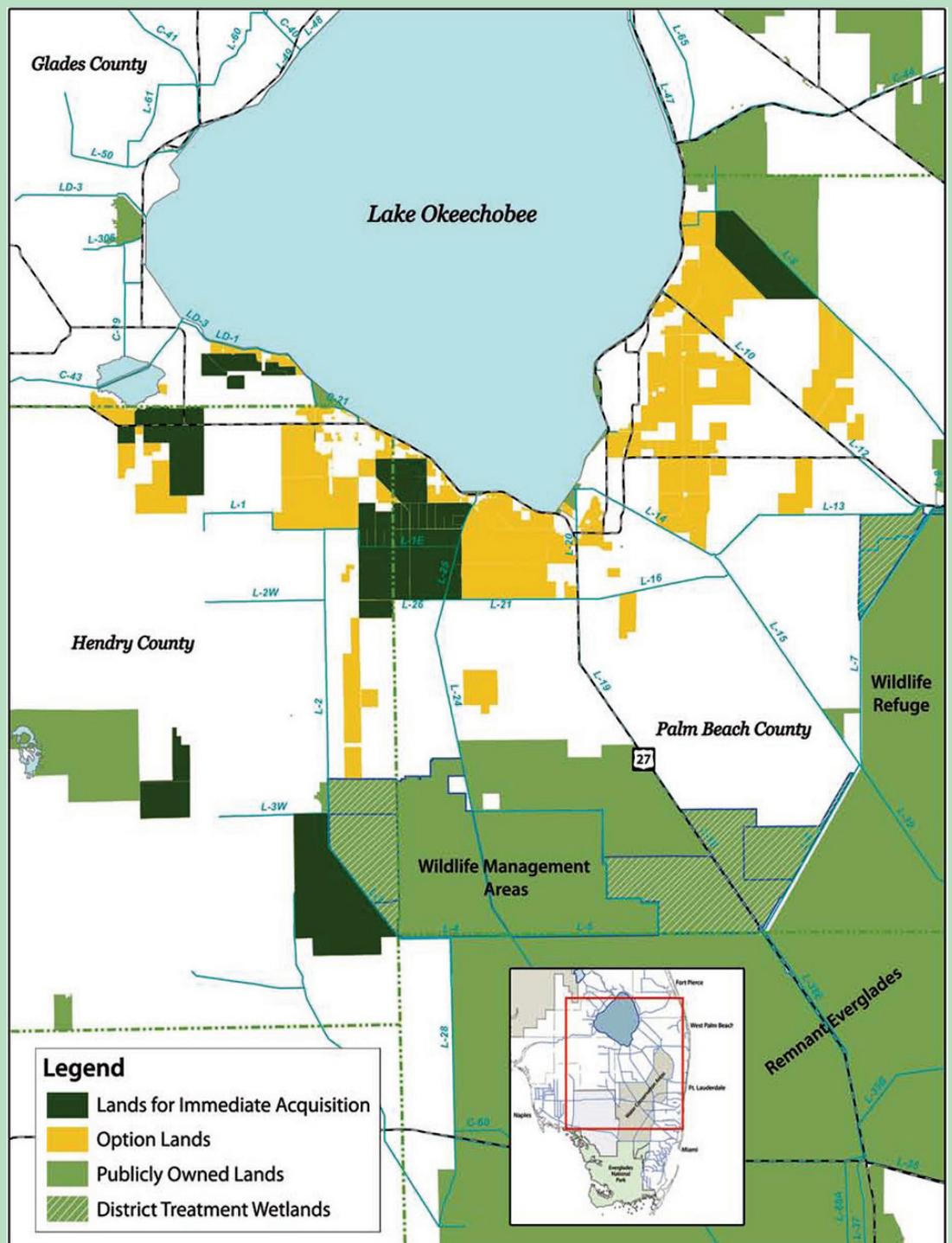
State downsizes plan to restore flow to Florida Everglades

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The sour economy has forced a significant downsizing in the

largest land acquisition ever planned by the State of Florida. Last June Governor Charlie Crist announced the total buyout

See LAND — Page 2



Dairies see milk prices plummet

Some dairy farmers not making enough to pay feed bills

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

Local dairies are feeling the economic squeeze as they have too many cows with too much milk, a higher cost of production and not enough demand for the end product.

"Prices for milk are the lowest they have been since 1978," said local dairyman Red Larson, of Larson Dairy. "Many farmers aren't getting enough money from their milk to pay to feed the cows."

This issue is not just local, but nationwide with an extensive exporting drop of 50 percent from the last few years. According to Mr. Larson from 2006 to 2008, dairies were encouraged to increase production due to an increased exporting market for butter, powder and cheese. The world-wide recession caused sales to drop 30 percent at first and then ultimately now to 50 percent just in this export market.

Dairies are now stuck with too many cows -- more than they need to milk, according to Mr. Larson. When cows are not paying for their feed through the production of milk, they are sent to the slaughter house where they "help us out with the hamburger economy," explained Mr. Larson.

Prices of milk continue to drop for the consumer.

The price that the dairy farmer receives is set by Federal Milk Mar-

See MILK — Page 2

Courtesy Art/South Florida Water Management District

LAND

Continued From Page 1

of U.S. Sugar's assets. In December the sale was downsized slightly from 187,000 acres to 180,000 acres at a cost of \$1.34 billion.

On Wednesday, April 1 the governor announced a much larger reduction. The purchase will now be done in two phases. The state will purchase 72,500 acres from U.S. Sugar for \$533 million with a closing date in September. Currently about 32,000 of those acres are growing citrus crops and about 40,500 acres are in sugar cane. The amount of land to be purchased in phase 1 is twice the size of Orlando. Phase 2 gives the state the option to purchase the remaining 107,000 acres within 10 years.

Under the original plan U.S. Sugar could lease back land in cane production for seven years at \$50 an acre. That lease price is now increased to \$150 an acre.

The governor made the announcement at a press conference. Then various state government and U.S. Sugar officials clarified the details at that press conference or during a telephone press conference later in the day.

"I couldn't be more pleased with what we have been able to announce today," said the governor.

"It is a unique, special place, one of a kind," the governor said of the Everglades. "The point is connect to Lake Okeechobee with Florida Bay and restore the natural flow.

"The governor's announcement today moves us significantly closer to a sustainable Everglades system, and we thank him for his leadership," said Janet Bowman of the Nature Conservancy, an environmental organization.

"U.S. Sugar will be able to continue to operate with some economic certainty," stated Robert Coker, Senior Vice President of

U.S. Sugar. He said it was a good deal for the environment as well for his company.

"This keeps the mill in operation and keeps jobs in the Clewiston area," said Michael Sole, Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The DEP holds the title to any state owned lands.

Concern had been expressed about the effect the buyout of U.S. Sugar would have on the area at the south end of the lake that depends on sugar production as a major part of its economy.

"We are getting what we can afford today," said Mr. Sole.

Mr. Sole stated that officials have always said they did not need the entire 187,000 acres. However, he admitted that the 72,500 acres will not be enough to do everything South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) wants to do.

"It's all we can afford," said Carole Wehle, executive director of SFWMD.

She attributed the downsizing of the deal on the condition of the stock market and estimates of diminished revenues in ad valorem taxes due to declining property values.

Work on the Everglades Agricultural Area reservoir project that had been suspended will be altered and downsized, said Ms. Wehle.

There had been talk of SFWMD swapping land with Florida Crystals to acquire land for a flowway at the south end of the lake. However, officials acknowledged that with the downsizing of the deal there will not be any surplus land to swap.

The new provisions must still be approved by the boards of U.S. Sugar and SFWMD. Also, as in the original deal, U.S. Sugar is allowed to shop for a better deal for 60 days. Then the state would be given the opportunity to match that deal.

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

MILK

Continued From Page 1

Marketing Orders. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), each milk marketing order includes: a classified price plan system of minimum prices; terms of the order; and provisions for the administration of the order.

According to the USDA, the purpose of these orders are to "stabilize market conditions, benefit producers and consumers by establishing and maintaining orderly marketing conditions, and assure consumers adequate supplies of pure and wholesome milk at all times."

Benefits include assuring dairy farmers a reasonable minimum price for their milk throughout the year as well as drastic changes in price for the consumer due to heavy and light stages of milk production.

Dairies then negotiate a premium above that USDA set price based on supply and demand and quality of their milk.

According to Mr. Larson, prior to Novem-

ber 2008 the dairy price for milk was \$25 per hundred weight, which equals 11.66 gallons of milk. Prices began to fall in November and were down to \$17.16 per hundred weight for February.

General Manager for McArthur Farms, Bob Rydzewski expressed concern for the industry in general that is basically living off of credit and equity during these rough economic times. Mr. Rydzewski explained that some dairy farmers re-mortgaged or drew equity from their farms to expand their operations when the land prices were sky rocketing. Now the land prices have plummeted and they have lost the equity that they once had. It takes equity and credit to survive during these hard times.

According to Mr. Rydzewski, in the past cows were worth \$2,200 to \$2,500 a head and have now dropped in value to \$1,400 to \$1,500 a head. So, not only the land values have dropped, but the value of the cows has also dropped.

"I am afraid that this may change the whole industry for good," stated Mr. Rydzewski. Losing cattle in the southeast region could cause the need for importing milk

in the future which would in turn increase costs for the consumer. If a local dairy failed, it would be catastrophic for this county.

"The cost of production is more than consumers are willing to pay. Farmers are living off credit until the demand comes back," explained Mr. Rydzewski. He even went as far as to say that the dairy farmers may end up in the same predicament as the auto industry with too much product and not enough demand.

Costs will continue to be incurred by the

dairy farmers as the cows are fed and taken care of to produce milk for the consumer.

While the future population predictions tout a bright future, only time will tell if all of the dairy farmers will make it through the rough times that are to come while waiting for this world-wide recession to ease. Once they make it through, it will still take time for businesses to recover after living off credit for so long.

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

Okeechobee Forecast

Friday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 86. Southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday Night: A slight chance of showers before 2am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. West wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 85. North wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 65. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

Sunday: A 30 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 88. South wind around 5 mph.

Lotteries

The Florida Lottery: Numbers selected Wednesday in the Florida Lotto are: **Cash 3:** 4-8-0; **Play 4:** 5-1-0-0; **Fantasy 5:** 1-2-17-19-32; **Lotto:** 5-16-18-19-20-37; **Power Ball:** 2-9-33-41-54 **PB 14 x3**. Numbers selected Thursday are: **Cash 3:** 4-3-9; **Play 4:** 5-4-6-4.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Your outta there...

Donnie Ross is tagged out by Adam Tewksbury at the plate during the third inning of Friday's game.

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Man accused of cutting his wife

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An arrest report indicates that a woman was cut and bruised by her husband after he feared their marriage was ending.

Michael Anderson Goins, 40, N.E. Fourth Lane, Okeechobee, was arrested Tuesday, March 31, on a charge of aggravated battery. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$2,500.



Michael A. Goins

According to an arrest report by Deputy Howard Pickering, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), the abuse began on or about March 26, when Goins threw his wife onto a bed and scratched her face. It continued on March 28, when he went to his wife's work place, displayed a shotgun and told the woman

he would shoot her if she looked or talked to another man, stated the deputy's report.

Deputy Pickering indicated in his report that the situation apparently boiled over Monday, March 30, when Goins grabbed his wife's arm and began twisting it. Goins then pulled a pocketknife and began to cut the woman's shirt off, continued the report, and when she tried to push her husband away her fingers were cut.

Goins went so far as to bend back the fingers of his wife's hand while telling her to pick which finger she wanted broken, stated the deputy's report.

Deputy Pickering said when he interviewed the victim she was being treated at Raulerson Hospital. He stated in his report that she had a bruise and bite mark on her left shoulder and scratches over and under her right eye. His report went on to show that the woman's left eye was bruised, she had cut marks on her right hand and her left arm was sprained.

Two charged in robbery attempt

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A man and woman have been arrested for their alleged connection with the attempted robbery of a pedestrian.

Arrested Sunday, March 29, were John Alman Todd, 35, U.S. 441 S.E., and Jenny Lee Hare, 25, U.S. 441 S.E. Both were charged with attempted armed robbery and were booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$50,000 each.

An arrest report by Deputy Matt Crawford, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated as the victim left a convenience store on U.S. 98 N. around 3:28 p.m. Sunday he was approached by Hare who asked him for money to buy a pack of cigarettes. The male victim replied that he had no money

and began to walk toward his home.

The victim reportedly told the deputy that as he walked away from the store he was followed by a blue pickup truck.

Deputy Crawford's report then states that the truck pulled up to the victim and stopped, at which point Todd got out and approached the victim. When Todd got close to the victim he pulled a knife and lunged at the victim, continued the report.

The victim jumped away from Todd and ran home, stated Deputy Crawford.

Deputy Crawford went on to state that Officer Kelley Margerum, of the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), took two pocketknives from Todd and Hare after she and OCPD Sergeant Tom Terner stopped them and held them in the parking lot of a downtown business.



John A. Todd



Jenny Lee Hare

Okeechobee 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).

- Kenneth Earl Peacock, 29, N.E. Seventh Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested March 27 by Deputy Randal Parker on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$500.

- Jose Garcia, 34, Okeechobee, was arrested March 27 by Detective John Zeigler on a charge of uttering a forged instrument.

- Sharon Marie White, 32, N.W. 18th St., Okeechobee, was arrested March 30 by Deputy Robbie Lamb on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with violation of probation - grand theft. She is being held without bond.

- Casey Matthew Beasley, 21, U.S. 441 S.E., was arrested March 30 by Deputy Bart Potter on a Virginia warrant charging him with burglary and grand larceny. He is being held without bond.

- Anthony J. Bell, 29, West Mediterian Way, Port St. Lucie, was arrested March 31 by Officer Scott Morgan on a felony charge of driving while license suspended - habitual offender. He was also arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of marijuana under 20 grams and possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$3,500.

- Sue Ann Maines, 38, Basin St., Lorida, was arrested March 31 by Deputy Marcus Collier on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with failure to appear - possession of diazepam, failure to appear - petit theft, failure to appear - possession of marijuana under 20 grams and failure to appear - possession of drug paraphernalia. She is being held without bond.

- Rinella Bailey, 36, N.W. 33rd Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested April 1 by Deputy Joseph Gracie on charges of driving under the influence and child abuse. Her bond was set at \$7,500.

- Francis Parker Oswald, 58, Pollywog Point, LaBelle, was arrested April 1 by Deputy G. Popovich on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$5,000.

- Nelida Miriam Frost, 20, N.E. 13th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested by Officer Kelley Margerum on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with grand theft. Her bond was set at \$2,500.

- Jeannie Renae Chapman, 36, S.E. 93rd Trail, Okeechobee, was arrested April 1 by Deputy G. Popovich on Okeechobee County warrants charging her with amended violation of probation - grand theft, amended violation of probation - burglary of a structure, amended violation of probation - possession of carisoprodol, amended violation of probation - possession of hydrocodone and amended violation of probation - possession of aprazolam. She is being held without bond.

- Tiffany Brown, 31, S.W. Bradshaw Circle, Port St. Lucie, was arrested April 1 by Deputy P. Massung on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with high speed or wanton fleeing. Her bond was set at \$10,000.

- Christopher King, 25, S.E. Seventh St., Okeechobee, was arrested April 2 by Deputy P. Massung on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$1,000.

- Jennifer Conner, 25, N.W. 19th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested April 2 by Deputy P. Massung on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with dealing in stolen property. Her bond was set at \$15,000.

- Evi Serrano, 27, N.E. 64th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested April 2 by Deputy P. Massung on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - grand theft. 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.

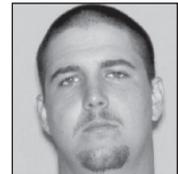
Sexual predator notification

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office is disclosing this information to the public in order to enhance public safety, awareness, and protection. This information is not intended to increase fear: rather it is this agency's belief that an informed public is a safer public. This bulletin should be used only for information purposes. Citizen abuse of the information to threaten, intimidate, or harass offenders will not be tolerated, in any manner. The individuals who appear in this bulletin have served the sentence imposed on them by the courts. They are NOT wanted by the police at this time.

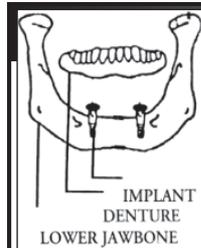
Sex offenders have always lived in the communities. The only change is the public is now better informed.

Hartford, Michael
8190 Hwy 441 SE, #18
Brother's RV Resort
W/m; dob: 4/11/88
6'4", 225 Lb., Brown hair,
hazel eyes

Hartford was convicted of Lewd Molestation of a Child on June 18, 2008 in Dixie County, Florida. The victim was a minor. If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, contact Michele or Connie at the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office at 763-3117, extension 240 or website <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us>.



Michael Hartford



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Public Forum/Speak Out

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

Teachers losing jobs

- My heart goes out to all of the teachers. We have some great teachers out there and it is going to be hard on them to find a job and have to relocate. I did, however, hear that the ones let go were second year teachers. I think that is because once they hit three years it's harder to let them go. This way they can let go some of the first year teachers this year next year if they need to. (They will then be second year teachers.) Not too fair but life is not always fair.

- If you are a teacher I wish you luck in having a job next year and the following and if you are one they let go I wish you luck in finding another job and relocating if you have to.

- I wonder how they will do this with the limit on student/teacher ratio.

- Can't point fingers at anyone but us. We complain and cry about taxes, until they cut and pull them off us, and our public services start failing.

Government and trust

- I would not want to be a commissioner, county or city employee at this time. The FBI, and now the state is supposed to be looking at everybody in government service. ALL government employees are supposed to disclose if they get any kind of gifts. Including concert tickets, dinners, hotel rooms, clothes, etc. Government employees are supposed to disclose potential conflicts of interest. With the economy the way that it is, finding the crooks in government service and giving them fines is certainly one way to raise money. I've read about government employees in Tallahassee, Tampa, Orlando, St. Cloud being arrested. What's the world coming to ... when you can't trust your local government?

- Goes to show people think they are above the law. But, I am convinced, "Your sins will find you out." So, let this be a lesson to all. "Thou shalt not steal."

- I believe the some of the middle east-



ern countries belief for the penalty of theft would be to cut their hand off, I'd bet that would deter politicians and criminals from doing it.

Courtesy photo/SFWMD

Lake Okeechobee

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced Saturday that freshwater releases from Lake Okeechobee down the Caloosahatchee River would resume Saturday. Freshwater pulse releases, which are important to maintain the proper salinity in the river during the dry season, ended March 5. On March 15, with lake levels at 12.45 feet, the South Florida Water Management District recommended that the Army Corps cease all releases to protect water supplies. Two days later, Lee County officials asked the Corps to resume discharges to the Caloosahatchee.

- Lee County officials are crying the blues after the storms, saying they didn't want that dirty water from the lake coming down their river, but now they are begging for that lake water to keep the salt water out.

- On the news they said the coast to coast waterway through Lake Okeechobee would be closed to boat traffic this summer. Maybe they should just close it for good and fill in the ditches. The Caloosahatchee should only be connected to the lake by marches, and the river should go dry part of the year. That is the way the Mother Nature made it.

Newspaper has new format

- The paper is out in the new format today --- I think it looks good and we didn't seem to lose anything. I can see why the advertisers like that size -- a small ad makes a much bigger impact on a smaller page.

- I like the new size of the newspaper. It's easier to handle and it has lots of local news in it.

Domestic violence

- Domestic violence is a problem nationwide. According to national statistics, New York City has the highest per capita rate of domestic violence incidents; and Nevada has the highest per capita rate of deaths from domestic violence. I have a childhood friend who married a military officer. He gave orders all day long. When he came home he gave orders and if the wife and kids didn't jump to it fast enough, or if they dared disagree with anything he said, he enforced his rule with his fists. Because the military was more concerned about the officer than the family, nothing was done to protect her. ("If we wanted you to have a wife, we would have issued you one.") With the help of her parents, she finally escaped and changed her name, but she still lives in fear he will find her and kill her. This abuser is a college graduate and he came from a northern state. The problem is nationwide, not confined to any one area or population group. Wife beaters can be high school dropouts or PhDs.

- Spouses who live in these types of relationships are so emotionally, spiritually, physically and mentally broken down by their abuser that they think there is no way out. When I was abused, I left him many times only to be found within days or weeks and threatened with my life and my children's lives. There is no self esteem left when victims become involved with abusers. The abuser first tells them that they aren't good enough for anyone else to love them and because of being battered, they are scarred and ugly and that no one else would have them anyway.

- Woman who have been abused usually need therapy to realize it is wrong. It has nothing to do with "stupid". Incredibly smart women fall into abusive relationships and may even need to be forcibly removed by family and friends and then put into therapy before they can even realize that something is wrong. They need support from those around them, not people telling them they deserve it.

- Domestic violence is never OK! If you are a victim of domestic violence, whether you are a male or a female, please don't hesitate to press charges against these no do gooders. The reason I say this is for one simple reason: I don't care how many times they say they are sorry and that they will never do it again. That is just not the case.

Pro-Life shirt worn to school; Teen told to change

- I think the "Abortion is Murder" part of the shirt could possibly be an issue if it could be considered insensitive to girls at the high school (and maybe some teachers too) who have had an abortion. Since the school is to look after the welfare of all of its students such a statement on a t-shirt could be construed as too inflammatory/insensitive.

- The Supreme Court in Tinker vs. Des Moines gave students the right to political forms of expression, but it also stated that anything the principal deems is a distraction or a disruption to the school setting can be banned. The Supreme Court was vague on purpose and so is the dress code. Students have very limited freedom of expression in schools.

- Freedom of speech is the freedom to speak freely without censorship or limitation in public. As of the last time I checked, Okeechobee High School was considered a public school, therefore I should not have any limitation in what I believe is right.

- Is this held across the board? For example, if a student wears a Wicca symbol (offending a Christian), would that be banned? Or the opposite, if a student wears a Christian symbol, thereby offending a Wiccan? What about a gay pride shirt?

- Purely symbolic speech is protected as long as the principal deems it is not a distraction or disruption. A principal is given a lot of discretion in this regard, but they also run the risk of going too far.

- I am anti-abortion as well (with exceptions) and I appreciate the stand this young person is taking. However, I also know that there are adult and juvenile females in these schools who have had to live with the painful consequences of abortion. I don't think wearing a shirt in the hallways and classrooms saying "Abortion is Murder" helps matters at all.

- 1 percent of all abortions occur because of rape or incest; 6 percent of abortions occur because of potential health problems regarding either the mother or child, and 93 percent of all abortions occur for social reasons (i.e. the child is unwanted or inconvenient). 93 percent of the infanticide is under the guise of "birth control."

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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- To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues.
- To report the news with honesty, accuracy,

purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.

- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- To disclose our own conflicts of interest or potential conflicts to our readers.
- To correct our errors and to give each correction to the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

MEMBER OF:



Our freshwater fisheries should be protected

Guest Commentary

By **Bob Wattendorf**

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

When you cast a lure in Florida, you are participating in a time-honored tradition in the Sunshine State. Today we all share responsibility for conserving our fisheries and for passing the angling tradition along to our youth.

Some things such as climate change and population explosions may seem out of our hands, but individually, we all can do something to keep those fish biting even through challenging times. Perhaps even more than ever, we all could benefit from the pleasures of fishing, watching the sun glisten on the water and hearing a fish strike a topwater plug.

With the population in Florida hovering around 19 million, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) faces amazing challenges as it strives to manage freshwater fisheries for their long-term well-being and the benefit of all those people.

The population is increasing by nearly a thousand people per day, and by 2060, Flori-

da is predicted to have 36 million residents.

A study, titled Florida 2060, published by 1000 Friends of Florida suggests that 7 million acres of natural or rural land will be converted to urban use by 2060. The report notes that the governor, state legislators, agencies and residents can help ensure sustainable natural resources and a healthy environment by deliberate growth management, fostering Florida Forever and other land acquisition programs.

Now more than ever, the FWC realizes that recognizing the unique attributes of Florida's ecology and natural resources and the role they play in creating a quality lifestyle for Floridians is critical. The future depends on science-based management, and a proactive look at deliberate growth-leadership.

Wildlife 2060, a report by the FWC (see MyFWC.com), shows Florida's natural lands and waters are at the core of our prosperity, bringing billions of dollars in economic benefits to our state every year. The report predicts what would happen if current growth patterns continue, but it also highlights activities that have been pursued to shape growth in an environmentally sensitive and community-friendly way. By building on

these lessons, we can prevent haphazard sprawl, maintain a natural fish and wildlife community and ensure future generations can continue to enjoy them.

Projections for global warming suggest particularly severe threats to the future of our ecology, fish and wildlife, and recreational use, as shoreline areas become more inundated by rising water levels over the next century.

The FWC has taken a leadership role in this area too, by holding a summit titled "Florida's Wildlife: On the front line of climate change." The summit included Nobel Peace Prize laureates Dr. Jean Brennan, from Defenders of Wildlife, and Dr. Virginia Burkett, from the U.S. Geological Survey. With the information gathered at the summit, the FWC has set in motion the actions necessary to manage fish and wildlife as they adapt to the stresses of rapid change.

Florida's Wildlife Legacy Initiative is the FWC's principal effort to conserve Florida's wildlife and their habitats. The goal is to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered. Rather than rules and regulations, the Initiative creates partnerships to take action.

Get Outdoors Florida! is an effort to en-

gage communities, families and individuals in outdoor experiences to achieve healthier lifestyles and sustain Florida's natural resources.

This broad coalition, including the FWC, envisions a healthy Florida community that is connected with nature and reflects social diversity, while exhibiting a conservation ethic to help ensure a sustainable future and recreational opportunities.

We all can participate by encouraging our youth to get outdoors and enjoy all that Florida has to offer. When we begin to appreciate the wonders of the local fishing hole or the rivers flowing through our state, we become partners in conserving those resources for our enjoyment now and in the future.

Conservation measures, actions and education not only enhance our lifestyles, but ensure a healthy, sustainable world for Florida's unique and precious fish and wildlife. Science-based management will ensure that as our population doubles, fish and wildlife will abound and future generations will enjoy all of the healthy benefits of being connected to nature.

Letters to the Editor

Legion appreciates support

First, I would like to thank all the people who came out and supported our Free Fair held in late January and early February this year. Due to the economy and the cold weather it wasn't as great as we had hoped for although we did get a couple of good days in. The funds realized from the fair, do support many of our projects.

Next I would like to thank all the people who have used the daily Speak Out column in support of us and our free fair. It is nice to know that we do have friends in Okeechobee.

To give you a brief history of the American Legion, it was chartered by Congress in 1917 as an organization for all veterans who served in World War I regardless of whether they were in combat or not. This tradition has been carried forward to this day and includes World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, Lebanon and Grenada conflicts and the Persian Gulf conflict since August of 1990 through the present. The purpose of the legion is to support veterans and our communities. Post 64 was formed here in Okeechobee in 1926 and has been operating since.

As stated previously, we have many projects that we support with the veterans hospital in West Palm Beach being one of our primary receivers. Whenever they need help, including financial aid, we are one of the first posts to respond south of Orlando. Our next project has been Okeechobee High School scholarships. The one thing we do insist on is that these scholarship funds go to students with lower grades and wouldn't qualify for the bigger and better scholarships. Currently we provide support and meeting places for one Boy Scout Group (18 boys), two Girl Scout Groups (16 girls), and one Cub Scout pack (72 boys).

We send six boys to Boys State and our Auxiliary sends two or three girls to Girls State each year. These students who participate in these conferences will be very glad to tell you what a rewarding experience it has been for them as they learn how government works.

We have an active school medals program for children who excel at different programs as set forth by the legion. We support the JROTC program at the high school and you may see many of them performing various details at the Veteran's park during ceremonies for veterans.

In addition we support the Real Life Children's Ranch, Hospice, Big Lake Mission, Senior Services and Healthy Start and many other organizations as monies allow us.

When our founding fathers set up the fair it was decided that the admission to the fair would be eliminated to accommodate all the people. Further, we provide free parking. You pay only for the rides and what you eat. In addition, we run several contests which we pay cash prizes. The county commissioners have been our judges for these contests and we appreciate them taking time out of their schedules to do the judging. During the fair we have a beauty pageant to select a Miss American Legion for the year, who serves as a good will ambassador for us. On Wednesday during the fair we sponsor a free day where we provide the food and rides for all special needs people within the community. Age is no barrier as long as they are special needs. There were 567 participants this year.

Yes! As some of our columns have noted, the free fair is what gives us the money we need to keep up with our commitments to Veterans and to the community. A loss of funds would eliminate most of our charity as we are fighting for dollars like everybody

else in this economy.

For God and Country,
Paul Partridge
Commander
American Legion Post 64

There are no friends in business

We live in a 55+ gated community. One of the nice things about living here is that it is quiet and peaceful and for the most part everyone gets along. We are all diverse, we come from different backgrounds, some are northerners, some are Canadians and different cultures, Italian, Polish, English, French, etc.

Some of us were here before this park became a 55+ community. There has always been a Homeowners Association. The Association Board Members are men and women chosen by the people in the community to help regulate and enforce the laws of the community. These laws are made to benefit the people who live here to protect them. These rules and regulations were set up by the Board and presented to the residents for approval. If you did not attend a meeting approving them then you lost out on your privilege to vote. The majority of votes carried and the rules were set.

One thing you have to learn here and anywhere there is a structured community is that the Board is a business that must carry out the rules and guidelines set up for the benefit of the community.

There are no friends in business. You cannot bend or fracture the rules for a friend simply because you want to help them. And what kind of friend are you that you would use your friendship as a lever to get your own way? So please do not take offense when your friend says 'no' because the rules

clearly state you cannot do such and such a thing.

We all live together by choice. And we all get along fairly well. Most of the people here are long time friends and some are family by blood. Because we live here by choice we are "family" by association. We all pull together in times of need. We help each other in different ways. When some rule is challenged the Board members call a meeting and make a decision that will benefit the whole community and sometimes that decision is not the one you want, but rules are rules and the Board is in the business of enforcing them for our benefit. Again, there are no friends in business conflicts outside of the Board meeting. This ruins our friendship.

When we meet in a social gathering or at the pool or even just walking, I like to see your smiling face. It makes me feel good and we can carry on a nice little conversation that brightens the day. Jesus said, "this new commandment I give you, Love your neighbor as yourself and as I love you." But He also tells us that we are to obey the laws set up by our governed people. Being as the Board is chosen by the men and women of the community that allows them to set up the laws and rules of regulations they are our governed body.

Something else to ponder... for every minute you are angry you lose sixty seconds of happiness. Don't let your anger hurt yourself, because you are the only one hurting. Badmouthing the others only makes you look worse. Pray and ask God to give you peace and then go hug your neighbor. They miss you too.

God Bless you all,
Cheryl Gawda

Community Events

Extension Service to hold 'Horse Course'

UF/IFAS will host Performance Horse Short Course & Trade Show on **Saturday, April 4**, at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center. This Short Course will be an action packed day with live demonstrations and world renowned presenters like Bob Myler of "Myler Bits & Spurs." Learn about performance horse nutrition and see the inside of a live horse's gut! You can also fulfill your shopping desires by visiting the Trade Show vendors. Registration fee: \$30 and only \$10 for 4-H, FFA, and FL. Jr. & High School Rodeo members (membership card or back number required). Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. For more information or if interested in participating as a vendor, please call Lindsey Wiggins at: 863-674-4092.

Johnny DeRose in concert

The Okeechobee Shrine Club will have Johnny DeRose to perform on **April 4**. Johnny has performed all over the U.S. and has opened for The Platters, Dell Viking, The Drifters, Jay Black, The Chiffons and Liza Minnelli. Tickets are \$30 each and include dinner and the show. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the show will begin at 8 p.m. For tickets or information call 863-763-3378 or 863-697-2765.

Church hosts concert

Treasure Island Baptist Church, 4209 U. S. 441 S.E. will present The Nelons in concert on Sunday, **April 5** at 6 p.m.

Annual Hog Roast planned

The Okeechobee Masonic Lodge No. 237 will sponsor their annual hog roast on Saturday, **April 4**, from 4 until 7 p.m. All proceeds will benefit their scholarship fund. Eat in or take out is available. Tickets are \$7 per person. For ticket information contact Fred Cover, J.W. 954-818-2558, John A. Bubel, S.W. 863-697-3626 or Jim Green, W.M. 863-634-4401.

Honey Baked Ham time!

Okeechobee Main Street is offering Honey Baked Hams for Easter. Spiral hams, boneless hams, whole smoked turkey breast, side dishes and desserts! Orders must be placed by Wednesday, April 8, for pickup on Friday, April 10. Call 863-763-2225 or 863-357-6246 to place your order or if you'd like to be emailed a complete list of items available.

Grace Brethren to host 'Fireproof'

Grace Brethren Church will host a free movie, "Fireproof" on Friday, **April 3**, at 6:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Childcare will be provided for parents of small children who would like to attend. Refreshments will be served following the movie.

Masonic Lodge holds breakfast

The Masonic Lodge, 107 N.W. Fifth, will hold an all you can eat breakfast on Sunday, **April 5** from 8 until 11 a.m. Tickets are \$6 each and menu consists of eggs, bacon, sausage, grits, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, juice and coffee. The public is welcome.

Community Choir holds cantata rehearsals

The Okeechobee Community Choir, in its 11th year under the direction of Sandy Perry, will be rehearsing for the presentation of the Easter Cantata, Alpha and Omega, on Sunday afternoons from 2:30-4:30 at the First United Methodist Church on Second Avenue. The cantata will be presented Palm Sunday weekend, **April 3, 4, and 5**. For more information, call 863-634-7714.

Church to host concert

Buckhead Ridge Baptist Church will host Stan Shuman in Concert, Sunday, **April 5**, 11 a.m. Stan Shuman is an internationally known singer/song writer. He was formerly with Jerry and the Singing Goffs, Naomi and The Segos. He is currently with Danny Funderburk and Mercy's Way. Stan has written for The Kingsmen, Gold City, The Anchor-men, and many more! His products will be set up for you to view and purchase.

Everyone is welcome! Buckhead Ridge Baptist Church is located on Hunter Road, one mile on the left after turning at the Sunoco Station in Buckhead Ridge. For information, contact Pastor Richard Postell, 863-763-3442 or 863-634-6792.

FOE 4137 hosts children's Easter party

The FOE 4137 Ladies Auxiliary, 9985 Hwy. 441 North, will host a children's Easter party on Saturday, **April 11**, from 2 until 4 p.m. for children ages 0-16. Must be signed up by **April 4**. For further information call 863-763-2552.

Red Cross to hold 'Health and Safety' classes

The Okeechobee Service Center of the American Red Cross will be holding the following Health & Safety classes in April:

- Tuesday, **April 7**-Infant/Child CPR/AED at 6 p.m.;
- Monday, April 13-Adult CPR/AED at 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 21 - First Aid Basics at 6 p.m.
- Saturday, April 25 - Adult/Infant/Child CPR/AED & First Aid at 9 a.m.

All classes are held at their Service Center, located at 323 N. Parrott Ave. To register, or for more information call 863-763-2488.

Area Agency on Aging to meet

The Area Agency on Aging of Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Inc. is planning its upcoming monthly Board of Directors Executive Committee meeting, to be held at the Area Agency on Aging, 4400 N. Congress Ave., West Palm Beach, on Thursday, **April 9**. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. Contracts requiring the expenditure of funds are a regular agenda item of this meeting. Please call Vivian Pfau, Area Agency on Aging, at 561-684-5885 for more information.

Parks and Rec holds egg hunt

The Parks & Recreation Department and Visiting Nurse Association (VNA), is hosting an Easter Extravaganza on Saturday, **April 11**, from noon until 3 p.m. The event will take place at the Rec Park at 350 NW Sixth Ave., between Los Cocos and the Skate Park. There will be an egg hunt for three separate age groups starting at noon. For more information call 863-763-6950.

Kiwanis to host annual Easter breakfast

Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee will once again host their annual Easter Morning Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, **April 12**, from 7 until 11 a.m. The breakfast will include Larson sausage, piping hot pancakes, fresh orange juice and Florida fresh milk. This year, the breakfast will be held at Cowboy's Restaurant and tickets are \$5. This is the major fundraiser for the Kiwanis Scholarships. Advanced tickets are available at Syble's Flowers. Please call J.D. Mixon at 863-634-1778 for information on being a sponsor or purchasing tickets or contact Libby Maxwell at 863-763-1119.

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.

Russell 'Rusty' Lance England

OKEECHOBEE — Russell "Rusty" Lance England, of Okeechobee, died Monday, March 30, 2009 in Highlands County.

He was born Nov. 11, 1959 in Idalou, Texas, he had been a resident for 26 years.

Rusty is preceded in death by his mother, Winnie B. Frasier (Schmidt) and father, Jimmy Bruce England.

Survivors include his wife of 31 years, Vicky England of Okeechobee; son, Jeffery England of Okeechobee; sisters, Trish Shipley of Dawn, Texas, Tabby Martinez of Phoenix, Ariz.; brothers, Mike Tapley of Yeehaw Junction, Rick England of Albuquerque, N.M., and Bruce England of Bosque Farm, N.M.

The family will receive friends from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday. Services will be 11 a.m. Sunday in the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Epilepsy Foundation.

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

Carolyn Summerall, 69

BARTOW — Carolyn J. Summerall, of Bartow, died March 31, 2009, at home of heart failure. She was 69.

Carolyn was born in Pineview, Ga., on May 5, 1939, to James G. and Euphie (Adams) Cummings. She moved to Bartow from Mulberry two years ago. Carolyn was a devoted Christian, wife, and mother. She was a member of Okeechobee Church of God.

Carolyn is survived by her daughter, Glenda Henry of Bartow; son, Jim Summerall of Mulberry, Alva Summerall of Lakeland; brother, James Byron Cummings of Ft. Valley, Ga.; sisters, Janell Martin of Ft. Valley, Bessie Jane Cook of Calhoun, Ga., Janie Lou Carney of Ft. Valley; grandchildren, Jim, Keyla, Levi, Thomas, Katianna, Shane, and Tammy; great-grandchildren, Shayna, Lea, Nathan, J.P., Jeramia, Little Frank, Shane Ryan, and Haley.

Visitation will be held today, April 3, from 10-11 a.m. at Seigler Funeral Home Chapel, Mulberry. Funeral services will follow at 11 a.m.

Condolences may be sent to the family at seiglerfuneralhome.net.

Nathaniel Brooks, 76

OKEECHOBEE — Nathaniel Brooks, of Okeechobee, died Sunday, March 22, 2009, in Panama City. He was 76.

Mr. Brooks was born March 18, 1933, in Panama City to Clarence Brooks and Leola Haines Brooks.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Lula; and five sisters.

He is survived by his daughter, Emma Brooks of Miami, Mary L. Brooks of Okeechobee; grandchildren, Tymon Brooks, Maurice Brooks of Decatur, Ga., Myron Brooks of Tallahassee; great-grandchildren, Jaden Brooks of Decatur, Ga., Kamaria Brooks of Decatur, Ga., Jordon Cottrell of Birmingham, Ala.; sister, Hazel McNeil; sister-in-law, Juanita Lane of Okeechobee; nine nieces; and eight nephews.

Services will be held 11 a.m. Saturday in the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel. Rev. William Moore will officiate. Interment will follow in Evergreen Cemetery.

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

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Jailer fired after arrest

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A corrections officer with the Okeechobee County Jail has been terminated following his arrest on a charge of domestic battery.

Jail records indicate that Eric Scott Ferguson, 39, N.E. 60th Court, Okeechobee, was terminated March 25 following an internal investigation.

Ferguson was arrested on the misdemeanor charge and booked into the county jail. He was then released on his own recognizance.

If convicted, the corrections officer of nearly 20 years could lose his state retirement, his state corrections officer certification and the right to carry a firearm.

Detective Ted Van Deman, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), said even though the charge is a misdemeanor the penalties are more harsh for a law enforcement officer.

"State and federal laws treat domestic violence like a felony, even though it's a misdemeanor," he said.

According to an arrest affidavit by OCSO



Eric Scott Ferguson

Deputy Donald Ellis, Ferguson was arrested at 5:07 a.m. Tuesday, March 24. He is accused of striking his wife in the face with the palm of his hand while she was in bed.

The deputy's report indicates the 33-year-old victim had swelling and discoloration to her nose and forehead, and that her upper lip was cut.

The couple had apparently argued over an incident that occurred earlier in the evening, said Detective Van Deman.

Records also indicate that there was a similar incident last year in Highlands County.

According to the State Attorney's Office in Sebring, there was a complaint filed there but Ferguson's wife refused to prosecute. Ferguson was placed in a deferred prosecution program for the purpose of his taking part in an anger management program.

Records at that office show that Ferguson began the anger management program on Aug. 12, 2008, and has successfully completed the program. The case was officially closed Jan. 14, 2009.

Ferguson had been employed with the OCSO since April of 2007. Prior to that he was with the Florida Department of Corrections from April 1989 until February 2007.

Car causes crash; flees scene

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

State Road 70 W. in Highlands County was closed for several hours Wednesday following an accident in which a tractor-trailer crashed and lost its load of watermelons.

The Wednesday night, April 1, accident was caused by an unknown vehicle that fled the scene, indicated a report from the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP).

According to Trooper Corporal Rene Benavidez, the Freightliner tractor-trailer was westbound on S.R. 70 W. near County Road 721 around 11 p.m. when it came upon a car that was almost completely stopped in the road.

Cpl. Benavidez stated in the report that the four-door car then pulled directly in front

of the oncoming tractor-trailer which forced the rig's driver, Osvanis Cruz, 29, to lose control of his vehicle.

The 2006 Freightliner overturned onto its right side and slid along the guardrail in a westerly direction. When the truck came to rest it, and its load, blocked both lanes of the two-lane highway. The road did not open to travel until Thursday morning.

Cpl. Benavidez went on to state that the unknown vehicle continued heading west and left the scene of the accident.

Estimated damage to the tractor-trailer and its load was estimated at \$20,000, indicated the trooper's report.

The trooper said Mr. Cruz, of Miami, sustained minor injuries.

3 killed in head-on car crash

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Three people were killed in a two-car head-on crash on S.R. 70 E Wednesday afternoon about 4 miles east of the Okeechobee County line.

A press release from the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) indicates that Alexander Z. White, 30, of Okeechobee, was killed when he crossed the center line about 12:30 p.m. on April 1 and stuck a second vehicle.

A passenger in Mr. White's 2000 Chevrolet sedan -- Jerimaih White, 4, also of Okeechobee -- is listed as being in serious condition at St. Mary's Hospital in West Palm Beach.

Also killed in the crash were Herbert L. Harris, 41, and Frances Spears, 46. Both were listed as being from Fort Pierce.

The FHP release states that Mr. White was eastbound on the two-lane highway when he came upon a curve near the Wynne Ranch in St. Lucie County. For unknown reasons, he crossed the center line into the westbound lane and struck the front end of a 1990 Dodge automobile driven by Mr. Harris, the release continued.

According to the release, both vehicles came to rest in the westbound lane and were facing south.

Mr. Harris was not wearing a seat belt, indicated the release. Frances Spears was wearing a seat belt. Jerimaih White was restrained in a car seat. The FHP release indicates it's not known at this time if Alexander White was wearing his seat belt.

The accident is still under investigation, stated the release.

Two hurt in Friday motorcycle crash

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Two people received minor injuries when the motorcycle they were riding crashed on S.W. 16th Drive at S.W. 136th Ave., said an accident investigator.

Jeremy Shane Caudle, 22, S.W. Third Ave., was operating a 2006 Honda motorcycle on Friday, March 27, when he failed to negotiate an S-curve in the road, said Deputy Adrian Rogers, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO).

Deputy Rogers said Caudle tried to take the curve too fast and lost control around 11:40 p.m.

Tabitha Maria Freeman, 21, was a passenger on the motorcycle.

Caudle was issued a traffic citation for careless driving, said Deputy Rogers.

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Some newspapers seem to take pleasure in the bad news. Not us.

We do print "bad" news. (It IS newsworthy when things go wrong, and citizens need to know about problems.)

Still, we give most of our attention to good news - the kind you clip and tape to your refrigerator door. (This isn't difficult. The vast majority of what happens in our community IS good.)

How are we doing?

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

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Community Service
Through Journalism



Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp

Neighborhood watch

Heritage Village residents were on hand Thursday, April 2, to unveil a new sign indicating the area is now protected against crime by a Neighborhood Watch program. Also on hand were Citizens on Patrol representatives Captain Bette Foster and David Anderson.

Community made Blood Roundup a success

By Katrina Elsken

Okeechobee News

People in Okeechobee may not realize just how special their community is, said Russ Colwell of Florida's Blood Centers.

Mr. Colwell was in Okeechobee recently to honor community members who supported the Okeechobee Blood Roundup, and to ask for their continued support.

"During the blood roundup, we collected 432 units in two days. Last year, we had over 2,100 blood donations in Okeechobee County. We are so proud of the people of Okeechobee," he said.

"We need to keep the word going that blood is needed. We need to keep the blood drives going," he said.

In the United States only 37 percent of the population is eligible to be blood donors. The majority of the population cannot donate due to health issues or other restrictions. For example, those who lived in Europe during a certain time frame are not allowed to donate due to concerns about exposure to Mad Cow Disease.

He said less than 5 percent of the U.S. population donates blood.

"One of the great things about Okeechobee is that people get together to help each other. People here care," he said. "The percentage of people in Okeechobee who donate blood is higher because people care."

"The blessing this area is to Florida's Blood Centers is awesome," he said.

"In Okeechobee County, there is a real sense of community you don't find anywhere else," said Trish Lowry of Florida's Blood Centers.

"We come to Okeechobee and we put on these community blood drives -- we couldn't do it without all of the support from the community," she continued. "Our employees love to come out to Okeechobee."

"To think in two days we collected over 400 units of blood is amazing," she said. "I don't know if there is anywhere else we could do that. I don't know if we could do that in Miami-Dade, with the large population there."

"We are so proud of what you do for Florida hospitals. The annual Okeechobee Blood Roundup is the largest single blood drive in the state of Florida," she said.

During three recent awards events, The Okeechobee Blood Roundup presented plaques and certificates to local individuals and businesses which helped make the 2008 Roundup a success.

At a lunch March 26, plaques were awarded to those companies which underwrote monetary expenses of the drive. Representing the companies were Jennie Pung from Waste Management, Lori Willard from State Farm Insurance, Gwen Marsh from Tenniswood Dental Associates and Denise Whitehead from Glades Electric Cooperative. Other companies in this group included Walpole, Inc., Treasure Coast Dermatology, Seacoast Bank and Everglades Farm Equipment.

Also receiving plaques on March 26, were representatives of those who sponsored the drive including Gail Lockwood from Okeechobee Pennysaver, Val Douglas from Custom Window Treatments and Blinds, Jeanine Rhuda from Sears of Okeechobee,

Gary Ritter from South Florida Water Management and Bill Casian from Raulerson Hospital. Other companies in this group are Big Lake Roofing, Fiorenza Spa Care and Golden Corral.

The third luncheon, held April 1, saw the awarding of certificates to representatives of outstanding supporters including Katrina Elsken from the Okeechobee News, Rev. Jim Dawson from First United Methodist Church, Patrick Lawson who represented Luis and Guadalupe Martinez, the owners of La Cascada Restaurant, Tom Tassoul manager of McDonald's Restaurant on Hwy 70 and Doug and Helen Jordan from The Clock Restaurant. Other businesses in this group, unable to attend, included Beef O'Brady's, Jersey Mike's, Los Cocos, Domino's Pizza, Hungry Howie's, The UPS Store, Curves and the Dairy Farmers' Association.

Representatives from Florida's Blood Centers, Russ Colwell and Trish Lowry joined local drive workers Marilyn Rinear, Marie Kirchhoff, Maureen Bradley and Raye Deusinger in presenting awards and thanking those whose major participation was so beneficial.



Submitted photo/Florida's Blood Centers

Outstanding supporters of the 2008 Blood Roundup received awards April 1. Pictured are (back row) Trish Lowry of Florida's Blood Centers, Rev. Jim Dawson, First United Methodist Church, Patrick Lawson of La Cascada, Tom Tassoul of McDonald's, (center) Raye Deusinger, Roundup Chairman, Katrina Elsken of The Okeechobee News, Doug Jordan of The Clock Restaurant, Russ Colwell of Florida's Blood Centers and (front) Helen Jordan of The Clock, Marilyn Rinear and Maureen Bradley, Roundup volunteers.



Submitted photo/Florida's Blood Centers

Financial Supporters of the 2008 Blood Roundup were awarded plaques at a luncheon March 26. Pictured are Russ Colwell from Florida's Blood Centers, Jennie Pung of Waste Management, Lori Willard of State Farm Insurance, Gwen Marsh of Tenniswood Dental Associates, Denise Whitehead of Glades Electric Cooperative and Raye Deusinger, Roundup Chairman.



Submitted photo/Florida Blood Center

Those contributing to support of the 2008 Okeechobee Blood Roundup were awarded plaques at a luncheon March 26. Pictured are Marie Kirchhoff, a grand prize contributor, Raye Deusinger, Roundup Chairman, Gail Lockwood of the Okeechobee Pennysaver, Val Douglas of Custom Window Treatments and Blinds, Jeanine Rhuda of Sears of Okeechobee, Gary Ritter of South Florida Water Management, Bill Casian of Raulerson Hospital and Marilyn Rinear, a grand prize contributor.

Cattle Baron's Ball is rescheduled

The Okeechobee County Cattle Barons' Ball to benefit the American Cancer Society has been rescheduled. The ball originally scheduled for April 4, has been changed to Saturday May 2, 6:30 p.m. at Quail Creek Plantation. The goal of the fundraiser is to help eliminate cancer as a major health problem.

Please join Okeechobee for a fun-filled evening including dinner, dancing, gaming, silent and live auctions to raise money for a great cause.

Sponsors for the event include: Seacoast National Bank, Accident Law Offices of Phillip DeBerard, Pier II Resort, Riverside Bank,

Mr. & Mrs. Gil Culbreth, Brahma Bull Restaurant & Lounge, Williamson Cattle Company, Quail Creek Plantation, Larson Dairy and Beef 'O' Brady's.

For further information on sponsorship or event, please call Event Chair, Billy Dean at 863-467-1570.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy, and service.

56 bikers ride for the Red Cross

Darrell Ferneau, Okeechobee, wins \$500 Cash Prize

Fifty-six motorcyclists gathered from all over Florida to participate in this year's Ride for the Red Poker Run benefiting the Lakeside Communities and Okeechobee Service Centers of the American Red Cross.

The event, which was held on March 29th, marks the seventh time riders have met to benefit the Lakeside Communities' Service Center, while this year's event was the first time the neighboring Okeechobee Service Center joined in for the fun.

Representing Belle Glade, Clewiston, Hollywood, Lake Worth, Lakeport, Lehigh Acres, Moore Haven, Okeechobee, Tequesta, Palm Bay, and more, the group of motorcyclists rallied in rainy conditions for a good cause. In line with the very nature of the Red Cross, the group of enthusiastic motorcyclists weathered the storm, soaked from head to toe.

The event featured two different scenic routes along Lake Okeechobee and participants chose which route to experience while receiving cards for their poker hands along the way. The Lakeside Communities' Service Center route featured stops at Everglades Adventures Resort in Pahokee, Devon's Bistro in Belle Glade, Roland Martin Marina & Tiki Bar in Clewiston, and Seacoast National Bank in Moore Haven.

The Okeechobee Service Center route included stops at J & S Fish Camp, Good Spirits, Cudaville and Iron Eagle, touring through beautiful Okeechobee. The motorcyclists reunited for a finale at the Seminole Brighton Casino, the event's Grand Sponsor (17735 Reservation Road, Okeechobee). Debbie Riddle, Branch Manager of the Okeechobee Service Center, said "We are so thankful for the casino's generosity and willingness to help the Red Cross continue to deliver life-saving services to our community." At the casino, each participant enjoyed entertainment, raffles, contests, food and \$20 in free play.

At the finale, Darrell Ferneau of Okeechobee, a retired school teacher who remembers the Red Cross for its aquatic programs, was awarded \$500 for his winning poker hand. Never having participated in a poker run, Mr. Ferneau exclaimed "Maybe it was beginner's luck, but I was shocked," adding



Submitted photo/American Red Cross
Darrell Ferneau won first place in the American Red Cross Poker Run held on Saturday, March 28, winning a \$500 cash prize. Red Cross members (left to right) Julie Shook, Okeechobee Service Center Branch Specialist; Debbie Riddle, Okeechobee Service Center Branch Manager; Darrell Ferneau; Michael Lampert, Chapter Chairman of the Greater Palm Beach Area Chapter; Thomas Hernandez, Lakeside Communities' Service Center Branch Specialist; and Deborah McDuffie, Lakeside Communities' Service Center Branch Manager presented him with his prize.

"The poker run was a lot of fun and I think I'll participate again."

Larry Smith of Clewiston was awarded \$300 for the second best poker hand and Shirley Reynolds of Clewiston was awarded \$100 for the worst poker hand.

In addition to the support of Seminole Brighton Casino, the Red Cross is thankful for the donations of several other sponsors. Betty Ray of Iron Eagle in Okeechobee donated a leather jacket valued at \$700; Cycle Gear of West Palm Beach donated a helmet and leather vest; Scotty's Tiki Bar in Clewiston donated various merchandise; Skull Hill Steel in Okeechobee donated a \$150 gift certificate; and Style Studio Custom Motorcycle Shop in Okeechobee donated \$450 in gift certificates. Deborah McDuffie, Branch Manager of the Lakeside Communities' Service Center, said "The poker run really showed a spirit of collaboration amongst riders, communities and businesses, each having a hand in ultimately allowing the Red Cross to come to the aid of people who need it most."

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Your Family Hometown Bank

FWC offers free freshwater fishing over this weekend

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has designated April 4 and 5 as free freshwater fishing weekend. This allows both residents and nonresidents of any age to fish in public freshwater fishing areas throughout the state without purchasing a license; however, all other fishing rules apply.

When kids start clamoring for fun things to do this weekend, their parents, who may or may not have licenses of their own, can take the entire family outdoors to fish. It's also a great way to support the Get Outdoors Florida! Resolution, which contains the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, signed by the governor and Cabinet on March 25.

The Get Outdoors Florida! coalition endeavors, by connecting people with nature, to enhance opportunities for environmental education, public health, child welfare, tourism, fish and wildlife conservation and

land management. In a study of environmentalists' formative experiences, the most frequently cited influence was childhood experiences of natural, rural or other relatively pristine habitats.

Children benefit directly from spending time outdoors participating in a healthy and emotionally satisfying experience such as fishing. It is a truly enjoyable way for children to get physical exercise, to enhance mental and social development and to gain an appreciation for Florida's array of natural areas and diverse wildlife.

Moreover, the three national forests in Florida -- Apalachicola, Osceola and Ocala -- will offer free admission to forest visitors April 3-5 at most recreation sites.

Go to www.GetOutdoorsFlorida.com for more details on the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, events and tips for fishing.

Manatees migrate after a rough winter

The FWC urges boaters to follow the posted speed zones and watch for manatees as temperatures warm. Manatees are once again moving from warm water sites to coastal areas where they forage for food, rest and care for their young.

The number of documented manatee deaths resulting from watercraft strikes was higher than average statewide from December to March 27. It was particularly high in the south eastern region of Florida where necropsy results show that at least 17 manatees died from boat strikes. The FWC has been carefully following the mortality numbers, and researchers have provided regular updates to management and law enforcement, regarding the location and movement of manatees. FWC's Division of Law Enforcement used the information to direct patrols in the areas of concern.

The public is encouraged to call FWC's Wildlife Alert hotline, 1-888-404-FWCC (3922) to report any dead or injured manatees.

Now with the warmer temperatures, manatees will be vulnerable as they migrate and forage in the same waterways shared by many boaters along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts.

"Boaters can help manatees have a safe migration by staying in marked channels, wearing polarized sunglasses to improve vision, obeying posted boat speed zones and having someone help scan the water when under way," said Kipp Frohlich, leader of the

FWC's Imperiled Species Management Section.

For more information about manatees, visit MyFWC.com/manatee/.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

What an arm!

Dustin Stokes won the opener with some solid pitching, especially in the late innings.

Florida KidCare provides health insurance for children

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

As families deal with increasing economic problems, the Florida KidCare program is one option that families have to alleviate some expenses yet still have medical coverage for their children.

It is possible to have low cost or free health insurance for children.

Children may be eligible for health insurance through Florida KidCare, even if one or both parents work. Getting health insurance for your children before they become sick is very important.

Children need regular check-ups so they can grow strong and healthy. Healthy children do their best at school and at play.

Florida KidCare is health insurance for children under age 19 who do not have insurance.

Eligibility for Florida KidCare is based on income and family size. Florida KidCare includes the following: MediKids-children ages 1-4; Healthy Kids-children ages 5-18; Children's Medical Services Network which covers children with special health care or emotional needs or ongoing medical conditions; and, Medicaid for children.

Enrollment is open all year. There is no waiting period.

To see if you qualify, apply one of the following ways: Online-Visit www.floridakidcare.org and click "Apply Online Now;" Hard Copy-Obtain an application

by calling 1-888-540-5437 or visit www.floridakidcare.org.

Submit your application one of these ways: fax application to 850-681-2131; email application as a scanned attachment to apply@healthykids.org; or mail application to Healthy Kids and Florida KidCare, P.O. Box 980 Tallahassee, FL 32302-0980.

The cost varies depending on which program you qualify for.

There is no charge for Medicaid. For MediKids, Healthy Kids, and the CMS Network, monthly premiums depend on your household size and income.

Most families pay \$15 or \$20 each month. You may have to pay low co-payments for some services.

Services covered by Florida KidCare include: doctor visits; check-ups and shots; hospital, surgery, and emergency services; vision/hearing; mental health; prescriptions; and dental.

For more information call the Florida KidCare Information Line 1-888-540-5437 or visit www.floridakidcare.org.

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

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Winds present teen anglers with challenge



Submitted photos/Janice Floyd
Matthew Robbins.



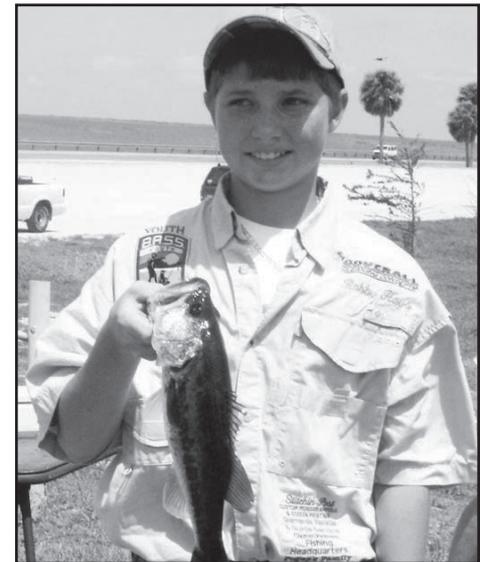
Chris Eaton.



Garrett Farmer.



Outdoors



Robby Hays.

By Teresa Mataushek
Okeechobee News

The Big O' Teen Anglers Inc., were presented with a challenge at this month's tournament on Saturday, March 28 at Lock 7. Even though it was a tough day for fishing, with winds blowing in excess at 20 mph, the teen anglers persevered and managed to bring in a total of seven fish, weighing in at 14.8 lbs.

Robby Hays was the only one to weigh in for the 11-14 age group. He had one fish weighing in at 1.81 lbs.

In the 15-18 age group, they had a little more luck. Matthew Robbins came in first

place with two fish weighing in at 4.40 lbs. Chris Eaton placed second as well as winning the "Big Fish" award with one fish weighing at 3.07 lbs., following in third place was Garrett Farmer with a fish weighing in at 2.29 lbs.

The Big O' Teen Anglers Inc., would like to say thank you to their boat captains who came out and stuck out the weather with them. Boat captains were, Mike Zubricky, Ken Hall, Carl Lewis, Leroy Bauer, Skip Jeslosky, Ernie Johnson, Mike Ingram, Matt Johnson and Kenny Farmer.

Be sure to wish the anglers Good Luck this week. They will be headed to North Carolina to compete this coming week. Be sure to watch for an update on that tournament.

Fun shoot set for April 18

Don't forget, Okeechobee Main Street will hold their Third Annual Fun Shoot at Quail Creek Plantation on Saturday, **April 18.**

Check in will begin at 8 a.m. Call Main Street's Executive Director, Toni Doyle at 863-357-6246 if you are interested in shooting or sponsorship.

If you would like to share any information with the Okeechobee News about an outdoors event, or if you have a suggestion on something you have seen or would like to see in the outdoors column, please email Teresa Mataushek at tmataushek@newszap.com, call 863-763-3134, fax 863-763-5901 or log on to www.newszap.com and place it on the public issues forum. We welcome all news, comments and tidbits on outdoor activities and nature inspired hobbies.

FWC looking for input from avid deer hunters

By Tony Young

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Deer Management Team is ready to gather input from Florida's hunters on potential changes to the state's current hunting zones and corresponding deer hunting season dates, which if approved, could come into effect as early as the 2010-2011 hunting season.

The team has met for two and a half

years, developing its living-and-breathing "Strategic Plan for Deer Management in Florida 2008-2018," which was approved by the Commission last year. FWC staff continues to work with its stakeholder group representing many of the state's hunting and conservation organizations/associations, other governmental agencies and large private landowners to make this plan the very best it can be.

The project is under the new leadership of Deer Management Program coordinator Cory Morea, but the plan's objectives and goals remain the same – to ensure a healthy deer population that meets the public's desires for recreational hunting, while protecting landowners' rights and ensuring the long-term welfare of the species.

Currently, Florida is divided into three hunting zones – the South Zone lying below

State Road 70, the Central Zone between State Road 70 and Tallahassee, and the Northwest Hunting Zone west of Tallahassee. These three zones all have different beginning and ending hunting season dates.

Six meetings will be in West Palm Beach, Fort Myers, Crestview, Lakeland, Lake City and Tallahassee and are being scheduled between late April and July. Stay tuned for exact dates and meeting locations.

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THEATRE II: "FAST & THE FURIOUS 4"
Fri, Tues & Thurs. @ 7:00 & 9:00., Sat., Sun. & Wed. @ 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00. Mon., @ 3:00 & 7:00. **PG-13**

THEATRE III: "MONSTERS VS. ALIENS"
Fri, Tues & Thurs. @ 7:00 & 9:00., Sat., Sun. & Wed. @ 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00. Mon., @ 3:00 & 7:00. **PG**

Tickets: Adults - \$5.50 • Children 12 & under - \$4.50
Senior Citizens - \$4.50 all movies • Matinees - \$4.00
MONDAY NIGHT is \$1.00 per person @ 7:00 PM

Rain stops Lady Brahmans vs Terriers stalemate

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

A veteran and seasoned Moore Haven Lady Terriers team and a young, enthusiastic Lady Brahmans team squared off Tuesday night in a pitchers duel which apparently only Mother Nature could win.

The game was a scoreless tie after three and a half innings when the lightning and rain showers came. Jessica Echols and Samantha Harrell traded zeros as they pitched very well for their respective teams.

Harrell allowed only a fourth inning single to Alisha Beck and didn't allow a runner to get into scoring position. She struck five batters.

Echols was almost as good. The senior allowed a second inning single to Courtney Wilson and an infield single to Harrell in the third. Okeechobee had one chance to score as Harrell reached second base. However Echols speared a hard line drive back to the mound by Ashtyn Brown to end the threat.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Alisha Beck swings through a fastball during the first inning of Tuesday's game in Okeechobee.

Brahmans Coach Kim Hargraves said the two schools could reschedule the contest for Tuesday, April 7, but no final decision has been made.

"Moore Haven was very impressive. They have nine seniors on their team and I can't remember when they had that much experience," Hargraves said.

If the game is replayed Hargraves said Okeechobee has the option of starting the game over, and they may choose that option.

The Lady Brahmans have a busy week as they compete in the prestigious Kissimmee Classic in Osceola County.

Hargraves said the Classic is called the real state championship because the best team from all classifications 1A to 6A play in the tournament. "I'm pretty excited to play in it this year. It has awesome competition every year. The best teams in each classification play each other, so you really have a true idea of who has the best team."



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Jessica Echols held Okeechobee scoreless until the thunder and lightning hit the field.

"If we go up there and swing the bats and play good defense, we shouldn't have a problem. Sam Harrell is doing a good job on the mound. She's already compared to college pitcher Kelci Breaux. Coach Dale Atkinson of IRSC he was amazed at her being a freshman and where she's at," Hargraves said.

Other teams in Okeechobee's bracket include Fort Myers Riverdale, Jensen Beach,

George Jenkins of Lakeland, North Fort Myers, Baron Collier of Naples, Lake Region, Winter Springs, and Spruce Creek. The tournament will have top teams like Niceville, Pembroke Pines Charter, Gulliver Prep, and Kissimmee Osceola.

The tournament is double elimination. Okeechobee played Thursday and will play Friday and potentially Saturday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Samantha Harrell fields a ground ball by Marcia Garcia during Tuesday's game.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Naomi Stevens robbed Ashanti Shephard of a hit in the first inning of Tuesday's game.

The Okeechobee Community Choir

in its 11th year under the direction of Sandy Perry,
will present the
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

Fri., April 3 7PM **Sat., April 4 7PM** **Sun., April 5 3PM**

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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, Erin Ellinger, Calixto Esparagoza, Bob Hanson, Michael Hutchison, JoAnn Kane, Lonnie Kirsch, John Koepke, Jim Leidy, John Olsen, Alton Padgett, Anton Silva III, John Sufficool, Kathryn Wilkinson, Victoria Williams & 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 WILL BE ADMITTED 5 MINUTES BEFORE EACH SERVICE BEGINS.

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Service Club News

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

The American Legion Post 64

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

The public is always welcome unless it's a members only event.

Our kitchen is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and 1 to 8 p.m. on Sunday.

Sunday: Open 1 to 8 p.m. - Regular Bingo from 6:30 p.m.

Monday: Open 11-8 p.m. - Social Bingo 1 PM

Tuesday: Open 11-8 p.m.

Wednesday: Open 11-8 p.m. - "Taco Day" 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tacos - \$1.50

Music with Jim Elders 2-6

Thursday: Open 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. - Social Bingo 6 p.m.

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

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

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

SAL Meet the third Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Am-Vets #2001

Am-Vets No. 2001 will hold a regular informational meeting on the first Saturday of the month at the Buckhead Ridge VFW Post #9528, 2002 U.S. 78 W., at 10 a.m. Applications for new members are available. Call Helen James at 863-824-7644 or Lou Eder at 863-357-0467.

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

Eagles Aeries #4137

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

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

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

Every Thursday: washer toss at 1 p.m.

First and third Thursday: Auxiliary at 6 p.m.; Aeries at 7 p.m.

Fridays: steak night (16-oz.) starting at 5 p.m. for a \$12 donation.

Saturdays and Sundays: music at 7 p.m.

In The Military

Carden graduates

Army Pvt. Kolt R. Carden has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

He is the son of Rodney Carden of Okeechobee, Fla., and Kami Rhodes of Branford, Fla.

The private is a 2007 graduate of Branford High School.

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

Okeechobee Masonic Lodge #237

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

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

Order of the Eastern Star - Chapter #128

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

B.H.R. Moose Lodge

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

Sundays: breakfast buffet from 9 until 11 a.m. With many items to choose from.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Saturdays: dinner starting at 6 p.m.

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

Moose Family Center #1753

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

Open mic karaoke - Thursday 7-10 p.m. and Sunday 4-8 p.m.

Horseshoes - Sunday and Thursday at 2 p.m.

Every Monday pool tournament at 7 p.m. (food served)

Legion BINGO - Thursday at 1 p.m. (food served)

LOOM BINGO Friday - at 6:30 p.m. open to the public (food served)

Saturday night diner and dance each week.

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

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

News in Brief

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary to do vessel exams

Okeechobee — The Lake is back and so are we. Flotilla 57 — U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

They are ready to do vessel exams. They are free and we will come to you, we make house calls.

Call 863-763-9570 to make and appointment to examine your boat and get it certified with a sticker.

State Veterans nursing homes available

Are you a veteran in need of a nursing home or assisted living facility? The Florida Department of Veterans Affairs can help

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

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

VFW Post #4423

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

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

Mondays: 50-cent hot dogs.

Tuesdays: Washer toss at 1 p.m.

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

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

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

Sundays: Dinner 2 until 4 p.m.

Post and Ladies Auxiliary meetings third Sunday of every month at 11 a.m.

Men's Auxiliary Meeting 3 Monday of every month 7 p.m.

Membership for 2009 is overdue. Annual members are asked to please pay their dues.

Big Screen TV and Pool Table

All members and their guests are welcome to dance and sing with our host on Sundays from 5 to 9 p.m.

VFW Post #9528

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

We are taking applications for men or women who would like to join the VFW, Ladies Auxiliary, the Men's Auxiliary, AmVets or the Ladies AmVets Auxiliary.

Wednesdays: Dinner by Ladies Auxiliary, Mens Auxiliary, or AmVet Ladies Auxiliary at 5:30 p.m. Music will be available.

Thursdays: Bar Bingo at 1 p.m. Lunch will be available.

Fridays: 16 ounce steak dinner with baked potato, salad and rolls will be served from 5:30 until 7 p.m. for an \$11 donation. Pork Loin dinner available for \$7. Dancing immediately following dinner.

Sundays: 5:15 p.m. bar bingo. Food will be served for a donation.

Membership meetings are held on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 10 a.m.

House Committee meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. For information contact Robert Hare, Post Commander at 863-467-2882. Call for Menu.

All games and special events are shown on seven televisions, two of which are big screen. The game room has a regulation size pool table.

VFW Post #10539

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

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

Monday: Card Bingo at 6 p.m.

Tuesday: All you can eat spaghetti at 5:30 p.m. \$5 donation.

Wednesday: Bar bingo 12:45 p.m. order from the grill at 5:30 p.m.

Thursday: In-House shuffleboard tournament 6:30 p.m. order from the grill at 5:30 p.m. Music at 7 p.m.

Friday: Order from the grill, fish and grill at 5:30 p.m. Music at 7 p.m.

Saturday: Hotdogs/sausages at noon. Every third Saturday Lip Sync, April 4 and 25, unless previously scheduled event. Music at 7 p.m.

Sunday: Open Jam at 4 p.m.

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

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

For further information call 863-763-2308.

Shrine Club

The Okeechobee Shrine Club, S.R. 78 W., members will meet the first and third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The club is also available for weddings and parties. For information call the club at (863) 763-3378, Mac Simpson at 863-763-8650 or Elma Yates at 863-697-2765

They are now open two days a week.

Specials are:

Tuesdays: 4 until 9 p.m. Spaghetti dinner - donations only; music from 6 until 9 p.m.; happy hour 4 until 6 p.m.

Fridays: TGIF 4 until 9 p.m.; dinner for \$7.50 donation; happy hour 4 until 6 p.m.; music from 6 until 9 p.m.

The Okeechobee Shrine Club will have Johnny DeRose to perform on April 4. Johnny has performed all over the US and has opened for The Platters, Dell Viking, The Drifters, Jay Black, The Chiffons and Liza Minnelli. Tickets are \$30 each and include dinner and the show. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the show will begin at 8 p.m. For tickets or information call 863-763-3378 or 863-697-2765.

Cypress Hut Eagles #4509

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

Food is served several evenings a week.

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

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

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

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

VA relaxes some restrictions on health care

The Dept of Veterans Affairs has received increased funding to alleviate some of the restrictions on Priority Group 8 enrollment. Veterans previously denied VA health care due to excess income might now be eligible. The new provision requires the veterans income not to exceed the Geographic Means Test Threshold (GMTT) by 10 percent and goes into effect June 2009. Veterans whose applications were submitted prior to Jan. 1, 2009 and were disapproved due to the GMTT will have to re-submit in order to be considered for the new provision. For further information contact the County Veterans Services Officer, Betsy Grinslade, at 863-763-8124.

you. The Department operates five veterans nursing homes and one assisted living facility throughout the state, with a new nursing home being built near St. Augustine.

The basic admission criteria for all of the facilities is an honorable discharge, Florida residency for one year prior to admission and certification of need of assisted living facility or skilled nursing care.

The VA Nursing homes are located in Daytona Beach, Land O' Lakes, Pembroke Pines, Springfield (Panhandle) and Port Charlotte with the VA Assisted Living Facility being located in Lake City.

For further information on VA nursing homes contact the County Veteran's Service Officer, Betsy Grinslade at 863-763-8124.

VA fixes claim error 62 years later

Okeechobee man surprised to win dispute over 1946 claim

By Jim Hall

Courtesy of DAV Magazine

You would have about as much luck finding a zebra with no stripes as you would a routine DAV review of a veteran's claim file. Just as each veteran is unique, each file is unique, and each file is thoroughly reviewed, often with interesting results.

National Service Officer Michael A. Michelotti knew something didn't add up in the file he was reviewing. It was the file of disabled World War II veteran Frank F. Altobello, Jr., and NSO Michelotti was reviewing it for an unrelated dependency issue.

"During my initial NSO training, I was instructed to go back and look at the initial decisions made when veterans were disabled due to gunshot wounds," NSO Michelotti said. "They said, 'If the VA made an error, that's where you'll find them.' That's where I found the error in Frank Altobello's file."



Frank F. Altobello, Jr.

Mr. Altobello enlisted in the U.S. Army in December 1942. Following boot camp he was assigned to the 7th Infantry Division. From training with the 7th in California, he moved with the division to the frigid battle for Attu Island at the western edge of the U.S. Aleutian Islands and continued to fight his way across the Pacific. By mid-spring 1945, Altobello and the 7th were engaged in the battle for Okinawa.

While conducting a patrol on May 2, 1945, the young private Altobello and 11 other soldiers were ambushed with enemy machine gun and rifle fire.

"All but three of us died in the ambush," Mr. Altobello said. "We were approaching a hill and the Japanese had us zeroed in. I tried to make it into an irrigation ditch, but was hit in the leg as I jumped in and lost my rifle."

"I clung to the banks until two of my buddies crawled to me and patched me up. Then, on their hands and knees they dragged me to the rear where I was treated. I can't recall their names, but they saved my life," Mr. Altobello said.

Mr. Altobello returned to the states and, following hospitalization in Utica, N.Y., and White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., he was discharged from the Army in April 1946.

Back in civilian clothes, Mr. Altobello was a restaurant owner for a year and a half in Charleston, W. Va., and then he and his wife, Ethel, packed up and moved to Florida, where he built a career in real estate. And at 84, he still holds his real estate license.

When Mr. Altobello was discharged from the Army, he selected the DAV to represent him in seeking VA disability compensation. It was that selection many years ago that eventually brought the file to NSO Michelotti's attention.

At the time of the review, NSO Michelotti was working at the DAV National Service office in Bay Pines, Fla. Something about Mr. Altobello's claim for service-connected dis-

ability compensation just didn't compute.

As NSO Michelotti reviewed the file, he found that Mr. Altobello had filed his original claim with the VA on April 19, 1946, and been awarded a 50 percent convalescent rating for multiple gunshot wound residuals of the lower right leg and for thrombophlebitis of the right lower leg.

Mr. Altobello also underwent a VA compensation examination on Nov. 13, 1946, that established 30 percent from Oct. 13, 1946, for thrombophlebitis, with swelling and pain, residuals of a gunshot wound to the right leg, and 20 percent for a gunshot wound to the right thigh and leg, with healed scars and injury to the vastus lateralis (the largest part of the quadriceps muscle group) and peroneal muscles (below the knee). A combined 40 percent evaluation was assigned. He underwent another VA medical exam on March 11, 1949, and on April 6, 1949, the Agency of Original Jurisdiction (AOJ) noted the thigh wound previously grouped with the muscle injuries below the knee warranted a separate rating.

A separate service connection of 10 percent was established for residuals of the gunshot wound to Muscle Group XIV, and the rating for Mr. Altobello's other service-connected disabilities was continued at the previous evaluations, resulting in a combined 50 percent disability evaluation with an effective date of March 11, 1949.

NSO Michelotti discovered that the Dec. 28, 1946, rating decision failed to award a 30 percent rating for severe injury involving Muscle Group XI and XII effective Oct. 13, 1946. Failure to award a separate 10 percent disability evaluation for a through gunshot wound of the right thigh involving Muscle Group XIV effective Oct. 13, 1946, also resulted in a clear and unmistakable error.

NSO Michelotti prepared and submitted the request to correct the error. The request was denied by the local VA regional office. After several attempts to resolve the error with local VA Service Center Managers, NSO Michelotti discussed the issue with NSO Supervisor Andrew H. Marshall. The decision was made to request an administrative review.

"Once a clear and unmistakable error is denied locally, NSOs can initiate a review by our National Appeals Office," NSO Michelotti said. "If they concur, they prepare a formal administrative review and submit it to the VA Central Office. The administrative review provides a way of correcting the record and bringing justice to a veteran who was deprived benefits or is about to be deprived benefits. It also bypasses the bogged down appeals process and goes directly to VA Central Office for review and normally results in a quicker decision."

"On Dec. 4, 2008, Mr. Altobello received a letter informing him the clear and unmistakable error had been corrected, effective from Oct. 13, 1946."

"It was a shock and a surprise," Mr. Altobello said. "I didn't really think we were going to win."

"At 84, the additional income will help me and my family," Mr. Altobello said. "I would definitely recommend the DAV to anyone who needs assistance with their claim. The DAV isn't just talk; there's action behind their words."

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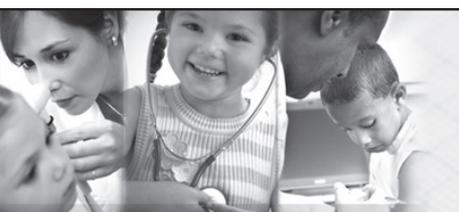
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Austism Support Group plans Okeechobee walk

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

The local Okeechobee Autism Support Group (OASG) is planning their first Okeechobee for Autism Walk to be held on Saturday, April 25, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Lock 7 pier and walking west towards Okeechobee and back.

The group hopes to raise awareness of autism in Okeechobee and the fact that autism rates are increasing. Nearly everyone either has a child with autism, teaches a child with autism, or knows someone who falls into these categories.

Those who do not wish to walk back can plan ahead and park one vehicle in each location by carpooling. The walk begins at 9 a.m. and the only requirement is to wear a white shirt. The OASG hopes everyone can come and walk for someone they know whether it's a friend, a student, or even a family member who is on the Autism Spectrum.

According to the Okeechobee County Schools Director of Exceptional Student Education Cathleen Blair, there are approximately 25 children in Okeechobee County who have been identified on the Autism Spectrum. There are currently six families who are pro-active with the OASG as well others who help out in other ways by supporting and extending out their hands to help push the group further along.

The OASG will meet at a new location beginning Thursday, April 9, at 5:30 p.m. at one of the founders' homes. For more information on the location please contact Johanna Crews at 863-467-0841.

Other upcoming events include a free movie night being held for parents and children with any type of special needs. On April 18, at 3 p.m. in conjunction with Faith Farm Ministries all parents who have a child with any type of special needs is invited to watch Lifetime's Miracle Run. There will be daycare provided as well as drinks and snacks. Any volunteers for the daycare portions are wel-

come and should contact with Mrs. Crews or Karissa Miller at 863-801-5218. The purpose of this movie event is to give parents a break as well as meet other parents that they can relate to.

The OASG was formed last year in June by local parents and educators. Their goal is to become a non-profit organization and create an Autistic Center in Okeechobee for families to get support for their children.

A long-term future goal for the OASG is to have a charter school for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders where they can receive a specialized education by specially trained teachers for autistic children.

The OASG is lead by parents the group of parents who provide a setting where parents can get resources and just a listening ear to other parents who have been through some of the same experiences as they have.

The OASG can be a source for resources and networking for parents of children with autism.

OASG is striving to reach all levels of autistic children and their families as well. They share resources such as information about the Okeechobee Special Equestrian Ranch at Mi-Cin Ranch where their children ride horses. There is also another member who is very educated on the special gluten free diets that are often recommended for children with autism.

According to the Florida Atlantic University Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) autism is a lifelong neurological disability that affects a person's ability to communicate, understand language, play and socially interact with others. The first signs of autism usually appear as developmental delays before age three.

Autism is classified as a developmental disability because it interferes with the typical rate and patterns of childhood development.

Be careful of alligators this time of year

Spring is when Florida's alligators start getting active, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is urging Floridians and visitors to be cautious when having fun in and around water.

Alligators abound in all 67 counties and have shared marshes, swamps, rivers and lakes with people for centuries. But, because more individuals are seeking waterfront property and water-related activities increase during the warm months, people should be alert when they are in areas where alligators could be present.

State law prohibits the harassing of alligators, and it is against the law to feed them.

The FWC recommends supervising children closely when they are playing in or around water. There are other precautionary measures people should take to reduce potential conflicts with alligators,

and they are available in the "Living with Alligators" brochure at MyFWC.com/gators.

The FWC annually receives more than 16,000 alligator-related complaints. The agency removes about 8,500 alligators each year when the reptiles present potential danger to people or property.

According to the FWC, if you encounter an alligator that poses a threat to you, your pets or your property, and the alligator is more than 4 feet long, call the FWC's toll-free Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 866-FWC-GATOR (392-4286). The telephone number is the primary contact for all alligator complaints and is available to customers 24 hours a day.

Alligators are an important part of Florida's heritage and play a valuable role in the ecosystems where they live. For more information on alligator behavior, go to MyFWC.com/gators.

Community Event

Honor your veteran relatives

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

erans discharged under honorable conditions, living or deceased. The cost is \$60 per name. Applications can be obtained at the American Legion Post 64 office or lounge. Applications must be submitted separately for each veteran. Other information can be gotten at 863-763-2950.

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Junior golf tournament set for April 25

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

Waldau's Junior Golf, Inc. will hold their third annual Okeechobee County Junior Golf Tournament on Saturday, April 25, at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club (OGCC) for boys and girls junior golfers ages 10 to 17 (or seniors in high school). Entry is free for this event where the junior golfers receive valuable tournament experience.

Bridgette Waldau spoke to the Okeechobee Rotarian Club about her and her husband Jim Waldau's mission to help the children of Okeechobee get an early start in golf which encourages family interaction, friendly competition, possible college scholarships and future business networking opportunities.

In 1992, they moved to Okeechobee from Hialeah where Mr. Waldau had retired from his job as a fire fighter. Due to the continued camaraderie surrounding fire fighters lifestyle he has continued to have a yearly party for all his family and friends including his fire fighter friends from Hialeah.

In 1994, they turned this golf party into a benefit for junior golfers and began to award scholarships, as well as donate to the local Okeechobee High School golf team and young junior golfers. They have given yearly to the OHS golf team since 1997.

They will also hold their first ever Waldau's Junior/Adult tournament on Saturday, May 23, at the OGCC. This tournament will be a two person scramble format where one boy or girl junior golfer will pair with an

adult golfer such as a parent or other adult. This tournament is geared at promoting family interaction.

Waldau's Junior Golf, Inc. just announced their next Junior Golf Clinic. This year they will hold two clinics: one at the OGCC from June 22, until June 26; and one at the KOA Lake Okeechobee Golf Resort from July 20, until July 24.

Each day at the clinics include instruction, practice, and golf games. Tournament competition occurs on the final day. The rules of golf and golf etiquette are strongly stressed to the junior golfers, with fun being the underlying objective. Golf Clinic will also provide educational literature, shirts, and prizes.

Golf clinic fees are \$100 for the week. All applicants must pre-register with payment.

Waldau's Junior Golf, Inc., is a non-profit organization, whose goal is to promote the sport of golf to elementary, middle and high school students. Their long term plan is to open a state of the art driving range and learning center within close proximity to local schools.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available for the upcoming tournaments. For more information contact Bridgette 863-467-7300 or Terry at OGCC 863-763-6228 or visit Waldau's Junior Golf, Inc. Web Site www.floridajuniorgolf.org.

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



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar
Bridgette Waldau with the Waldau's Junior Golf, Inc. spoke to Rotarians about their upcoming tournaments and clinics that will be occurring in the coming months. For more information visit www.floridajuniorgolf.org.

College scholarships provided by local bank

Riverside National Bank remains committed to education by providing college scholarships to local youth. For the past three years, Riverside has offered the scholarship program and each year they award \$1,000 to eighteen college students throughout Florida.

Students are selected based on their academic goals, community service and essays

about why they feel they deserve the money. Students attending either a two or four-year post-secondary school are eligible to enter.

These scholarships are unique because the students can use the money any way they want to help offset the expense of a college education. The application and rules are posted on their website www.riversidenb.com.

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\$142,500.
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SAFE FROM THE STORM in Palm Creek! 3/2 home w/ Storm "SAFE" room. **NEW** Paint & Counter tops. Hurricane shutters, **SEAWALL**, Professional landscaping Sprinkler syst. & Boat dock w/ Lift. Gated community, Underground utilities, Clubhouse & Pool. **NEW PRICE! \$199,900 #213B** Call Lori (863) 634-1457 and visit www.LoriMixon.com!

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ENJOY YOUR LAZY EVENINGS in Lazy 7 Estates, 3/2 custom home on 1/2 acre and is in **MOVE IN CONDITION**. Split floor plan, all wood cabinets, solid surface, landscaping and more!! Priced to Sell at **\$190,000 #210D**. Call Cindi (863) 697-0433

NEW PRICE

BEAUTIFUL BEGINNINGS in Okeechobee Hammock. Enjoy the fresh feel this 1488 SF of TLA 2004 CBS 2/2/1 home has to offer. Located in a family friendly neighborhood on the east side of town. This is the perfect home for a new family or east coast commuter. **SHORT SALE! \$109,000** Call Lori (863) 634-1457 and visit www.LoriMixon.com!

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NESTLED IN NATURE 3rd lot off 101 Road 3/2 2002 bright & cherry mobile home offers 1248 TSF has so much to offer. Make your apt now to view the stunning home **NEW PRICE \$89,000 #410E**. Call Cindi (863) 697-0433

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Tennis teams play against Treasure Coast

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School Boys Tennis Team won a hard fought match while the OHS Girls Tennis Team was shut out for the



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Shaina Ragamat had her moments despite a straight set loss Tuesday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Kari Berger had a rough time against a quality opponent Tuesday.

second straight day when the Okeechobee tennis teams tangled with Treasure Coast Tuesday afternoon.

Note even a brief afternoon shower could stop the boys from winning their 11th match in 14 decisions against a talented Treasure Coast team. Corey White dug down deep to get past talented James Catrambone in a high speed match, 4-6, 6-1, and 6-2. Zach Fowler grinded his way to a first set tiebreaker against Brandon Nichols, winning it (8-6) before sweeping Nichols in the second set 6-0.

In other matches Alex Nielson won in straight sets over Patrick Weaver 6-2, and

6-2. Okeechobee's other victory came in doubles as White and Fowler defeated Catrambone and Nichols 8-3.

The Titans got victories in the fourth and fifth seed singles matches. Jimmy Tills defeated Max Norman 6-0, and 6-2. Daniel Lennox defeated Kyle Lunt 6-4, and 6-0.

The girl's run up against another buzz saw after a tough match Monday at Martin County. Kari Berger pounded away against Morgan Roberts in the first set. Both players flashed their skills, but also made their share of unforced errors. Roberts won the first set 6-4, and swept through the second set 6-0.

Shaina Ragamat showed flashes of her

ability against Allison Roberts. However, mistakes also cost the Brahms second seed in a 6-2, 7-5 defeat. Treasure Coast dominated the other three singles matches behind Melanie Rifenberg, Jimena Ulloa, and Danielle Kase.

The doubles weren't much better for Okeechobee. Berger and Kati Walker lost to Morgan Roberts and Rifenberg 8-0. Ragamat and Alisha Wilcox lost to Allison Roberts and Ulloa, 8-3.

The district tournament begins on Wednesday, April 14 at South Fork High School.

Soccer club draws Okeechobee kids

Treasure Coast United is 40 miles from Okeechobee but home to the soccer talent development of some local children. Diego Rodriguez, Cain Elliott and Hunter Pritchard along with younger prodigy, Logan Laskey, travel twice a week for training with the club and have done for the past four years. Diego and Hunter's talents, both 14, have recently been recognized by gaining selection to the Florida's ODP (Olympic Development Program). Indeed the connection between Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast United Soccer Club looks to increase as coaches Paul Gibbons and Fraser Foster look to increase the opportunities for local

Okeechobee youngsters to develop their talents by creating soccer programs in the area.

Diego and Hunter are terrific examples of the sort of players that dedicate themselves to training to become better players in an enjoyable, professional environment.

Coerver Coaching Southeast USA are looking for support from local business and the community to get a soccer programme started up locally to save on other local children having to travel for such distances for professional coaching. For more information, contact Paul or Fraser at infocoerver@comcast.net.



Submitted photo
Diego Rodriguez and Hunter Pritchard.

(863) 763-2104

David Hazellief • 863-610-1553
Betty Hazellief • 863-610-0144



Se Habla Español

Sharon Prevatt • 863-634-7069
Dee Reeder • 863-610-2485

Hazellief & Prevatt Realty, Inc.

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REDUCED!

1002-H: 3 bdrm CBS home with family and utility room, picket wood fencing. Close to everything in town. Could be re-zoned commercial. \$88,000
MLS# 201649

PRICED TO SELL!

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

MOTIVATED SELLER

2002-M: Taylor Creek waterfront DWMH w/attached carport. Completely furnished. Open front porch, city water & sewer. RV hookup. MLS# 202170

4003-M: Buckhead Ridge 3/2 mobile home with appliances, open patio, fenced, large shed with electric, dock and paved driveway. MLS#202189

MOTIVATED SELLER

5003-H: Kissimmee River Est. like new 2/2 2005 DWMH, CBS garage, underground utilities. Sits on 6 corner lots. NOW \$120,000
MLS# 200629

FORECLOSURE

5023-H: Basswood Est. homes only area 3/2 CBS home. Call today for further info or to see this home now. Hurry, won't last long!

ACREAGE / LOTS: • 2.5 buildable acres in Sunset Strip Airpark in Lazy 7. \$98,000 MLS# 202207 • Okeechobee Hammock 100 x 104 lot off of 15-A. \$29,000 MLS# 200471 • Big "O" RV Park vacant lot w/ travel trailer. • Basswood buildable lots from \$15K-\$33,000 • 7 acres Hwy 68 \$110,000 MLS# 93452

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ADORABLE ONE ROOM WINTER OR WEEKEND RETREAT. large corner lot with a beautiful view of the water and many trees. nice carport. MLS #200971, \$85,000. CALL VICKI AT 863-634-4106.

WATERFRONT. Fully upgraded DWMH. Pela Windows. One car garage, boat dock. Too many features to include. MUST SEE THIS BEAUTY. MLS #201548, \$124,900. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106

REDUCED 5+ ACRES - BRING YOUR HORSES. Frame 2/2 house, 2nd kitchen w/separate entrance. Updated elec service, pole. Fully furnished. MLS #93200, \$194,900. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.

VERY NICE SWMH. FL Rm, two screened porches, two sheds, boat dock, fenced in yard. Drywall and vertical blinds. Aluminum Hurricane Shutters. MLS #202416, \$67,900. Call Vicki 863-634-4106.

WELL-MAINTAINED HOME IN MAINTAINED PARK. Amenities incld. clubhouse, pool, shuffleboard, activities daily. Fun, safe place to live. Aluminum roof over. MLS #202383, \$69,500. Call Vicki 863-634-4106.

SPACIOUS 4/3 HOME, fireplace, lg kitchen, formal dining room, huge master bdrm w/lg master bath, on a half acre lot w/pool, 2-car garage and hurricane shutters. MLS #202467, \$299,500. Call Vicki 863-634-4106.

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

New CBS Homes



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

(Reduced price if built on your lot)

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

Announcements

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 the Delaware State News. 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 Delaware State News style and are restricted to their proper classifications. Some classified categories require advance payment. These classifications are denoted with an asterisk *.

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Child Care

CHRISTIAN Fun loving mom looking to babysit in my home, excellent rates (863)484-2980. Lic #145014

Found

BELT, BOOTS & KNIFE - Found at Henry Creek. Call to ID. (863)763-5150

Garage/Yard Sales

BUCKHEADRIDGE-April 5th and 6th, 9 am until 3pm, #18 Fourth St. BHR, Yard Sale: Furniture, lin-

YARD SALE - 2332 NW 4th St., Sat 8am - 3pm, Clothing Computers, Games, Furniture, Tires, Rims.

Garage/Yard Sales

GARAGE SALE - 805 SW 15th St. Sat 4/4 9 am - 3 pm, Huge assortment of clothes, kitchen ware, knicknacs, home interior decorations, tools, hardware, too much to list - great deals, all must go.

OKEECHOBEE - April 4th & 5th, 8am-1pm, 2202 SW 2nd Ave., Yard Sale
Clothing, toys, videos, kitchen items, bunk beds & misc. household items



OKEECHOBEE - Fri., 4/3 & Sat., 4/4, 8am til ?, 7625 SW 9th St., near Lazy Seven. Housewares, Tools, Computer Ware, Misc. Knickknacks



Employment

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Employment Full Time

BUSY CHILD CARE CENTER looking for Pre-school TEACHER. Exp. a plus. Please call (863) 467-5588

Employment Medical

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST MUST be experienced. Needed for Cardiologist Office. Mail resume to: PO Box 1268, Okeechobee, FL 34973

How do you find a job in today's competitive market? In the employment section of the classifieds

Employment Wanted

Caregiver/Companion - Seeks work, experience caring for the elderly, will assist with shopping, doctor visits, pets. FT or PT. (863)824-6148

Services

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Handyman Services

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or (863)261-6425
License # 5698 & #1126

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(863)763-4775

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3268 US Hwy 441 S
Inside Winn Dixie Plaza

Need a few more bucks to purchase something deer? Pick up some extra bucks when you sell your used items in the classifieds.

Top Soil

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

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

Merchandise

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Appliances

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

Furniture

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

Shop here first!
The classified ads

Guns/Supplies

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

Tools

CARPENTER TOOL'S - Extended bed saw, drill press, ladder's - 20' extension. Call after 5pm
(863)946-1639

Wanted To Buy

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



Rentals

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Apartments

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

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

Apartments

OKEECHOBEE ESTATES 2 BR, 1 BA Duplex Apt. Newly remodeled. Tile floors throughout. Stove, Fridge. Nice, quiet area. \$625 mo. + last mo. & sec. No pets. Available immed. (863)467-0627

Condos/Townhouses Rent

TAYLOR CREEK CONDOS - 1BR, 1BA, Furnished. \$650 mo. + \$350 sec. dep. (863)763-6576

Waterfront Property

Houses - Rent

CANAL FRONT Furnished 2BR, 1BA, screen porch, boat dock & lift, hardwood floors through out, DW, W&D. Includes Lawn Care, water & satellite TV \$850 1st & sec. (863)467-7528

FT DRUM - 1/1 on four acres, new cabinets and carpet \$625 mo. (912) 224-4658 or (734) 637-2697

PINERIDGE PARK Area - 2BR, 2BA w/Lg. FL Rm., 1 car gar. \$750 mo. 1st, last & \$500 sec. (863)634-4581

Waterfront Property

Houses - Rent

FURNISHED DUPLEX - 2BR, 1BA, 1 car garage, W&D, DW, Ceiling fans in every room, front & rear porch, tile floors through out, Located in Kings Bay. Includes lawn care & garbage.- \$775 first & sec. (863)467-7528

KINGS BAY, Furnished 1BR, 1BA duplex, 1 car garage, W&D, tile floors through out, ceiling fans in every room. Includes, lawn care & garbage. \$675 1st & sec. (863) 467-7528

Waterfront Property

Houses - Rent

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

SINGLE FAMILY: 3/2/1, Split plan, patio, master suite, tile, D/W. Avail. now. \$1100 mo. (561)307-2502

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

Waterfront Property

AUCTION!

DIRECTIONS:
From 441 go right on Rt. 78 to Linda Road; go left to Canal Way. Turn left on Canal Way and watch for Auction signs.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:
This is a great opportunity to buy great property with lake access on the canal. Buy either one or both!

- TERMS:**
- Winning bidder to deposit 10% at the Auction
 - Personal checks accepted
 - Pay balance at closing within 30 days
 - Title Insurance provided by Seller
 - 10% Buyer's Premium

AB128 AU155
This information deemed reliable but not guaranteed. Buyer must verify



20 Canal Way, Okeechobee SAT • APRIL 4 • 3pm
Preview at 2:30 p.m. (or by prior appt.)

- Two lots on Rim Canal in Buckhead Ridge Sub.
- Old dock, Boathouse and free-standing structure that was attached to a previous mobile home all on one lot
- The other lot is vacant
- FIVE MINUTES BY BOAT TO THE LAKE!
- Lot Sizes = 78'x 150' +/- (Lot 19) • 90' x 150' +/- (Lot 20)
- Total for both lots combined is .58 acres

Each lot will be Auctioned separately subject to a bulk bid for the two together



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15 Royal Palm Pointe • Vero Beach, FL 32960
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Details on www.RennickAuctions.com

Waterfront Rentals

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

Real Estate

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Land - Sale

RIVER RANCH Property - 1 1/4 acres, Polk County, (recreational), \$3,500 firm. Call 863-673-2108

Lots - Sale

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

Waterfront Property

KEECHOBEE AUCTION !! 2 Lots on the Rim Canal (20 Canal Way) 5 mins. by boat to the Lake. Dock, boat house, county water, septic tank. Each lot to be auctioned separately subject to a bulk bid for both. **SATURDAY APRIL 4th, 3pm, Preview at 2pm, RON RENNICK AUCTIONS INC. (AB128 AU155) 772-562-5015.** Directions: Take Rt 78 to Linda Rd to Canal Way.

Mobile Home Rent

TAYLOR CREEK ISLES - 2/2 furnished on water w/dock. Electric/Water/Cable Included. No pets. Adults only. \$1000 mo. + \$500 sec. dep. Call 954-260-1933

Mobile Home Sale

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

Recreation

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Campers/RVs

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

Motorcycles

HARLEY DAVIDSON - 1992, Soft tail custom, low miles, many extra's, great shape \$6500 (863)763-8667

HD Electra Glider Alta Classic fuel ejected, 2001 - green with slamming Eagle custom paint, gar., under 22K miles, \$11,500. (863)467-5823

HONDA SHADOW 750 - Very Low miles, Great condition \$4000 (863)634-4765

Automotive
For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Automobiles

BUICK PARK AVENUE 1998 - One owner, 28000 miles, excellent condition, \$8200/neg. (863)763-8132

CHEVY LUMINA - 1997, LOADED, NEW TIRES, 135K MILES \$1600 (863)801-5678

FORD WINDSTAR - 1999, Needs work, \$1200 or best offer (863)634-3200

LINCOLN MARK VII, 1990, 96k miles, 1 owner, good cond. \$4000 firm. call from 4-8pm (407)436-1266

Four Wheel Drive

F250 EXT. CAB -1988, 7.3 litre diesel, 1 ton, rear & gooseneck ball \$2200 (863)634-2379

Golf Carts

EZ GO - W/4"lift, stereo, over sized tires, enclosed, head lights. \$1500 or trade for pontoon trl (954)707-2274

Golf Carts

GOLF CART - Club Car, 2000, electric, low hours, Excellent cond. \$1450 or best offer (863)467-2824

GOLF CART - Club Car, 2000, electric, low hours, Excellent cond. \$1450 or best offer (863)467-2824

Pickup Trucks

CHEVROLET SILVERADO 2002 - One owner, 47500 miles, V-8 \$11500/neg. (863)763-8132

FORD F150 - 1999, Auto, a/c, long bed, v6, good cond. \$1950 (812)989-3022

Public Notices

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No. 2009-DR-121

IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF KENNETH P. WILLIAMS
Petitioner/Husband and **KRISTINA R. SARGENT,**
Respondent/Wife.

NOTICE OF ACTION CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE

TO: KRISTINA R. SARGENT
Addresses Unknown

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a Dissolution of Marriage action has been filed and commenced in this court.

You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any to it, on the Petitioner/Wife's attorney, whose name and address is GLENN J. SNEIDER, ESQUIRE, 200 S.W. 9th Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34974, and file the original with the clerk of the above-styled Court on or before 4/19/2009; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief prayed for in the complaint or petition.

This notice shall be published once each week for four consecutive weeks in The Okeechobee News.

Witness My hand and the seal of said Court at Okeechobee, Florida on this 17th day of March, 2009.

SHARON ROBERTSON
As Clerk of Said Court
By: Arlene Nealis
As Deputy Clerk

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No. 09-DR-100

DONNA LYNN ORTIZ,
Petitioner
and **JOSE ARMES ORTIZ,**
Respondent

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: **Jose Armes Ortiz**

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for dissolution of marriage has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to: Donna Lynn Ortiz, Petitioner, P.O. Box 733, Okeechobee, Florida 34973, on or before April 26, 2009, and file the original with the Clerk of Court, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, either before service on the Petitioner or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

DATED: March 5, 2009.
Sharon Robertson
As Clerk of the Court
By: Bea Rodriguez
As Deputy Clerk

Public Notice

CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Okeechobee will meet in Regular Session on **Tuesday, April 7, 2009, 6:00 p.m.** at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. A copy of the agenda will be available on our website at www.cityofokeechobee.com, or contact City Administration at (863) 763-3372 x 212.

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

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Florida Statute 286.26, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Lane Gamotea, no later than two (2) working days prior to the proceeding at 863-763-3372 x 214; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call TDD 1-800-955-8770 (voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TTY).
by: James E. Kirk, Mayor
Lane Gamotea, CMC, City Clerk
316383 ON 4/3/09

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2009 DR 132

IN RE: The Marriage of CHIRANJIVI BHARATH JANNU, Husband and HANNAH JESSIE FRANCIS TATAPUDI, Wife

VERIFIED PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE AND OTHER RELIEF

The Husband, Chiranjivi Bharath Jannu, by and through his undersigned attorney, files this his Petition for Dissolution of Marriage and other relief and would show the Court as follows:
1. This is a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage and Other Relief.
2. The Husband has been a resident of the State of Florida for more than six months prior to the filing of this Petition.
3. The parties were married to each other on December 7, 2007 in Warangal, Andhra Pradesh, India and have ceased to live together as Husband and Wife.
4. The marriage between the parties is irretrievably broken and there is no hope or possibility of reconciliation.
5. The Husband is over the age of eighteen years and is not a member of the Armed Forces of the United States.
6. There have been no children born of the marriage and the Wife is not pregnant.
7. The parties have only one marital asset and liability, namely, a timeshare in Orlando, which has a mortgage. The timeshare has no equity. The Husband requests this asset and liability as his own.

WHEREFORE the Husband prays that this Court take jurisdiction of the subject matter and the parties enter an order dissolving the marriage now existing between the parties; enter an order awarding the Husband the sole marital asset and liability, which is the Orlando timeshare; and award such further relief as the Court might appear just and proper.

I understand that I am swearing or affirming under oath to the truthfulness of the claims made in this affidavit and that the punishment for knowingly making a false statement includes fines and/or imprisonment.

Chiranjivi Bharath Jannu
Sworn to and subscribed before me on this 10 day of March, 2009, by Chiranjivi Bharath Jannu, who is personally known to me or who did provide Florida Driver's License as identification.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copy of the foregoing has been furnished to Hannah Jessie Francis Tatapudi by Notice of Publication and by mail to Pragathi Pride Apartments, Apartment 102, Barkath Pura, Hyderabad, India 500027 this 1 2 t h day of March, 2009.

GRAZI & GIANINO
217 E. Ocean Boulevard
Stuart, FL 34994
Telephone: 772-286-0200
Facsimile: 772-286-4789
By: Peter T. Gianino
FL Bar No.: 327492/577421
314980 ON 3/27;4/3,10/09

One man's trash is another man's treasure. Turn your trash to treasure with an ad in the classifieds.

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 20TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR GLADES COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO.: 22-2008-CA-000290

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR LONG BEACH MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2005-1,
Plaintiff
DAVID MONZON; CITIMORTGAGE, INC.; THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF DAVID MONZON; UNKNOWN TENANT(S); IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY,
Defendants

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

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 MONZON; CITIMORTGAGE, INC.; THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF DAVID MONZON; 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:

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 road 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 Westerly right of way of the Seaboard Coastline Railroad; thence South 08°15'14" East, along said railroad right of way a distance of 167.75 feet; thence south 89°59'04" West, a distance of 1413.24 feet to the Easterly road 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.

more commonly known as 16895 Northwest 144th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972.

This action has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, upon SHAPIRO & FISHERMAN, LLP, Attorneys for Plaintiff, whose address is 2424 North Federal Highway, Suite 360, Boca Raton, Florida 33431, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this notice and file the original with the clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; or otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court on the 30th day of March, 2009.

SHARON ROBERTSON
Circuit and County Courts
By: /s/ LINDA F. YOUNG
Deputy Clerk

316392 ON 4/3,10/09

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

Joe Flint
Clerk of The Circuit Court
By: Jennifer Bevis
Deputy Clerk
Law Office of Marshall C. Watson
1800 NW 49th Street, Suite 120
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309
Telephone: (954)453-0365
Facsimile: (954)771-6052
Toll Free: 1-800-441-2438
314911 ON 3/27;4/3/09

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY
Case # 2009 CA 000111

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as Trustee for Option One Mortgage Loan Trust 2006-1, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-1,
Plaintiff,
vs
Robert B. Griggs; Unknown Parties in Possession #1; Unknown Parties in Possession #2; If living, and all Unknown Parties claiming by, through, under and against the above named Defendant(s) who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said Unknown Parties may claim an interest as Spouse, Heirs, devisees, Grantees, or Other Claimants, Defendants

NOTICE OF ACTION FORECLOSURE PROCEEDINGS-PROPERTY

TO: Robert B. Griggs

Residence unknown, if living, including any unknown spouse of said Defendants, if either has remarried and if either or both of said Defendants are dead, their respective unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, creditors, lienors, and trustees, and all other persons claiming by, through, under or against the named Defendant(s); and the aforementioned named Defendant(s) and such of the aforementioned unknown Defendants and such of the aforementioned unknown Defendants as may be infants, incompetents or otherwise not sui jurs.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action has been commenced to foreclose a mortgage on the following real property, lying and being and situated in Okeechobee County, Florida, more particularly described as follows:

THE EAST 241.70 FEET OF THE NORTH 208.70 FEET OF THE SOUTH 417.40 FEET OF THE SOUTH ONE-HALF (S 1/2) OF THE NORTH ONE-HALF (N 1/2) OF SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 35 SOUTH, RANGE 33 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, LESS AND EXCEPT THEREFROM THE EAST 33.00 FEET.

TOGETHER WITH THAT CERTAIN YEAR: 1999, MAKE: LIMITED, VIN#FLA14613713A AND VIN#FLA14613713B, MANUFACTURED HOME, WHICH IS PERMANENTLY AFFIXED TO THE ABOVE DESCRIBED LANDS, AS SUCH IT IS DEEMED TO BE A FIXTURE AND A PART OF THE REAL ESTATE.

more commonly known as 16895 Northwest 144th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972.

This action has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, upon SHAPIRO & FISHERMAN, LLP, Attorneys for Plaintiff, whose address is 2424 North Federal Highway, Suite 360, Boca Raton, Florida 33431, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this notice and file the original with the clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; or otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court on the 30th day of March, 2009.

SHARON ROBERTSON
Circuit and County Courts
By: /s/ LINDA F. YOUNG
Deputy Clerk

316392 ON 4/3,10/09

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD003

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

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

Description of Property: **COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 17; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 57 MINUTES 33 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE SOUTHERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID SECTION 17 A DISTANCE OF 180.00 FEET TO A POINT LYING ON THE EASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF N.E. 64TH AVENUE; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 07 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 2,848.32 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 08 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 800.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 08 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 112.30 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 07 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 100.00 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 08 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 112.30 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 07 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 180.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING AND COMMENCING AT THE 1/4 SECTION CORNER ON THE WEST BOUNDARY LINE OF SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, 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 04 MINUTES 22 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 SOUTH, 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

Name(s) in which assessed: **MICHAEL GRANT**

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

SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

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

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

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD001

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

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

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

Name(s) in which assessed: **PAULA OCHOA**

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

SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

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

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

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helps you understand the world around you.

Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD002

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

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

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

Name(s) in which assessed:

**ALICE GOINS
MICHAEL GOINS**

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

SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

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

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

Creative writers earn IRSC scholarships

Excellence in writing earned high school seniors scholarships to Indian River State College and top honors in the College's Creative Writing Contest. IRSC Chastain Campus Adult High School senior, Alyssa Fowler, was the first-place winner for her story, "Anorxia."

Yasmine Yousef, a senior at Port St. Lucie High School, earned second place for her story, "A Baby's Raucous Holiday." Shirley Mincey, Okeechobee High School senior, took third place in the contest for her story, "Moonlight".

Junior winners are Christopher Michael Lee, Port St. Lucie High School, first place for his story; second place to Eric Voyles, St. Edwards Upper School, for his story; and third place to Elizabeth Seldomridge, Indian River Charter High School, for her poem.

Sophomore winners are Grace Murphy, Jensen Beach High School, first place for her story; Ana Maria Hernandez, Okeechobee High School, second place for her story; and Madeline Welsh, Okeechobee High School,



Submitted photo/IRSC

Scholarship winners

IRSC Creative Writing Contest winners and recipients of IRSC scholarships are high school seniors (L-R) Shirley Mincey, Yasmine Yousef, and Alyssa Fowler (first-place winner).

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Easter Island is part of it
 - 6 Scale divs.
 - 9 Net attachment?
 - 13 "___ my watch!"
 - 14 Paul's "Exodus" role
 - 15 "You Send Me" singer
 - 16 Sanctified
 - 17 Promgoer's concern
 - 18 Battle-ready
 - 19 "It's a party! Informal, so ___"
 - 22 Spike TV, formerly
 - 23 Situation, so to speak
 - 27 "But ___"
 - 30 Geisha's sash
 - 32 Paula Creamer's org.
 - 33 Env. directive
 - 34 Bolivian capital
 - 36 Additive at Indy
 - 38 Canada natives
 - 39 "Off the Court" autobiographer
 - 40 Locale
 - 42 Hunter's gp.
 - 43 "And (shh!) ___"
 - 48 Underwriter
 - 49 Sweets
 - 50 "Oh, don't forget, ___"
 - 56 Minsk money
 - 59 Laundry brand
 - 60 "Me too!"
 - 61 Comparable in size
 - 62 Maxim
 - 63 "Middlemarch" novelist
 - 64 After-shower item
 - 65 TV show that had recurring "Killer Bees" sketches
 - 66 Iditarod entries

- 4 Get beaten by
- 5 Get mixed up (in)
- 6 Hardly industrial
- 7 Vivacity
- 8 Strategy for getting a six-pack?
- 9 Ancestor
- 10 Herbert of "Pink Panther" movies concern
- 11 '50s campaign button name
- 12 Voted for, with "in"
- 15 Seasonal song
- 20 Sassy one
- 21 Alsatian Dadaist
- 24 Certain fingerprint
- 25 Fragrant compound
- 26 High-IQ group
- 27 Suitable spots
- 28 NFL scores
- 29 Breezy byes
- 30 Honshu port
- 31 Greyhounds, e.g.
- 35 Plato work, with "The"
- 37 Fab start?
- 38 Has too good a time?
- 41 Acoustics concern
- 44 Discount store abbr.
- 45 You, in Paris
- 46 "Gunsmoke" star
- 47 Sign up
- 51 Nana
- 52 Two-master
- 53 Slobbering comics dog
- 54 Golfer's choice
- 55 They're picked by faultfinders
- 56 Tattletale
- 57 Second-largest W. Hemisphere country in area
- 58 Oil meas.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

M	E	R	C	S	J	I	B	E	N	O	S	H				
G	L	E	A	M	U	P	O	N	U	N	C	A				
M	I	A	M	I	D	O	N	T	T	I	E	R				
		B	L	O	O	D	D	I	A	M	O	N	D			
P	H	O	O	E	Y		T	W	E	N	T	Y				
D	A	D	D	Y	L	O	N	G	L	E	G	S				
A	L	O	I	S		H	I	R	E	S						
S	E	R	A		M	A	M	A	S		S	U	B	S		
				A	A	R	O	N		T	H	R	O	E		
				D	U	D	L	E	Y	D	O	R	I	G	H	T
S	T	A	N	Z	A				V	I	P	E	R	S		
T	H	R	E	E	D				M	O	V	I	E	S		
R	I	T	A		I	A	G	O		S	O	N	N	Y		
O	N	E	S		E	C	R	U		T	U	T	E	E		
H	E	D	Y		S	E	E	S		E	T	H	O	S		

xwordeditor@aol.com

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12		
						14				15					
						17				18					
				20					21						
		22						23			24	25	26		
				27			28	29							
30	31											33			
							36		37			38			
									40		41		42		
						44	45	46					47		
													49		
									51	52			53	54	55
56	57	58											60		
													62		63
													65		66

By Bill Ballard
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third place for her three poems.

Freshman winners are first place, Maria Velasco, Port St. Lucie High School, for her story; second place to Jacob Noon-Clay-

ton, Port St. Lucie High School, for his story, and third place to Taylor Nelson, Vero Beach High School, for his three poems.

Sixteen area high schools submitted creative writing entries. In addition to the IRSC scholarships awarded to the senior winners, junior, sophomore, and freshman winners received plaques.

Students attending IRSC now have the opportunity to earn a four-year Bachelor's degree in Education, Organizational Management, Health Care Management, Public Safety Administration, as well as two-year Associate's Degrees. For more information, contact the IRSC Call Center at 1-866-792-4772 or www.irsc.edu.

Sudoku Puzzle

SUDOKU

	8							
		9		2				8
		1		3				6
		5				6	9	
				1		8		
			7	6				2
7	1	8		9				
	9				6			3
		2			5			

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

1	6	7	9	8	4	2	9	3	
3	8	2	9	7	1	4	6	5	
4	5	9	3	6	2	8	1	7	
2	1	5	6	9	7	3	4	8	
7	3	8	4	1	5	9	2	6	
6	9	4	8	2	3	5	7	1	
9	4	6	7	3	8	1	9	2	
8	7	1	2	5	9	6	3	4	
5	2	3	2	5	4	6	7	8	9

ANSWER:

Community Events

Babysitter's Training Class

The Okeechobee Service Center of the American Red Cross will be holding a Babysitter's Training class on Monday, **April 13**. Time: 9:30 a.m. until 4 p.m., at the American Red Cross, Okeechobee Service Center, 323 N. Parrott Ave. Cost: \$40. Prerequisite: Youth Ages 11 through 14 yrs. of age. For more information or to register, please call (863) 763-2488 as space is limited. Lunch will be provided and participants will receive their Red Cross certification card the day of the training as well as the Babysitter's Training package.

Prom Dress Rescue 2009

Now in our third year, we stand ready to start the "gathering of the gowns." All gowns can be dropped off at the high school gatehouse, for your convenience anytime during school hours. The fitting of the gowns will be **April 15, 16, and 17**, in the media center at the high school, during school hours. For more information call Pam Chesley at 863-946-2736 or 863-634-7158.

Friends of the Okeechobee Library Book sale

Friends of the Okeechobee Library will hold their spring fund-raiser book sale on Thursday, April 16, from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, **April 17**, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Saturday, **April 18**, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Hardcover books-\$2; Paperbacks-\$1; Audio-visuals-\$1; Library discards-half price. On Saturday a bag of books is \$2; a box is \$5. For more information please call the library at 863-763-3536.



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April 7 - 9



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