



Vol. 100 No. 49

Friday, April 24, 2009

50¢ Plus tax

OHS girls basketball
players honored
... Page 20



City council tightens
budget ... Page 8

Index

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Classifieds | 16, 17 |
| Community Events | 6 |
| Crossword | 17 |
| Obituaries | 6 |
| Opinion | 4, 5 |
| Speak Out | 4 |
| Sports | 18, 19, 20 |
| Weather | 2 |

Lake Levels

11.46 feet
Last Year: 10.42 feet

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

See page 4 for information about how to contact this newspaper.

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Lake level dropping: Water restrictions in effect



Okeechobee News/Katrina Elskens

As the level of Lake Okeechobee drops, the concrete fishballs under the Lock 7 pier are visible. The balls were placed in the lake to provide cover for small fish after high water levels and the hurricanes of 2004 left the lake with little vegetation.

Dry conditions bring water rules

If needed, deputies will enforce water mandates with fines

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Due to continuing dry conditions, water restrictions put in place last year will again be enforced.

According to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) the Okeechobee area has only received a total of 1.66 inches of rain from Jan. 2 through April 14. That is a deficit of 6.41 inches.

Property owners now will only

be able to water their lawns on prescribed days and only during specific times.

Property owners with an odd number address can water Wednesday and Saturday from midnight until 10 a.m. and/or from 4 until 11:59 p.m. Those with an even number address can only water on Thursday and Sunday from midnight until 10 a.m. and/or from 4 until 11:59 p.m.

Those property owners with no street address or systems that irrigate both odd and even addresses within the same zones are to adhere to the same irrigation restrictions as property owners with even addresses.

No irrigation is allowed any

day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. However, low-volume systems such as a drip, bubble or micro-jet systems that apply water directly to the roots may be used any time.

While violations of these regulations will normally be handled by county code enforcement officers, there are times when deputies from the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) will handle enforcement duties.

OCSO Major Noel Stephen said the sheriff's office will first educate people about the water restrictions, but after a period of time he said they will stop edu-

See WATER — Page 2

**Two face
1st degree
murder
charges**

Men indicted in
Pulido slaying

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

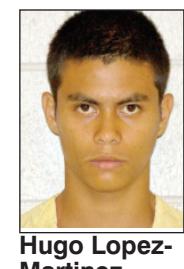
A grand jury returned a true bill Tuesday, April 21, and indicted two men of first-degree murder in connection with the slaying of Angel Pulido.

With the indictment Brad Boswell, 27, S.W. 86th Ave., Okeechobee, and Hugo Lopez-Martinez, 18, E. 127th Ave., Tampa, could possibly face the death penalty if convicted.

Boswell is now charged with first degree murder with a weapon, burglary of a dwelling with assault or battery while armed and masked, cruelty to animals, grand theft auto and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon while masked.

Martinez is charged with first degree murder with a weapon, burglary of a dwelling with assault or battery while armed and masked, cruelty to animals, grand theft auto and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon while masked.

See MURDER — Page 2



MURDER

Continued From Page 1

to animals and grand theft auto.

Both men are being held in the Okeechobee County Jail without bond.

A third man -- Daniel Saloman, 30, S.R. 70 W. -- is charged with principle in the first degree to armed burglary of an occupied dwelling. His bond has been set at \$10,000. Since he is not charged with the actual murder, his case did not have to go in front of the grand jury.

Assistant State Attorney Ashley Albright said before the state can officially charge someone with first degree murder the law requires the case be presented to a grand jury. He went on to say that although Boswell and Lopez-Martinez could face death if convicted, the state has not determined yet if it will seek the death penalty.

Arrest records indicate that Boswell and Lopez-Martinez knocked on the front door of Pulido's three-bedroom home on N.W. Seventh St. around noon on March 18. Then, not long after opening the door, Pulido was shot with a medium caliber handgun.

The two men then took an undisclosed amount of money and drugs and fled out the

back door of the DeBerry Gardens home.

An unidentified 19-year-old woman, who was said to be Pulido's girlfriend, was also in the home at the time but did not actually see the shooting, the reports state.

The men also shot and killed Pulido's blue pit bull, Fatboy. The 90-pound dog was shot in the head.

After the shooting, Boswell and Lopez-Martinez took a Dodge Durango sports utility vehicle that belonged to Pulido's girlfriend, state Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) arrest reports.

The woman was not injured.

The two men were captured at 1:42 p.m. in the Bear Hollow subdivision near Lake Placid. Detectives say the men were in the process of committing other burglaries in the hopes of finding keys to another vehicle. The men were wanting to get rid of the Durango and steal another vehicle so they could flee to Clearwater, detectives said.

OCSO Detective Sergeant T.J. Brock, the lead investigator in the case, said Boswell and Lopez-Martinez had both been living in Clearwater.

Saloman, who was arrested March 19, was charged with driving the other two men to Pulido's home.



Submitted photo

Correction

Joshua Goforth, who won the Senior Steer Showmanship Award at the 4-H and FFA Livestock Show and Sale, was incorrectly identified in the Livestock Show special section. The Livestock Show as held in March at the Agri-Civic Center. We regret the error.

Missing man found safe

An elderly Okeechobee man reported missing Tuesday, April 21, has been found safe in Palm Beach County.

Robert Frank Seafield, 80, was reported missing after he left his home on N.E. 65th Terrace in order to take his tan 1986 Ford pickup into Okeechobee for repairs.

Detective Ted Van Deman, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), said Mr. Seafield was found Wednesday, April 22, in Palm Beach County by a Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) deputy.

Together, the OCSO and PBSO arranged for the man's safe return.

Okeechobee County Sheriff Paul May said he thanked the public for their assistance in this matter.

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THEATRE II: "CONFESSNS OF A SHOPAHOLIC"
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THEATRE III: "KNOWING"
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The landfill hours for **SATURDAYS** will be changing.

**Effective May 16, 2009,
Okeechobee Landfill, Inc.
will open at 7 am on
Saturdays. This change only
applies to Saturday's
opening hours.**

Jobs aplenty near Indiantown

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

The little burg of Indiantown is bracing for major traffic problems Friday and Saturday as job fairs are held for the proposed Florida Power and Light Martin Next Generation Solar Energy Center.

Timer Powers Park at 14100 S.W. Citrus Blvd will be the host of the job fair as more than 1,000 workers will be hired to build the plant. The average wages will range from \$9 for unskilled to \$20 per hour for skilled labor. Anyone with basic assembly skills, plumbers, carpenters, electricians, and other trades will be needed for the project.

With unemployment over 10 percent in

Okeechobee, Martin and other area counties, officials expect a huge turnout, at least several thousand people.

Construction of the new solar plant near Indiantown is expected to take at least one year. There are three FPL plants due to be constructed this year. The others are in Desoto and Broward counties.

The new solar plant will use the energy of the sun and capture it in close to 180,000 mirrors. The energy will make steam that will help power the existing FPL Natural gas plant at the site. Company officials held a ceremony last December to introduce the project.

He went on to say that violation of these restrictions is a second-degree misdemeanor.

According to the SFWMD, outdoor landscape watering accounts for up to half of the 179 gallons used per person, per day, by South Florida residents. This is the highest water usage in the state.

Limiting lawn watering to two days a week, as required by the current restrictions, could reduce household water use up to 10 percent.

Floridians consume more than 7.9 billion gallons of fresh water per day, with more than 90 percent of that water being supplied by underground aquifers.

WATER

Continued From Page 1

cating and begin enforcing the water mandates..

"After a period of time of doing the educational wave, then we will have to escalate our enforcement," he said.

Because of the current economic climate, the major said Sheriff Paul May wants citizens warned before they are issued a citation that could carry a fine ranging from \$25 to \$500.

"But, if we have to warn someone twice then we're going to write them a citation," Maj. Stephen warned.

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 87. East wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 63. East wind around 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 85. East wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 63. East wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Wednesday: **Cash 3:** 8-0-8; **Play 4:** 8-8-9-6; **Fantasy 5:** 7-16-31-35-36; **Mega Money:** 2-20-30-36 MB 21; **Florida Lotto:** 6-9-18-36-46-53; **Powerball:** 15-22-30-37-48 PB12 x2. Numbers drawn Thursday, **Cash 3:** 6-1-4; **Play 4:** 5-2-1-3.

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Company burglarized; offers reward

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A local dairy is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those involved in the theft of tools and equipment.

According to Deputy Michael Hazellief, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), an unknown person, or persons, took tools and equipment valued at \$9,600 from a barn and utility truck. The barn and truck were located on McArthur Dairy property on N.W. 208th St.

Deputy Hazellief said sometime between 8 p.m. Monday, April 20, and 6 a.m. Tuesday, April 21, someone entered the barn-like structure and vandalized the building and vending machines. Storage lockers were also burglarized and mechanic-type tools and equipment were taken.

The suspect or suspects then removed items from a utility truck.

Items taken include tools, welding equipment and farm equipment.

McArthur Farms Inc. is offering the reward.

Anyone with information on this case can

call the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office at (863) 763-3117; or, to remain anonymous, information can be left by calling Crime Stoppers at 1 (800) 273-TIPS.

Jail inmate accused of battery

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An inmate at the Okeechobee County Jail has been arrested for hitting and injuring another male inmate.

Derrick Levi Clay, 20, was arrested Tuesday, April 21, on a charge of felony battery. His bond was set at \$5,000.

Clay was being held in the county jail following his arrest last year on felony charges of burglary (two counts) and grand theft (two counts). He was also arrested on a misdemeanor count of petit theft. His total bond on those charges was set at \$130,000.

According to Deputy Joseph Hall, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), Tuesday's incident took place around 10 a.m. The deputy's arrest report states jail video surveillance shows Clay going into the cell of Daniel Miller "in an aggressive manner" then walking out a few seconds later.

Miller was left lying on the cell floor, stated the arrest report.

He was later taken to Raulerson Hospital because he was bleeding from both ears. Deputy Hall's report states Miller was diagnosed with a concussion.

Miller reportedly told the deputy that he was struck in the throat with a closed fist and then in the head with a closed fist.

Jail records indicate that Miller is being held on local felony charges of burglary and grand theft auto. He was also arrested on a warrant out of Ohio charging him with failure of a sexual offender to register. His total bond has been set at \$9,000.

Crash claims man's life

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man has died from injuries he received in a single-vehicle accident Monday, April 20, on Charles Harvey Memorial Highway.

Justin Lee King, 21, died at 5:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 21, said Sergeant Kurt Hardley of the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP).

FHP reports indicate Mr. King was eastbound on the two-lane highway around 11 p.m. Monday when he apparently failed to navigate a curve.

He reportedly lost control of his 1997 Ford sports utility vehicle and crossed the grass median. The vehicle overturned then struck a gate and a fence post.

Mr. King was thrown from the vehicle.

He was airlifted to St. Mary's Hospital in West Palm Beach.

Damage to the vehicle was estimated at \$10,000.

Task force arrests 3 on drug charges

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Two people were arrested after a search warrant was served on their S.W. 28th St. home and a number of medications were found for which they reportedly had no prescription.

Arrested Tuesday, April 21, were Norma L. Nales, 31, and Steve E. Willock, 29. Both were arrested on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance (oxycodone), possession of a controlled substance (xanax), possession of a controlled substance (perocet) and possession of cocaine.

Each was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

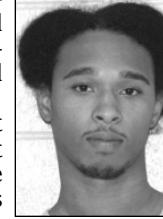
Also arrested in the home was Mark Lynn Franklin Jr., 20, of the same address. He was charged with the misdemeanors possession of marijuana under 20 grams and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Jail records indicate that bond for Nales and Willock was set at \$10,500 each. Franklin's bond was set at \$5,500 and he has been released after posting bond, states jail records.

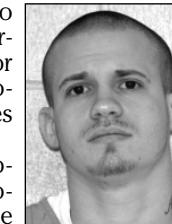
Arrest reports indicate that the warrant



**Norma L.
Nales**



**Mark Lynn
Franklin Jr.**



**Derrick Levi
Clay**



**Steve E.
Willock**

Two clear containers were then found in a walk-in closet in the couple's bedroom. In one of the containers was a suspected xanax bar. Inside the other container was a straw with approximately .01 grams of a white powdery substance, stated the report.

That substance was field tested and indicated a positive result for the presence of cocaine, stated a task force detective.

A green leafy substance, along with a digital set of scales and small plastic bags, was found in a hall closet, the report added. The green leafy substance was field tested and indicated a positive result for the presence of marijuana, the arrest report continued.

According to the report, the suspected marijuana weighed 6.8 grams.

A task force detective went on to state that no valid prescriptions for any of the medicines were found during the search.

Arrest Report

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

Neri Lopez Estrada, 38, West Palm Beach, was arrested April 19 by Trooper Corey Lee on charges of driving under the influence and no valid driver's license. His bond was set at \$500.

Juan F. Moreno-Lopez, 30, West Palm Beach, was arrested April 19 by Trooper B.K. Timmons on charges of driving under the influence, no driver's license and reckless driving. His bond was set at \$1,500.

Joseph Clinton Herbst Jr., 58, N.W. 90th Court, Okeechobee, was arrested April 19 by Deputy Matt Crawford on a charge of driving under the influence. He was released on his own recognizance.

Robert Bennett Taylor, 49, U.S. 441 S.E., was arrested April 19 by Deputy Robbie Lamb on a charge of leaving the scene of an accident with property damage. He was released on his own recognizance.

This column lists arrests, not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Anyone who is listed here and who is later found not guilty or has the charges against them dropped, is welcome to inform the newspaper. We will confirm the information and print it.

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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!

Essentials

- For too long our national, state and local governments have been too free and easy spending our tax dollars. They should have been more careful all along, funding only those services that are absolutely essential. There are many things that are nice to have, such as a fireworks show, but should we make the tax payers pay for them? I say no. Taxes should only be used for essential things such as education, law enforcement and fire protection. Gas taxes should pay for roads and bridges. Water management tax should pay for reservoirs, flood control, etc. And while we're at it, they don't need to spend so much money on fancy handouts. They should just email the information or print it out in black and white. We need to cut costs and there are still plenty to cut.

WIC

- This is for the person that wrote about the WIC. You really need to get with the times. You say that the illegal aliens deserve a decent life, but yet you won't allow them to stay here and try to achieve that. The illegal aliens, as you like to call them, come here from Mexico to search for a better life. They don't come here with the mindset of disrupting the U.S. economy. They take whatever jobs they can because they have to eat. Answer me this: If the illegal aliens don't take those dirt-cheap paying jobs who is going to do them? You say they are not an asset, but I beg to differ, I believe they are as much an asset to this country as any other race. Every race has good qualities and bad ones. The ancestors of the white Americans emigrated from another country as well. What if the natives of America would have had border controls back when the settlers were looking for a better life. If that were the case, none of us would be here right now.

- The way the economy is going, we are all going to need food stamps and WIC.

Satellite dish stolen

- Seems as though the bad economy has brought out the need to even steal a large 3 foot satellite dish. We had one in our back yard, out on 70 West, and my husband, being the artist that he is, had painted scenery on both sides of it, of a light house and scenery to go with it. The dish was not being used; only as a beautiful decoration, sitting on the edge of a canal, in our back yard. Tuesday evening April 14, someone came in our yard, and stole it. It has been turned over to the sheriff's office, buy I just thought all of you out there could help us be on the look out for it. If you see this spring up in your neighbor's yard, please call the sheriff's office, as it is probably ours. We have pictures to identify it. There is a lot of work, time, and talent that went into this and we would love to get it back.

SFWMD calendar

- I would like to provide you with a response to the person's comments concerning the South Florida Water Management District's Community Calendar. The South Florida Water Management District's Okeechobee Service Center has funded and created a Community Calendar in response to requests by people and businesses of this community and surrounding communities to provide a Calendar for public distribution. Pictures showcased in the calendar are from local photographers who've shared their photographs of the lake and the lake region, so there's a local ownership component we're also supporting. Yes, the calendar is funded with tax dollars and created utilizing staff time, but obviously it's a project the community supports based on public response to continue funding and producing the calendar. With that said we unfortunately were not able to secure funding for another calendar in the next fiscal year budget, which is why we decided to produce an 18 month calendar this year for the community's enjoyment. The good news is, the next calendar will display more pictures from local photographers.

School funding shortage

- We have schools closing right now in Florida, and its not because of Charlie Crist and whoever voted on the taxes on housing. You know what started this? When the housing market doubled.

- School taxes were exempt from the homestead changes. I looked it up on the State of Florida Web site. So, why are the schools so low on money they are letting teachers go? It's not just Okeechobee, it's all over the state.



Beauty pageant question

- Was there ever a time when Miss America was supposed to be a wholesome young lady who represented what decent people wanted for an example of young womanhood? If so, it must have been long ago and far away. But then, exploiting women as sex symbols (the bathing suit competition, when nobody's going swimming) has never been right in my mind, anyway.

- All this hoop-la over the answer Miss California gave Pageant Judge Perez Hilton. The next day Perez stated because her answer was not politically correct, it cost her the crown. It looked like he set her up from where I sit. The first few words after she draws the card choosing the judge who will direct the question at her tell a lot, he said in response to her being asked if she was worried... "You should be."

- It's simply proof of the intolerance of the "Politically Correct" set. Carrie Prejean cannot even express her opinion (which she was asked to express) without being vilified. And those who vilify her are demonstrating pure intolerance and a lack of diversity.

- What a sad state of affairs when in this country today you are asked a question that really requires a "personal" belief answer, and then when the "answer" doesn't qualify to be what the person wanted to hear we all hang her out to dry ... Leave the girl alone! I beg any of you to stand up there with all those people and in an instant try to complete the thought process in a second to a stupid question. What happened to them asking about "world peace?"

U.S. Astronaut discloses that 'we are not alone'

- Edgar Mitchell was pilot of Apollo 14 and the sixth person to walk on the moon. He made the news this week when he said he hopes President Obama will allow the truth released to the public. Mitchell, who was part of the 1971 Apollo 14 moon mission, asserted Monday that extraterrestrial life exists, and that the truth is being concealed by the U.S. and other governments.

- Does this mean Obama is an alien? I just knew it!

- Anyone who thinks that we are the only life form existing planet in the ENTIRE UNIVERSE are in the same line of people who thought the world was flat. There are MILLIONS of galaxies out there with their own planets, moons and sun..get real people and open your minds.

- I read about alien life forms communicating every day, just read some of the postings on the newszap.com forum.

- I will allow there is probably intelligent life on other planets. I am not so sure there is much intelligent life on this one, however.

Columbine

- Tuesday was the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on Columbine High School. I was young when this happened and was just curious how some of the older posters reacted and felt when they heard about the news. Crazy to think I was in third grade when all that happened. Also, say a prayer for the students and the entire community. I'm sure they are still trying to recover even to this day.

- Many incidents like the one at Columbine have taken place in the last ten years. It seems to me that there is not enough oversight of the children's activities for the parents to know what they are up to. Probably they are both out trying to make money so that the family can have a better life. If the law doesn't soon learn to understand the difference between acceptable physical punishment and abuse, we can expect this type of thing to continue. "Foolishness is tied up with the heart of a boy, but the rod of discipline will remove it far from him."

- Some of these incidents have to do with outcast kids snapping and going after the bullies who torment them. Parents need to talk to their children about treating all others with respect and courtesy.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

Address: 107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D
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To Submit News

The Okeechobee News welcomes submissions from its readers. Opinions, calendar items, stories ideas and photographs are welcome. Call (863) 763-3134 to reach our newsroom. Items may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed.

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E-Mail: readerservices@newszap.com

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

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

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

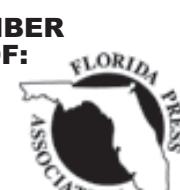
We Pledge...

- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
- To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues.
- To report the news with honesty, accuracy,

purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.

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

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Letter to the Editor

Plant trees for the future

As we celebrate Arbor Day this month, we do so with an eye to the future, knowing that planting trees today will benefit generations yet to come. History tells us that challenging economic times offer unique opportunities to plant trees. Previous generations of Americans have stepped up during difficult periods in our nation's life to protect and expand tree-planting and conservation efforts from coast to coast.

On the 137th anniversary of Arbor Day, we can learn from our nation's past that tough times provide an ideal opportunity to practice the spirit of Arbor Day, to add trees to the canopies of our cities and towns and to replant our nation's forests.

In cities, trees serve as green infrastructure, providing immense value from a modest investment. Trees help clean the air and water, mitigate storm-water runoff, increase property values, and conserve energy – all the while improving the quality of life for residents. The fact is, trees are rare compo-

nents of a city's infrastructure that actually increase in value and service over time.

As municipal budgets become stretched, cutting corners on infrastructure expense such as tree planting and pruning may seem attractive on the surface. But the reality is cutting investments in these areas cost dearly over time.

History shows that when civic and national leaders make planting and caring for trees a high priority, it strengthens and adds value to the entire community.

When Americans were fighting the Civil War, leaders in New York City continued to invest in the development of a strong, centrally located city park. They planted trees, and added large areas of green space in the heart of the city. The park they continued to develop was the now-world-renowned Central Park, and today it covers 843 acres, includes 26,000 trees, and is visited by more than 25 million people every year, adding tremendous environmental, economic and social value to the city.

During the Great Depression, the federal

government created the Civilian Conservation Corps. Not only did the CCC provide jobs for millions Americans during its nine-year run, but the organization planted hundreds of millions of trees throughout the country, put out forest fires and opened up miles of trails, many of which are still in use today.

It was during this time that President Franklin Roosevelt saw an opportunity to expand our national forests and, at the urging of former Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot, championed the purchase of suddenly available and affordable timberlands. Congress added more than 13 million acres to the national forest system, creating many of our Eastern national forests that are now so valuable to the public.

Today, we are faced with similar opportunities. This is our chance to plant trees, conserve energy and improve the environment in the communities where we live, and leave a lasting legacy for our children and grandchildren.

This is our chance to:

- Provide health and economic benefits to millions of Americans by strengthen-

ing and increasing the tree canopies in our towns and cities.

- Reduce the one-million-acre replanting backlog in our national forests by planting millions of trees and enriching these American treasures.

- Create meaningful jobs dedicated to tree-planting, tree care and conservation that will have a lasting impact on the environment, generate economic value for generations to come, and help fight global warming.

Investment icon Warren Buffet once said: "Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." This statement speaks to the long-term benefit of planting trees, as well as the value of investing in trees during challenging economic times.

Let us embrace the spirit of Arbor Day by working hard to plant trees today so that future generations will enjoy the fruits of our labor.

John Rosenow
Arbor Day Foundation

Community Calendar

Friday

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

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

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

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

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

Overeaters Anonymous is not a diet club. There are no dues, fees or weigh-ins.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop eating compulsively. For more information call Loretta at 863-763-7165 or 863-697-0206.

Saturday

Just for Today Club of Okeechobee, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972 (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **A.A.** weekend noon Open Discussion; **N.A. Sickest Of The Sick Group Step Study** 7 p.m.; **N.A. Nowhere Left To Go Group Open Discussion** 8 p.m. *The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.

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

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

Sunday

A.A. meeting from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third

St. It will be an open step meeting.

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

Just for Today Club of Okeechobee, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972, (Behind Napa Auto Parts).

A.A. weekend noon meeting, Open Discussion; The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.



Submitted photo/Humane Society Pet Rescue FL, Inc.

N.A. Sickest Of The Sick, Open Discussion, 7 p.m.

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



Submitted photo/Audrey Driggers

National Volunteer Week

The theme for National Volunteer Week, commemorated April 19-25, is "Celebrating People in Action." The theme captures the meaning behind this signature week – honoring the individuals who dedicate themselves to taking action and solving problems in their communities. Frank Coker, an Earth Team volunteer for USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Okeechobee Soil and Water Conservation District installs a monofilament recycling bin that was vandalized over the weekend. Mr. Coker volunteers his time collecting line at all 12 sites around Okeechobee County.

National Day of Prayer planned for May 7

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

Thursday, May 7, the Okeechobee Ministerial Association and Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee will once again host the National Day of Prayer to be held from noon to 1 p.m. in the Okeechobee County Judicial Center courtyard, 304 N.W. Second Street.

During this event, members of the community meet to unite as a unit to pray for our city, county, state, nation and the world as a whole.

Kiwanis will serve lunch to those in attendance which has been in part donated

by Domino's Pizza and CVS. Waste Management will provide the waste receptacles for the event.

According to the National Day of Prayer Organization's website, in 1952 a joint resolution by Congress was signed by President Harry Truman. It was declared an annual, national day of prayer.

In 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Ronald Regan to permanently set the day as the first Thursday of every May as the National Day of Prayer.

Come out and enjoy the camaraderie with your fellow citizens and pray for our community and our nation.

Pet of the week

Spike is a 3+- yr. old Border Terrier Mix. He's got a wire type coat, neutered, and up to date on vaccines. This sweetie is happy all of the time. Please call to make arrangements to see this boy at 863-532-1110. See more of our available pets at: <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/FL846.html>.

Special Magistrate imposes code violation fine

By Pete Gawda

Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate Lois Nichols imposed one fine and reduced another fine during code violations hearings on Tuesday, April 21.

The properties of The Vantage Development Corporation, Marcelo Garcia and Barbara Wright, William Borges, Joaquin Dominguez, Robert Skinner, Toni and Lawrence Steed, Teresa Ledford Lightsey, Mario Reyes De Anselmo and Zenon Anselmo and ANDS Management were found to be compliant and those cases were not heard.

The case against the Enock Clark Trust was tabled due to lack of proper notification. The case again Lenox Roland was postponed in order to allow the property owner to secure more documentation.

Richard Thompson had been cited for having construction trailers, an aluminum garage, a shed and recreational vehicles used for storage as well as an unpermitted structure on the front of his N.W. 24th Street property. Code enforcement officer Beth Albert stated that Mr. Thompson believed that his property was zoned agricultural when it was, in fact, zoned rural residential. She said he had worked with staff to come into compliance and had removed some of the illegal objects from his property. He was given until

May 14 to get the necessary permits and until June 11 to remove the construction trailer.

John and Chloe Guarine had been charged with having mechanical parts, debris and coolers as well as unregistered vehicles on their S.E. 28th Street lot. Code enforcement officer Blanca Saucedo noted that some progress had been made in cleaning up the property. The owners were given until May 14 to come into compliance or they could face a fine of up to \$250 a day.

Code enforcement officer Albert charged that Frank Carran and Cecilia DeCarran have overgrowth, accumulation of vehicle parts and household goods and unregistered vehicles on their Treasure Island property. They were given until May 14 to come into compliance or face a possible fine.

Rebecca Lewis has cleaned up her N.W. 19th Avenue property but the fire damaged building still remains according to code enforcement officer Saucedo. Ms. Lewis stated that she was waiting on her insurance company for demolition of the structure. She was given until June 11 to complete the demolition.

John E. Harrison Jr. of S.E. 39th Avenue was given until May 14 to clean up the overgrowth and accumulated debris on his property.

The compliance date for Timothy and

Jamie Pritchett to clean up their S.E. 26th Street property was extended to May 14.

Since James and Jessica Wilkerson have applied for a building permit for their N.W. 95th Court pole barn their compliance date was extended to May 14.

The compliance date for Timmy and Melissa Sellers to remove the unlicensed vehicles, tires, vehicle parts, rubbish and trash from their N.W. 364th Road property was also extended to May 14.

Ronetta White was ordered last month to remove the overgrowth, abandoned structure and all trash and debris from her N.W. First Street property. Code enforcement officer Saucedo stated that compliance had not been achieved. Therefore, Ms. Johnson was fined \$75 a day for every day of noncompliance beginning April 22.

The bank has repossessed Elbert Kline's N.E. 16th Street property and brought it into compliance. Realtor David Hazellief, representing the bank, requested that the \$6,600 code violation fine be reduced to the amount of the county's cost. Special magistrate Nichols requested that the board of county commissioners reduce the fine to \$800.

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

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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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Fire damages trailer in Little Farms area

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

An estimated \$30,000 in property damage was done after a fire early Wednesday at 90 N.W. 98th Street, Okeechobee County Fire Rescue reported.

A report from Paramedic Everette Wootten said smoke was visible from a distance as fire crews responded just after 3 a.m. Wednesday. The trailer was fully involved when firemen arrived and smoke and

flames had vented through the roof of the mobile home.

Fire reports said the flames had spread to the grass and to power poles near the building.

Fire crews did rescue a flock of chickens located in cages near the residence. There were no injuries reported.

The Okeechobee office of the American Red Cross responded to assist the residents, Mindy Boatright and Joe Beaman.

The State Fire Marshall was notified to investigate the cause and the origin of the blaze. Some 4,000 gallons of water was used in fighting the flames.

Sheriff's deputies were also on the scene earlier that night due to a disturbance, the fire report noted. Sheriff office's spokesman Ted Van Deman said the matter was under investigation by the State Fire Marshall.



Submitted photo

Yard sale success!

The Okeechobee County Board of Realtors has been giving scholarships to graduating Seniors for over 20 years. This year they were able to give ten \$500 scholarships because of fundraisers that you as a community support. On Saturday April 18 they had a yard sale to raise money for the scholarship fund and raised over \$300 in a single morning. The Okeechobee County Board of Realtors would like to say "Thank You" to the community for your continued support.

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City to benefit from stimulus money

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The City of Okeechobee will be getting the benefit of federal stimulus money even though it may not stimulate the local economy. At their meeting on Tuesday evening, April 21, the Okeechobee City Council approved an agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) to maintain sidewalks that DOT will build using federal stimulus funds. The sidewalk locations include S.W. Ninth Street from Fifth Avenue to 11th Avenue, S.W. 11th Avenue from Second Street to Ninth Street, S.W. Seventh Avenue from Second Street to 15th Street and possibly other locations.

Since this money is administered by DOT, there is no guarantee a local contractor will be used.

"I think it's a misnomer," Mayor Jim Kirk said of this use of stimulus funds. "It's stimulating somebody else's economy."

In another matter dealing with the local economy, the council tabled until next meeting action on an ordinance giving preference to local vendors in competitive bidding. As written, the proposed ordinance gives preference to qualified city and county bidders. Councilman Dowling Watford suggested the deferment in order to broaden the ordinance to include regional bidders. Under Mr. Watford's proposal, while area bidders

would receive some preference, they would still not have the advantages given to city and county bidders.

After some discussion, the council finally adopted the long debated sign ordinance. One of the sticking points had been what to do about businesses who got around the billboard ordinance by parking vehicles downtown all day with large advertising signs on them.

The new ordinance prohibits parking vehicles downtown with signs in excess of 10 square feet except for the time while the driver is visiting, patronizing or providing a delivery serve to a business or for vehicles which are used on a daily basis for delivery or service and are parked in the immediate vicinity of the business to which they are associated.

Portable signs, temporary banners and non-inflatable wind signs may now be displayed without a permit or time limit but must not be placed in the public right of way. Inflatable wind signs, searchlights and spot lights require a sign permit, cannot be placed in the public right of way and their display is limited to two times a year and no more than 14 days each time.

The ordinance also lists definitions and provides for exemptions, prohibited signs, murals, placement, clearance, design standards, and restriction of certain types of signs in certain zoning districts.

The council took no action on Muhammad Nooruddin's request that, in the light of the current economic situation, impact fees be waived for six months. Mr. Nooruddin noted that some surrounding local governments have waived impacts fees or are considering waiving them. He said that waiving impact fees might encourage new development which, in turn, would create more ad valorem taxes and employment opportunities.

City Administrator Brian Whitehall mentioned that the city impact fees are much lower than the county impact fees. In order for a developer to receive any significant relief, the county would have to waive their fees. He said he had contacted county officials and they expressed no interest in waiving impact fees.

"Impact fees have a great purpose and they are necessary," asserted Councilman Watford.

The mayor called impact fees "a necessary evil" that no one really wanted. He said the city spent a long time discussing impact fees before they were implemented and that the city has restraints on its income and millage rate. He noted that without impact fees the city would not have been able to buy the brush truck they bought for the fire department at the last council meeting.

In other action, the mayor proclaimed the week of May 3-8 to be Municipal Clerks' Week in the city.

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



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

City must trim budget

City budget amended due to decreased revenues

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The poor economy is catching up with the city's budget. At their meeting on Tuesday evening, April 21 the Okeechobee City Council amended the budget to anticipate decreased revenues.

India Riedel of the city's finance department presented the good news and the bad news concerning the city's financial situation.

The bad news is that anticipated ad valorem revenue is down 2 percent. The good news is that expenditures are 2 percent less than March 31 of last year.

General revenues are collectively down 4.76 percent or \$147,427 through March 31. This is due in part to the passage of Amendment I which increased homestead exemptions and a drop in property values. Both factors contributed to lower ad valorem taxes. However implementation and execution of the city's budget/cost reduction plan has resulted in a savings of over \$296,380. This was accomplished by reductions in fuel consumption, reductions in utility use, competitive bidding for insurance, using part-time employees instead of overtime for full time employees and reductions in postage and supplies.

For example, as of March 31, the police department used 1500 gallons less fuel than

March 31 of last year. The police department used 13 percent less electricity and the utility department decreased its electric bill by 8 percent.

At the beginning of the budget year, revenues were anticipated to be \$5,447,977. On Tuesday night the city council revised the budget downward to anticipate \$5,437,581 in revenues or a \$10,396 decrease. Total expenditures were budgeted at \$5,447,945 at the beginning of the budget year. Councilmen voted to revise expenditures downward to \$5,437,581, or a \$10,364 decrease.

Law enforcement and fire protection expenditures were revised downward as were most other expenditures. Councilman Mike O'Conner, who took office in January and was not involved in the budget planning process, elected not to carry the insurance that the city budgeted for councilmen. He suggested that the amount budgeted for his insurance, \$3,182 be divided between the law enforcement and fire protection budget, adding \$1,591 to the amended budget of each department.

This proposition generated considerable discussion. While councilmen agreed to this action in the middle of the budget year, they felt that designating unused insurance money during the budget planning process was not a good idea. They felt that any unused insurance money should revert to the general fund to be used for all departments.

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

Municipal Clerks' Week

At the Okeechobee City Council meeting on April 21, Mayor James Kirk proclaimed the week of May 3 - 8 to be Municipal Clerks' Week in the city. Receiving the proclamation are Lane Gamiotea, left, city clerk, and Melisa Eddings, center, deputy clerk.

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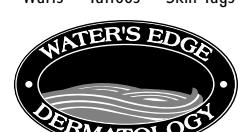
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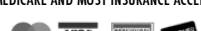
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Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
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WHEEL DEALS

Welcome to NEV-erland

Pint-sized ‘Neighborhood Electric Vehicles’ – NEVs for short – are catching on with cost-conscious drivers who have no need for speed.

By Deb Acord
CTW Features

When one of David Honeywell's family cars was totaled in a crash with a drunken driver in 2006, he began looking for an economical replacement. He needed one car for a daily commute, but he realized his family used its second car mostly for errands and shuttling his son to school – short trips on secondary roads in their city of Lincoln, Calif.

The Honeywells decided it was time to try something new, and in the fall of 2006, they did just that by purchasing a used Chrysler GEM.

The GEM (Global Electric Motorcar) has been called a golf cart on steroids. It's part of a family of small four-wheeled motor vehicles with a weight of less than 3,000 pounds and a top speed of about 25 m.p.h. These small vehicles are called Neighborhood Electric Vehicles, and referred to simply as “NEVs.” They run on batteries, can go about 30 miles on a charge, and can be recharged via any

three-prong outlet. In most states, they are legal to drive on streets having speed limits under 35 mph, and they are required to come with all the safety equipment of a full-sized car, including seat belts, windshields and wipers, headlights, brake lights and turn signals.

In some cities, the Honeywells' choice of transportation would turn heads, but Lincoln is a model of NEV integration. The city of about 40,000, located north of Sacramento, operates under an innovative NEV Transportation Plan. The plan, adopted in 2006, calls for city-wide NEV routes to allow all residents to travel from their homes to the city's downtown area. About 30 miles of roads are now dedicated to NEV use.

Lincoln's plan has captured attention from cities around the world, says Honeywell, who is so enamored with the tiny cars that he created lincolnnev.com, a Web site covering all aspects of NEV ownership.

Honeywell says the small cars have caught on primarily because of their low operating costs. “I save money on insurance, gas, maintenance and initial cost.”

He says his GEM “is a lot of fun to drive. I'd compare it more to riding a bike than driving a car. Ours is an open-air model with remov-

able doors, and you can hear birds chirping and talk to crossing guards as you pass. You really feel more connected to the community than you would in a regular car.”

Lincoln estimates there are about 600 NEVs on the city's roads. Nationwide, there are some 100,000 of them (and about 10,000 highway-approved electric vehicles). Although major car manufacturers are getting attention for their plans to roll out all-electric highway-approved vehicles, NEVs are still considered a significant part of the electric car picture, says Paul Scott, spokesman for Plug In America.

“By numbers, they are the majority of electric vehicles in existence, but by miles driven, they may not be as dominant since most are driven short distances compared to highway-capable EVs,” Scott says.

S “But I believe [manufacturers] will increase the top speed to 35 mph before the penetration is significant.”

Today, evfinder.com, a Web site dedicated to helping people find electric vehicles, lists 25 NEV companies. Scott says the industry leaders are Chrysler's GEM, Los Angeles-based Miles Automotive and ZENN Motor Co., Toronto. GEM models have distinctive pea-pod shapes; the four-passenger e4 model starts around \$11,000. The Miles ZX40 and ZX40S, shrunken versions of a small SUV, cost around \$20,000. The ZENN, also a fully equipped car resembling its full-sized relatives, runs \$11,000 - \$13,000.

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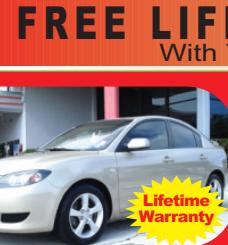
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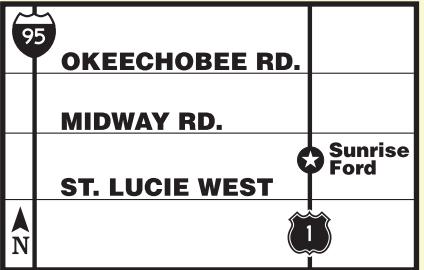
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Quality health care for Okeechobee children

The newly formed Florida KidCare Okeechobee County Coalition met and elected officers on Wednesday, April 15. Ray Worley was elected chair, Jill Rogers was elected vice-chair and Becky Smith was elected Secretary.

The mission of this coalition is, "To promote quality health insurance for every child in Okeechobee County." They will strive to build community awareness and support for the Florida KidCare Okeechobee County Coalition and advocate for children and families in Okeechobee.

One goal for the coalition is to generate community involvement. The coalition is planning on speaking at civic organizations and clubs as well as businesses to promote KidCare and the offering of applications to the members and employees. KidCare is a viable option that employers can use that will lower their group insurance costs.

There are currently over 700 children enrolled in KidCare in Okeechobee County. The coalition will strive to increase enrollment in Healthy Kids programs in the county by 5 percent by March 2010.

The Okeechobee KidCare Coalition is targeted towards any uninsured child in Okeechobee County. This means that regardless of what socio-economic class you might be, you can apply for KidCare.

The coalition discussed issues with the insurance and how they can be a resource for parents when they need to find providers

FEMA approves grant for pumping equipment

ATLANTA—The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved more than \$2.5 million for Florida to help the South Florida Water Management District cover the costs of emergency equipment and operations during Tropical Storm Fay.

The long-lived storm dumped as much as 27 inches of rain on parts of Florida and caused widespread flooding in both urban and rural areas of the state. Flood water was pumped from district drainage canals into other drainage canals and Lake Okeechobee. Through these emergency operations, officials were able to maintain water levels at or below those of neighboring water control districts drainage operations.

The federal funds will cover 75 percent of the total eligible cost—\$3,394,286. These

or have any other issues with applying for KidCare. Their goals before the next meeting are to begin to assess providers and see what their issues are with KidCare and what their experiences have been as far as why they are or are not a provider.

They will also utilize the experience of Pam Harwas and Sharon Vinson who have fielded phone calls from parents about their issues and try to figure out ways to prevent the same issues from occurring again.

KidCare is Florida's version of State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). A group called USAAction gave a face to the health insurance crisis in the U.S. and helped pass SCHIP bills in the House and Senate through activities such as action alerts, press conferences, op-ed pieces, rallies, petitions, radio interviews, report releases, calls, sign-on letters and much more.

Chairman Worley explained that this organization helped put a face on KidCare on a national level to make sure that the SCHIP bills went through by veto-override.

A relationship with action groups like this, according to Mr. Worley, will benefit the coalition to be able to cut through the red tape when dealing with the issues of the Florida KidCare System.

The coalition's next meeting is Wednesday, May 18, at 1:30 p.m. at the Healthy Start offices located at New Endeavor High School, 575 SW 28th Street.

At their next meeting they will work to

complete their strategic plan and bylaws for the coalition.

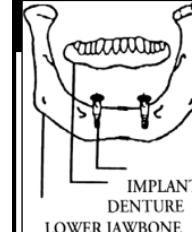
For more information please contact

Chair Ray Worley at rayworley@gmail.com or 863-467-0985 or Sharon Vinson at 863-467-5000 ext. 257.



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar

The Florida KidCare Coalition of Okeechobee County officers are Chair Ray Worley, Vice-Chair Jill Rogers, and Secretary Becky Smith.



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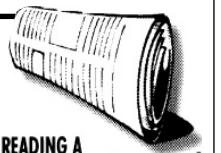
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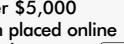
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- ✓ Friday 11 a.m. Thurs. for Fri. publication
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Public Notice**LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT**

The Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast (DBA, Workforce Solutions) - Region 20 and the Treasure Coast Job Training Consortium announces a 2-hour workshop to which all persons are invited:

Date & Time: Thursday,
April 30, 2009 - 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.
Place: Workforce Development
Board of the Treasure Coast
584 NW University Blvd.,
Suite 100
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986

PURPOSE: To discuss matters concerning the Workforce Investment Act, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA - Workforce Stimulus projects and budgets), Workforce Employment Opportunities, the Welfare Transition Program, One-Stop Career Centers and the Workforce Development Board (DBA, Workforce Solutions). A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting:

Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast
DBA, Workforce Solutions
584 NW University Blvd.,
Suite 100
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986

Should any person wish to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the above referenced meeting, they will need to ensure a verbatim recording of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based, in order to provide a record for judicial review.
318480 ON 4/24/09

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

**NOTICE OF
FOREFEITURE COMPLAINT**

On March 5, 2009 in Okeechobee, Florida, the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office seized and holds one yellow 2005 Ford Truck, VIN#1FTSW2P15EA53606, Florida tag no. NC800F. A Complaint has been filed in the Circuit Court in Okeechobee County, Florida.

Sheriff Paul May
Okeechobee County
Sheriff's Office
(863) 634-9231
318657 ON 4/24/5/1/09

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Okeechobee Utility Authority intends to apply for a Wastewater Loan/Grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service for the design and construction of the Treasure Island Vacuum Sewer Collection System. The project is intended to remove septic tanks and package wastewater treatment plants near the north shore of Lake Okeechobee and to replace these with a publicly owned collection system, as part of the effort to improve the water quality of Lake Okeechobee.

Any questions or comments should be directed to the Okeechobee Utility Authority, 100 S.W. 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34974, or by telephone during the hours of 8 AM and 5 PM weekdays. Telephone (863)763-9460.
318204 ON 4/19,22,24/09

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Public Notice**Public Notice****Public Notice****STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE PERMIT**

The Department of Environmental Protection gives notice that a Draft Permit (Permit Number: 0040842-022-UC) has been prepared for Timothy B. Hawkins, Vice President, for Okeechobee Landfill, Inc., 10800 Northeast 128th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34973, to construct and test a Class I, Injection Well and Dual Zone Monitor Well. The construction and testing of the Class I, Injection Well will be at the Okeechobee Landfill located at 10800 Northeast 128th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida, Okeechobee County, Florida.

The applicant, the Okeechobee Landfill, Inc. applied on November 20, 2008, to the Department for a permit to construct and test a Class I, Injection Well and Dual Zone Monitor Well. Construction of the injection well and associated monitoring well is planned at the Okeechobee Landfill, Inc. (OLI), at 10800 Northeast 128th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida in Okeechobee County, Florida.

The Class I Injection Well (IW-1) will be constructed with a design that includes tubing, packer, and fluid filled annular space around the tubing. The injection tubing will be fiberglass reinforced plastic (FRP) casing installed within a 16-inch outside diameter (O.D.) steel casing. The FRP tubing will be 10.72-inch inside diameter (I.D.). The preliminarily planned depth of the packer center point is approximately 2713 feet below land surface (b.s.). The injection interval will be in the "Boulder Zone" in the lower Oldsmar Formation, and is preliminarily planned between approximately 2737' and the total depth of the well at 3150 feet (b.s.). The confinement of the injection zone from overlying underground source of drinking water (USDW) aquifers and fluid movement adjacent to the wellbore of the injection well will be monitored by two monitoring zones in Monitoring Well. The lower interval shall be positioned in a transmissive interval below the USDW at an appropriate point above the injection interval and major confining unit to monitor for reasonable assurance with the earliest indication of vertical confinement of injected fluids and external mechanical integrity of the injection well. The upper interval shall be positioned in a transmissive interval in immediate proximity to the base of the USDW. Final depths of Injection Well IW-1 and Monitoring Well MW-1 will be determined during construction and field-testing.

The Department has permitting jurisdiction under Chapter 403 of the Florida Statutes and Chapters 62-4, 62-520, 62-522, 62-528, and 62-550, and 62-660 of the Florida Administrative Code. The project is not exempt from permitting procedures. The Department has determined that a construction permit is required for the proposed work.

The Department will issue the permit with the attached conditions unless a timely petition for an administrative hearing is filed under Sections 120.569 and 120.57 of the Florida Statutes before the deadline for filing a petition. The procedures for petitioning for a hearing are set forth below.

A person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's proposed permitting decision may petition for an administrative proceeding (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57 of the Florida Statutes. The petition must contain the information set forth below and must be filed in the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-3000.

Petitions filed by any other persons other than those entitled to written notice under Section 120.60(3) of the Florida Statutes must be filed within fourteen days of publication of the public notice or receipt of the written notice, whichever occurs first. The petitioner shall mail a copy of the petition to the applicant at the address indicated above at the time of filing. The failure of any person to file a petition within the appropriate time period shall constitute a waiver of that person's right to request an administrative determination (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57 of the Florida Statutes, or to intervene in this proceeding and participate as a party to it. Any subsequent intervention in a proceeding initiated by another party) will only be at the discretion of the presiding officer upon the filing of a motion in compliance with Rule 28-106.205 of the Florida Administrative Code.

A petition that does not dispute the material facts on which the Department's action is based shall state that no such facts are in dispute and otherwise contain the same information as set forth above, as required by Rule 28-106.301.

Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the filing of a petition means that the Department final action may be different from the position taken by it in this notice. Persons whose substantial interests will be affected by any such final decision of the Department on the petitions have the right to petition to become a party to the proceeding, in accordance with the requirements set forth above.

Mediation is not available for this proceeding.

A party to this order has the right to seek judicial review of it under Section 120.68 of the Florida Statutes, by filing a notice of appeal under Rule 9.110 of the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure with the clerk of the Department in the Office of General Counsel, Mail Station 35, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, and by filing a copy of the notice of appeal accompanied by the applicable filing fees with the appropriate district court of appeals. The notice must be filed within thirty days after this order is filed with the clerk of the Department.

The draft permit is available for public inspection during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at the Department of Environmental Protection, Southeast District Office, 400 North Congress Avenue, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401. Please contact Joseph May or J. Gardner Strasser at (561) 681-6691 or (561) 681-6688, respectively, for additional information or to obtain a copy of the draft permit.

31817 ON 4/24/09

SUDOKU

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| | 5 | 6 | | | 9 | | | |

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pencil and put
your sudoku
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Public Notice**Public Notice**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES OF THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE WILL MEET TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2009 IN ROOM 302 OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AT 3209 VIRGINIA AVENUE, FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA 34981-5596.

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE - 1:45 P.M.
PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE - 2:15 P.M.
BOARD POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE - 2:30 P.M.
CLARK ADVANCED LEARNING CENTER COMMITTEE - 3:00 P.M.

ANY PERSONS SEEKING TO APPEAL THE DECISIONS OF THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS MADE. 318739 ON 4/24/09

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD004

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that BIG LAKE HOLDINGS INC 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: 1885 Year of Issuance: May-21-2004

Description of Property: LOT 3 PTN LOT 4 BLK 61 EL MIRA SOL 1-18-37-35-0020-00610-0030
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed:
ROSA LEE STURKS

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 28th day of May, 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
31717 ON 4/24/18,1/15/09

ANSWER:

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| O | U | S | E | R | S | C | P | A | T | P |
| R | E | D | S | C | P | A | P | T | A | P |
| H | A | T | R | E | S | C | P | A | P | P |
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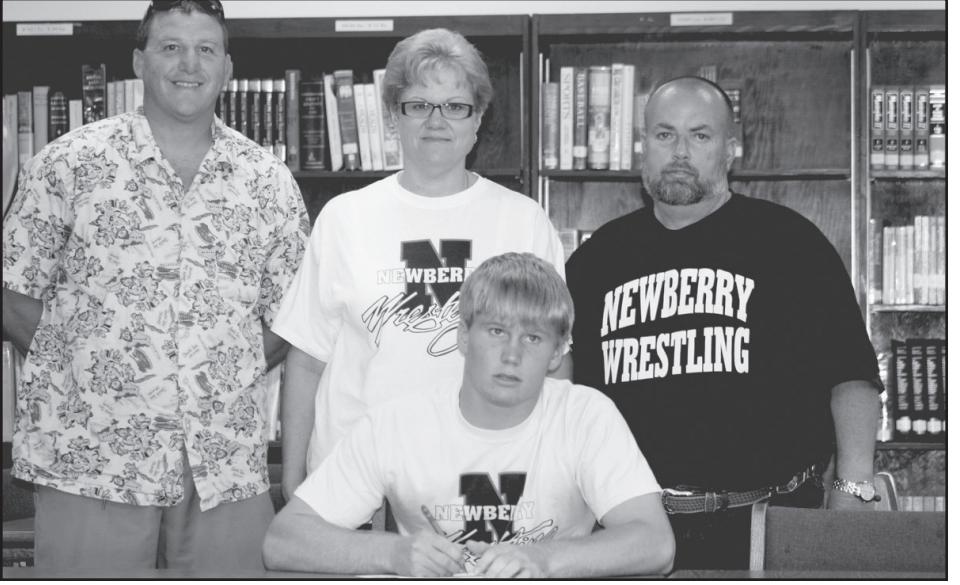
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Brahman wrestler signs college scholarship

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Tyler Hayes won nearly 100 matches during his four year career at OHS, but his biggest victory may have come Monday when he announced he had accepted a college scholarship offer from Newberry College in South Carolina.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Tyler Hayes (front) signs his college scholarship as (L-R) Coach Bruce Jahner, mom Kim and dad Robert, look on.

Boy's tennis loses at regional

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Titusville proved to be a very tough opponent Monday for Okeechobee High School in the Region 7-3A regional match as Okeechobee was shut out 7-0.

Okeechobee managed to win only one set in the match. Top seed Corey White pushed his opponent Kerry Mawn to three sets before falling, 6-2, 1-6, and 1-6.

Zach Fowler lost to Van Rylander 6-0, 6-0 in his most lop sided match of the year. Andrew Porter defeated Alex Nielson 6-1, and 6-2. Ricardo Rivera defeated Max Norman 6-0, and 6-2. Jerry Siford defeated Kyle Lunt 7-6 (7-5), and 6-2.

Titusville (14-2) also swept the doubles

match in straight sets.

"It was not exactly the way I wanted to end the season," Brahman's tennis Coach Bryan Van Camp said, "Titusville was a good team but was equal to other teams we were competitive with."

Van Camp said he is not disappointed in the overall season Okeechobee had. He said he is very proud of the boys and how they played this year.

"I think we should have been more competitive in this match. We really played to our potential in most of our matches this year. It wasn't the best time to have a bad day," he added.

Okeechobee finished the season at (12-4). Titusville (14-2) advanced to meet Martin County on Friday.

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Hayes said his biggest goal since he was a young boy was to wrestle in college and now his dream is coming true, "I have a lot of good feelings today," he said. "To tell you the truth I wish I could leave right now."

Hayes finished his Okeechobee high school career as one of the best wrestlers in school history. He qualified for the state tournament for four consecutive years in

three different weight classes. He admits he was somewhat disappointed with the results this year as he fell in the state tournament in the first round.

"I guess everything happens for a reason. I just wasn't mentally there that day. Perhaps I put too much pressure on myself, I didn't have the fire, and the one takedown made the difference," he added.

Hayes will be redshirted during his freshman year at Newberry. He admits that will help him as he gets his feet wet in open tournaments and practices. He fully expects to be a competitor at either 165 or 174 pounds at the college level during his second year.

Hayes intends to study physical education with designs to become an athletic trainer. He thanked his parents, Robert and Kim Ellerbee for their support and assistance during his career. He also thanked Brahman's coach Bruce Jahner for much of what he's learned on the wrestling mat.

"My dad got me started in wrestling, without him I wouldn't be here today," he noted.

Jahner said Hayes deserved a college scholarship and described his protégé as a hard worker and a tough kid who will do real well in college, "Education is the number one goal. Sooner or later you have to take off your wrestling shoes. This gives him an opportunity to get an education for his future."

It was a great year for Newberry this year

as they finished as the national runners up in Division II. They had two wrestlers earn national championships in March, Keeno Griffin, 197 pounds, and Cy Wainwright, heavyweight, the first wrestlers ever to win national crowns at Newberry.

Coach Jason Valet said Hayes will fit in well on their small campus, both athletically and academically. "We're excited to have him as part of our program," he said. "He's a good kid who works hard, and we liked his aggressive style of wrestling. We know he'll do well on the mat and in the classroom."

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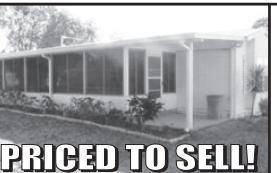
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4003-M: Buckhead Ridge 3/2 mobile home with appliances, open patio, fenced, large shed with electric, dock and paved driveway. MLS# 202189



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



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Awards handed out for OHS boys soccer

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

It's a little known fact, but Okeechobee might have had one of the best boys soccer teams in the state this past year.

Okeechobee lost in the first round of the state regional to Merritt Island, 1-0, but Merritt Island went on to become state champions in Class 4A. Brahmans Coach Lonnie Sears said that means his program is playing at a high level.

"We're there and we have more players coming in. We'll lose some good players but for some reason we still produce great players every year. If they work hard and buy into what were doing, we can be an elite team again," the coach said.

A group of eight seniors were honored last Friday night as the Brahmans held their annual banquet at the OHS lecture hall. Ivan Torres was named team most valuable player. Misael Alvarado took home the Brahman award. Raziel Castilla was named the team's most improved player. Eddie Guerrero was named offensive most valuable player. Erick Garcia was named most valuable mid fielder. Javier Garcia was named defensive MVP.

Other awards went to Oscar Garcia for best utility player, Alan Najara for the most goals (Golden Spike award), Ivan Torres for

leading in assists, and Reynel and Raunel Denova for being the best role players on the team.

Torres, a soft spoken kid, said he has hopes of signing a college soccer scholarship in the near future. He said the team improved each year that he was on the field and he hopes the future is bright for Okeechobee soccer. "It feels really good to win MVP. The hard work paid off. I thank the Lord, my family, and the coaches. We had a really good family and good players."

OHS Teacher Ted Butler was the featured speaker at the banquet. The former baseball player for Stetson University talked to the team about the road he took to success. He noted he came from a poor family in Pahokee and always wanted to be the first person from that town to play at a major university. He was able to meet that goal, and played with the father of Chipper Jones and current Stetson Coach Pete Dunn, in college. His advice, be disciplined, know what you want, and go after it.

"Dedicate your life now to what you want to become. Set your sights now and have a purpose for every day. Separate enough of your time so you can obtain your goals," he added.

Coach Sears said the banquet is designed to honor the kids for their hard work and dedication. He said his team had the most dedicated athletes in the school. He pointed to their long conditioning efforts which at times lasted past dark this past winter.

"We are an elite team. The skills are there.

Merritt Island won the state title. That shows you how close this team is," he noted.

Sears requested the kids consider club soccer this summer. The older boys are coached by Kenneth Davie, a former professional soccer player with the Washington diplomats and the Jamaican national team. The younger boys are coached by former Lady Brahman soccer coach Brian King.

Sears said winning and success becomes contagious. He said the younger players should take advantage of the opportunities this senior class has given them. This year's senior class was the first to have winning records in each of their four seasons. Sears said that is a school record.

"The group took the challenge and it will be extremely hard to watch them go. These guys are great young men and great soccer players," he said. The coach also honored his all conference selections. Ivan Torres and Alan Najara were first-team all Treasure Lake Conference. Eddie Guerrero, Raunel Denova and Reynel Denova were named to the second team. Javier Garcia earned honorable mention.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Brahman award winner Misael Alvarado (left) receives award from Coach Lonnie Sears at Friday's Boys Soccer Banquet.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Ted Butler spoke to soccer players about achieving goals at Friday's Banquet.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Ivan Torres (left) was selected as team MVP at Friday's Boys Soccer banquet.

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Lady Brahmans celebrate strong season

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee High School's girl's hoops made a lot of strides this year as they won 15 games in 23 decisions, and were a contender in their district. All that is left is to end a long drought of making the post season.

The 2008-09 campaign was celebrated Thursday night at Pogey's Restaurant as the annual basketball banquet was held. Head Coach Tony Sherlock, who will return next year, thanked all the parents for their support this year, and also the Seminole Tribe of Florida who donated cash for the team to purchase new uniforms.

"It was a tremendous year and it really exceeded my expectations. The girls performed very well, just some injuries and other issues prevented us from being really good," he said.

The varsity was 7-1 at home and 8-7 on the road this year. The JV also had a strong year with a 13-5 record. Sherlock said that bodes well for future years.

Dorothy Burkhardt was named the team's most valuable player. She was among the team's leaders in every category including points, rebounds, and assists. "It means a lot to me. I've always won the Brahman award and I always wanted to win the MVP award. I'm very happy."

Burkhardt said she is sad she has to leave because the program is headed in the right direction and has a bright future. She also got to play in a Treasure Lake Conference All Star game last month in Fort Pierce. She is looking to play college basketball and will try out at a school in Fort Myers in the next few weeks. She stated that she has worked

hard to improve her game in the past few years.

"In middle school I just chunked the shots up there. I got a lot more practice, and my shot got a lot better. I'd like to thank my family because they've always been there to back me up. My mom Lisa played basketball in high school and I take after her a lot."

Burkhardt's father William was also praised for his support.

The team scored 1,126 points or 49 points per game. Okeechobee was ranked 25 among Florida schools in scoring. The team was ranked ninth in Class 4A at one point during the season. That is believed to be the first time Okeechobee basketball has ever been ranked.

The team grabbed 901 rebounds, 39 per game, had 252 assists, 11 per game, and 315 steals, 13.7 per game. They also tied for second place in the Treasure Lake Conference this year.

Varsity letters were handed out to Jewel Buck who grabbed 196 rebounds, senior Dorothy Burkhardt, Janezzka Koger, Graciela Varela, Markeisha Youmans, Calandra Youmans, and Monica Koger.

Scholar athletes in the program include Gabriela Borja, Diana Fonseca, Calandra Youmans, Janezzka Koger, and Graciela Varela.

Markeisha Youmans won the Miss Hustle Award and Calandra Youmans took home the Most Improved Player Award.

Coach Sherlock also thanked Doug Vest of Pogey's, Jim McCoin of Cowboy's Restaurant, and Red Altman of Lunkers Restaurant for their assistance with the banquet.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

OHS Brahman's Lady Basketball team players from left to right are Shawn Hayes, Morgan Ungerott, Dorothy Burkhardt, and Tony Sherlock, as they showcase Dorothy's MVP award.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Lady Brahmans Basketball team member, Dorothy Burkhardt (left) received the team MVP and an all conference certificate at Thursday's banquet from Coach Tony Sherlock.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Coach Tony Sherlock thanked Doug Vest and Pogey's Restaurant for hosting the banquet Thursday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Calandra Youmans (far left) accepts the Most Improved Player award at Thursday's banquet. Also in photo from left to right are Coaches Shawn Hayes, Morgan Ungerott and Tony Sherlock.

Martin County rallies past OHS

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Martin County rallied for four runs in the top of the seventh to defeat Okeechobee, 10-7, in boy's baseball action Tuesday night at Brahman field.

Brooks Fleming hit a dying quail single that fell in short center field to tie the game, and Jade Vasquez, who hit a three-run homer earlier, followed with a bloop single to bring the Tigers back.

It was a disappointing loss for Okeechobee as the Brahmans, (13-10), rallied from a 6-2 deficit, to take a 7-6 lead on a two run homerun by Brice Buckner, 2-4, in the fifth.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Brice Buckner (right) is congratulated after his two run homerun Tuesday night. Adam Tewksbury is at left.

Drew Selvey had three hits for Okeechobee. Brandon Farless pitched well out of the bullpen for Okeechobee.

"It was a tough game to lose," Brahmans Coach Dylan Tedders said, "We rolled the dice with Brice to pitch in the seventh, but he's looked good in the bull pen. We would make that same decision again. It was an emotional game, the kids just have to pick themselves up and play hard."

Martin County scored three times in the second after Okeechobee had jumped out to a 2-0 lead. Brahman starter Cameron Tewksbury, who was charged with six runs, got into trouble again as a walk, a single, and Vasquez homerun knocked him out of the game in the fourth.

Dustin Stokes and Farless had RBI singles for Okeechobee in the fourth. Drew Selvey walked in front of Buckner's homerun over the right field fence in the fifth.

Buckner was one out away from a save in the seventh before Fleming, and Vasquez hit singles, Brandon Overstreet walked, and a fielding error led to a four run rally.

"It wasn't like they tore the cover off the ball, they are power hitters and we had our outfielders deep in that situation, you just have to make good pitches to get them out," he said.

Okeechobee held Senior night Wednesday night against Fort Pierce. The boy's district tournament begins Monday in Fort Pierce at Lawnwood Stadium. Okeechobee was scheduled to play Glades Central in the first round.

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