

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 100 No. 53

Sunday, May 3, 2009

75¢ Plus tax

OHS Baseball wins district title against Westwood ... Page 16



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Coach named to Wrestling Hall of Fame

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The man credited with bringing high school and youth wrestling programs to Okeechobee back in the early 1970s, will be inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Okla. this summer.

Tom Kingery will receive the Lifetime Service to Wrestling Award at a banquet in Palm Beach Gardens during the Florida Chapter 2009 Hall of Fame Honors Weekend.

The modest Kingery joked it should be his wife Ann who gets the award, as both of them put

in long hours and weekends working with Okeechobee kids. He also thanked the many volunteers who helped with tournaments and with practices over the years.

"I felt like they made a mistake in giving it to me," he said. "I enjoyed what I was doing at the time as a young coach to have all these young kids involved. I stayed right with it and loved every minute of it."



Tom Kingery

Kingery is a product of Madison, W. Va. He was the head coach of Moorehead State University in Kentucky before he moved to Pahokee Florida in the late 1960s. He coached football with Web Pell at Pahokee before both men moved to Okeechobee in 1970.

Shortly after he came to Okeechobee, a group of young student athletes asked if he could create a wrestling team. He created the program, and suddenly wrestling was born.

"The school board has never approved a wrestling team for Okeechobee High School. The school just never said a word. The

first year I did it without pay, and the next year they added a supplement to my pay," he said.

Kingery helped start what is now the Big Lake Wrestling Club in 1973. He later became Assistant Principal at OHS. He also helped recruit some wrestling coaches to the community. He was proud of the fact that wrestling grew and flourished in Okeechobee. Among the coaches he mentored were current Brahman Coach Bruce Jahner, Elijah Robinson, John Hendry, Tom Finney, and Steve Sentes.

"I thought about who I will thank in my acceptance speech,

See COACH — Page 13

County drug court honors new graduates

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

"I was driving around Okeechobee like a maniac. All I could think about was getting my next hit of crack cocaine."

That recollection came from Kevin Cameron who was among nine other adults who graduated from drug court Wednesday, April 29. By successfully completing the program, all charges against the participants have been dropped.

"If not for drug court, I would have been dead by now," he told the audience and County Judge Jerald Bryant.

This graduation was a first, of sorts, for the program. While five similar graduation ceremonies had previously been held in his courtroom, Judge Bryant said this was the first time that those charged with felonies were included. The prior graduates were all charged with misdemeanors.

One of those was Mr. Cameron, who was arrested in 2007 on felony charges of tampering with

physical evidence, possession of cocaine and the purchase of cocaine. Now, he's not only free of those charges but he's free from the life-threatening hold cocaine had on his life.

For Edward Louth, marijuana was his drug of choice. And, like Mr. Cameron, because of drug court and the help of everyone associated with that program he can now look in the mirror and be proud of the man looking back at him.

"Now I know the wrong effect I had on my family and friends," he said as he fought to control his emotions. "Now, I'm happier in my life."

Not long after Judge Bryant took office, he instituted the drug court program to give some drug offenders a chance at a new life. And when he looked down from his bench Wednesday morning at the 10 people standing before him, Judge Bryant wore a smile of pride for what these people had accomplished.



Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp

Ten people graduated from the drug court program Wednesday, April 29, and were honored for their achievement by members of the drug court team. Taking part in the ceremonies were: (front, left to right) team member Viki Lamberti, graduate Emily C., team member Becky Gray and graduate Edward Louth; (back, left to right) graduate Michael E., team member Steve Condit, graduate Kevin Cameron, team member Bill McNiff and Judge Jerald Bryant.

"Except for adoption cases, this is one of the most fulfilling court

See DRUG — Page 2

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DRUG

Continued From Page 1

proceedings we do," he said.

He then cautioned the graduates that life wasn't going to be easy for them. In fact, he said, it will likely be tougher at times.

"You're not going to find it easier when you get out of here," he said. "You will no longer have accountability, and no one to hold you accountable."

When offenders are placed in the program, they must follow some pretty strict rules. One, of which, is that they must call a special hot line daily. Then, if their name

is randomly drawn, they must submit to a drug test. If they fail to call or fail that test, they could be released from the program.

If released from the program, the offender then goes to court to answer to the charges against them.

Prior to the ceremony, Judge Bryant introduced several guests who were invited to attend the ceremony. These guests included county commissioners, city officials, incoming Chief Judge Steve Levin and officials from the various branches of law enforcement—including the officers who arrested the graduating offenders.

"You may not like what they did, but they are the ones who got you started in this process," said the judge.

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 90. Southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 63. Southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 88. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. East southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 87. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 65. East wind around 5 mph.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Thursday: **Cash 3:** 5-9-5; **Play 4:** 5-7-4-2; **Fantasy 5:** 10-11-28-33-35; **Mega Money:** 4-5-16-20 MB 4; **Florida Lotto:** 1-3-9-11-22-26; **Powerball:** 6-19-36-50-59 PB13 x5. Numbers drawn Friday, **Cash 3:** 3-1-9; **Play 4:** 7-7-7-3.



Submitted photo

Hook a Snook

Amy Mataushek of Okeechobee proved that any day can be a good day of fishing, with this 15 inch Snook, which she caught off the South Jedi in Ft. Pierce on Wednesday, April 29.

As the ceremony came to a close, Judge Bryant gave each graduate a memento—a small eagle.

The eagle, he told them, was near extinction due to chemicals such as DDT and could not overcome the chemical problem without the help of others.

And, like the eagle, individuals who suffer from alcohol or drug abuse often cannot

overcome their chemical problem without the help of others—such as the drug court team.

Because of that help, members of Wednesday's graduating class will not only "soar like an eagle" but will get a new start.

Mr. Cameron put it very simply when he said: "I owe you my life."

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Pill bill passed; awaits Crist's signature

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

State representatives gave their stamp of approval late Thursday on a bill aimed at curtailing doctor shopping for prescription pills.

According to District 79 Representative Mike Horner, which includes Okeechobee County, House Bill-897 passed by a 103-10 measure April 31 and is now on its way to Governor Charlie Crist.

Rep. Horner said he expects the governor to sign the bill, and if he does sign the bill it will go into effect this summer.

Members of the Florida Senate passed the bill (SB-462) by a 39-0 vote Friday, April 24.

"I was a big supporter," said Rep. Horner (R-Kissimmee) in a phone interview Thursday. "I'm concerned about the drug trafficking problem and the safety of our citizens."

He said it is estimated that nine to 10 people in Florida die every day to an overdose on prescription medications.

When it's put into place the bill will allow the tracking of prescription drug purchases by use of a statewide data base. Every pharmacy in the state will be required to log onto the data base and report every Schedule II, III and IV drug it dispenses.

Rep. Horner said two, \$400,000 federal grants will be used to pay for installing the data base.

While concerns regarding privacy issues have been raised, Rep. Horner said that has been addressed.

"It is very secure," he said. "Employers cannot see it because it is completely secure."

He went on to say the new system will also be compliant with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) that was enacted in 1996.

The data base will be monitored by the Florida Department of Health.

"It's about time we got something going," said a detective with the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force. "Florida has been behind

the eight-ball the last three years. Maybe this will help—I sure hope so."

Thirty-eight states already have similar legislation in place.

The detective went on to say that he has a good working relationship with local pharmacists and is confident that if a script is "flagged" they will take immediate action.

"They'll halt it before I get involved," said the investigator.

It is hoped that by passing the legislation some pain management centers in South Florida will no longer be able to freely hand out scripts for such abused medicines as oxycodone, methadone, hydrocodone and xanax. Broward County has been called the "epicenter" of the problem.

But, said the detective, hard core "pill heads" will likely find a way around the system.

The detective said if a pain management center is a "true pill mill" doctors there will simply increase the amount of pills prescribed so those who sell the narcotics illegally on the street won't have to get a new script so soon.

"If I'm slinging pills on the street, I'll take several people to the doctor and I'll pay for the visit. Then, I'll take them to the pharmacy and I'll pay for the script. Then, when the script is filled, I'll give you some pills and the rest are mine and I'll start selling them on the street," the detective explained.

Since the scripts are issued to each person individually, and picked up by those individuals, the pill pusher remains unknown.

"I'll never get my hands dirty," said the detective.

Still, proponents of the legislation feel this is one way to help curb the problem and possibly save lives.

"It's a public welfare issue," said Rep. Horner. "It's an important problem that needs to be addressed."

Okeechobee's Most Wanted

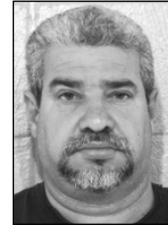
The following people are among Okeechobee's Most Wanted persons. There are active warrants for each of them. The criteria for making Okeechobee's Most Wanted top five is based on the severity of the crime in conjunction with the age of the warrant.

If you have any information on the whereabouts of any of Okeechobee's Most Wanted you can call the Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers at 1-800-273-TIPS (8477). If you call Treasure Coast Crimes Stoppers, you have the option of remaining anonymous. You can also receive a reward if the information results in an arrest.

Benji Sanders aka Juan Tapia, 33, FTA-Poss Cocaine.



Benji Sanders



Pedro Gonzales



Samuel Knight



Donna Birdsall

Pedro Gonzales, 46, FTA – Manufacture Marijuana, Poss. Marijuana W/1 To Sell, Trafficking Cannabis more than 25lbs, No Bond.

Samuel Knight, 7/6/1965, 3 Cts Worthless Check. Donna Birdsall, 5/29/1969, VOP – Forgery, Dealing In Stolen Property, False Info To Pawn Broker.

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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!

County commission considers furloughing employees

• I see the county administrator wants to furlough employees -- unpaid days off -- for five days -- he put the dates in the county meeting agenda -- over the next few months to reduce the budget. Would that effect enough people to make a difference? You can't exactly furlough the jail personnel and just let the prisoners go free (or leave them locked up unsupervised). You can't furlough the fire department and just hope there are no fires that day! You can't furlough the deputies -- especially if you are going to announce the days in advance, allowing the criminals to plan their crime spree for when they know no cops will be on duty. And imagine how the judges would howl if you mess up the already backlogged court schedule? Trials are planned months in advance. Maybe we could just furlough the administrator ...

• I think the county administrator's idea to shut the county down for five days and make the employees take them as unpaid is dumb. Yes, they are dipping into the reserves to pay all the bills if they don't do that, but isn't that what the reserves are for? We are in a depression. Maybe the county admin staff can shut down, but we can't go without essential services like fire protection, law enforcement and EMTs. I can just imagine the 9-1-1 calls -- which no one would answer as the dispatcher is furloughed -- from someone who will discover the ambulance can't come because they all had to take the day off.

• It has always seemed to me that the county is top heavy on the payroll. If they want to save money and balance the budget, they need fewer chiefs and more indians. And why can't the county commissioners take pay cuts the way the school board has said they will do?

Church goers support torture

• A new study shows that regular church goers are more likely to support the use of torture on suspected terrorists. Those who do not attend church regularly were less likely to approve of torture.

• The sample size consisted of only religious people. And 52 percent said torture is "often" or "sometimes" justified. This is just plain sad.

• It is probably another case of picking and choosing the parts of the Bible that are convenient to your personal moral or political leanings. Evangelicals are heavily Republican and Republicans generally have the side of justifying torture. Torture, whether you think it is justified or not, I would assume you would think is at least unethical. So why are non-churchgoers more likely to take the moral higher ground here. What are they teaching at church if not the importance of sticking to morals? It doesn't seem to follow what the highly religious would like us all to think.

• Had they asked the question in the weeks and months following 9-11 when flags flew or were passed on just about every home business and automobile the response would have been about the same nation wide. The survey asked: "Do you think the use of torture against suspected terrorists in order to gain important information can often be justified, sometimes be justified, rarely be justified, or never be justified?" When you are part of a survey you don't get to ask questions about the question, or have a scenario posed. You're told to interpret the question yourself.

• In my mind the authorities have a suspect at Guantanamo who they took into custody because it was apparent he had involvement with a terrorist group. I trust the military to protect us and believe they would not have this person detained unless there was concrete information backing up his activities. This person is NOT cooperating with the Military Intelligence who are questioning him. BUT because of the level of contact he had with the terrorism group they are sure he had information concerning an attack that will happen HERE in the United States, and they need what he knows to save Americans lives.

• If someone knows a bombing is planned, what's more important -- their rights or the safety of the innocent victims?

Prayer in the military

• It's utterly unconstitutional - the chaplains serving the men and women in our U.S. Armed Forces are being told they cannot pray "in Jesus' name." But it doesn't end there - because if the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and other enemies of prayer win on this issue, it won't be long before it may become illegal for you to bow your head and say grace over lunch on a public park bench. At least three major groups - the ACLU, Americans United (AU), and the "Military Religious Freedom Foundation" - are pushing to ban prayers in Jesus' name by our military chaplains. The ACLU has actually threatened a federal lawsuit against the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis over the 160-year tradition of voluntary grace offered before meals there. They're insisting that the Naval Academy cut off prayer.

• People need to remember that it is possible to pray without there being any outward evidence of it.

• You also need to remember that GOD said where two or more are gathered there will I be also. God wants us to gather together to worship HIM. Soon if things keep going we will not be able to do this.

• They can take away your ability to pray in public places but so far they haven't been able to control your thoughts ... Matt 6.6 *But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.* It means you can pray in secret and alone .. This is for the ACLU, Joshua 21.15 *Choose you this day who you will serve, As for me and my house we shall serve the Lord.*

• Recently we had the Marine recruiter at the house to meet us and let us ask some questions as our OHS Senior has chosen this path. We had great grandma, grandma, mom and dad, brother, auntie, and the youth leaders from the church all with questions. It made me feel good to know that he will be able to practice his faith. There won't be a choice of Protestant services during basic training. They have one Protestant and one Catholic service on Sunday. I am confident he will find other Pentecostal Marines.



Skunk Ape

• Skunk Ape, oh Skunk Ape. Where are you when we need you? Come back and show yourself so we can generate some tourism. I sure hope the Skunk Ape can read and that he gets the Okeechobee News.

No Fourth of July Fireworks

• Since we won't have fireworks this year, will there be some other community Fourth of July event? Will there be a parade? Maybe some kind of barbecue or picnic? Raft races? Seems like there is an opportunity for a community organization to do something and maybe make some money for a charity.

• How about raft races at Nubbin Slough?

• Watch out for those alligators -- guess having an 11-foot reptile chasing you would be good incentive to paddle faster and not fall off that raft!

Hurricane season

• It's already May just a month from hurricane season. Start preparing early this year as no one has the money to buy a bunch of supplies at one time. Start stocking up on canned goods and bottled water a little at a time so you will have it if a storm strikes. If no storms hit, you can still use the food and water. Make a family plan now -- if a storm is coming where will you go? What will you do with the pets, etc.

Prayer in school

• People say we need to put prayer back in the public schools. I think it never left. As long as there are math tests, there will be prayer in school. If you teach your kids to pray, they are going to pray wherever they are.

Swine flu

• I think the U.S. should stop Americans from traveling to Mexico and stop Mexicans from entering this country until they get a handle on this Swine Flu problem. I have sympathy for the people in Mexico. We should send humanitarian aid and any help that the CDC researchers can give. The World Health Organization should be there helping. But we need to keep infected people from spreading the Swine Flu around in the United States. The few cases we already have are contained. Keep it that way.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

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Reflections from the Pulpit

Opportunity to reach out

By Elder John Garner

More 2 Life Ministries

The church has the greatest opportunity to reach people with the message of Christ than it has had in decades. With the overwhelming issues that lie before this nation, people are seeking for the truth—something they can be sure of, something they can stake their life on, something that will give them hope. Since that is exactly what the message of Christ is all about, it should be easy to reach these people, right?

Well, the door is wide open but something has got to change. It can't be done with the old methods of the last decades. This is a time for the church to get outside of its four walls and reach people through the strength of the Christian community, community like you see in the Book of Acts. This will require something of what we really aren't ready or willing to give. We will have to surrender up our desire for things, our desire for comfort, our desire for convenience, our desire to be served to make life all about ourselves.

We will have to begin to talk in terms of sacrifice, not only to the Lord, but, also, to the people He has called us to serve. For too long we have sat and done little or nothing; taking care of our personal needs while we let the government do the work of the church. Is it any wonder that the government now finds the church to be a nuisance that needs to keep its mouth shut and just allow the state to do whatever it pleases. After all, who has really shown over the last four decades the greater passion for feeding the homeless, treating the mentally handicapped, healing the diseases, righting injustice; government or the church?

Maybe I'm oversimplifying. Certainly there have been Christian organizations that have accomplished great things over the last forty years. But what more could have

been accomplished if there had been a real concerted effort by the entire body of Christ to reach outside of the comfort of their nice buildings and their intricate denominational structures to truly be the ministering hands of Christ's love and grace to the oppressed and the homeless, and the poverty stricken of this country and also around the world

But recriminations won't accomplish anything. We have been cursing the darkness for years now and we haven't changed one thing by our negative words and critical posturing. We must now begin to light a candle in this ever-darkening world by our actions, actions that God has been calling



Submitted photo/OCA

A little "faith lift"

As the Okeechobee Christian Academy building was in desperate need of a new paint job, Charlie's Lawn & Landscaping cleaned up so that contractor Bobby Huntley along with other parents and volunteers could paint the school. A local artist and parent, Karen Rivero, painted the Lion mural on the front of the building to help with the moving forward campaign going on at the school. Luke Enfinger of Lukewarm Graphics designed the mascot. The Sign Guy added our new mascot on the updated marquee. The new mascot is only one of many changes, both structural and academic, which have occurred during the transition from Grace Christian Schools to Okeechobee Christian Academy. OCA offers K-12th grades within a Christ-centered, academically distinguished educational program.

His people to for thousands of years. That means that we are going to have to reestablish what it means to be the church right here, right now. God has given us the keys to the kingdom so that we could and would seek to bring about His truth (His cultural mandate) to a world in bondage to lies of the enemy of our souls, Satan.

Believe me, that enemy is real and he seeks to devour us. But God has given us all we need to see Satan defeated and the cause of Christ victorious. It will take work and it will demand that a price be paid. The question is: are we willing to pay the price? Let's commit ourselves to pay the price and reach our world for Christ.



Submitted photo/Teresa Chandler

Teen Dance

Teresa Chandler coordinated a teen dance on April 25. There were 60 children that attended raising \$375! All proceeds from the dance were donated to our local American Red Cross branch. A special thank you goes to the following for their donations: Okeechobee Shrine Club, Publix, Gizmos, Dr. Wemmer/Wemmer Family Orthodontics, Ding-a-Ling Deli and Billy Dean/WOKC. Thanks also goes to the many volunteers who help make it happen including: Lucy Wenck, Julie Shook, Stephanie Hand, Buck Hand, Billy Dean, Teresa Chandler, Kelly Harrell, Teresa Lara, Debbie Riddle and Elma Yates.

Community Event

Wildlife rescue available

Assistance is available for local sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife through Florida Wildlife Rescue Service, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping wildlife in the Okeechobee area. Anyone who finds a wild bird or animal in need of assistance can contact the organization at 863-634-1755.

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Community Calendar

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, 242 Hwy. 441 S.E., Okeechobee, A.A. weekend noon meeting Open Discussion. The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.

MONDAY

Just for Today Club of Okeechobee, 242 Hwy. 441 S.E., Okeechobee, **N.A.** Sickest Of The Sick Open Discussion at 7 p.m. The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.

Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club meets the first Monday of each month, at 7 p.m. at 323 North Parrott Ave. at the Red Cross Office. For information contact Harold Hilliard at 863-763-5337.

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.

Okeechobee Model Airplane Club will meet at the Peace Lutheran Church, 750 N.W. 23rd Lane at 7 p.m. For information, contact Robert Rosada at 863-467-5440.

Okeechobee Senior Singers meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 North Parrott Ave. Everyone who enjoys singing is invited. For information or to schedule an appearance for your organization or group, contact Marge Skinner at 863-532-0449.

Artful Appliquers is a recently formed chapter in Okeechobee. This chapter meets at the Turtle Cove Clubhouse, 10 Linda Road, Okeechobee on Mondays from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Turn left at the Moose lodge and go around the curve just past the church. Bring a lunch and join us for a fun day of applique. Everyone is welcome. For more information please contact Karen Graves at 863-763-6952.

TUESDAY

Civil Air Patrol meetings set

The Civil Air Patrol meets each Tuesday evening at the Okeechobee Airport T-Hanger #1, meetings start at 7:30 p.m. For information please call Capt. Joe Papasso 561-252-0916 or Lt. Greg Gernat 863-697-9915

Rotary Club of Okeechobee meets each Tuesday at noon at Golden Corral Restaurant, 700 S. Parrott Ave. The meetings are open to the public. For information, contact Maureen Budjinski at 863-484-0110.

Just for Today Club of Okeechobee, 242 Hwy. 441 S.E., Okeechobee, **N.A.** Nowhere Left To Go Group Open Discussion at noon. **N.A.** Sickest Of The Sick Group Open Discussion. The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.

New A.A. Meeting in Basinger: There is now an A.A. meeting in Basinger on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Basinger Christian Brethren Church on 700-A, north off U.S. 98. Beginners are welcome.

New Beginning's meeting of **Narcotics Anonymous** will be held on Tuesdays and

Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. at Believers Fellowship Church, 300 S.W. Fifth Ave. It will be an open discussion meeting. For more information call Monika Allen at 863-801-3244.

Al-Ateen - meeting will be held at the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St., at 8 p.m. For more information, please call Amy at 863-763-8531 or Dan 561-662-2799.

Al-Anon meeting will be held at the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St., at 8 p.m.

A.A. Closed discussion meeting from 8 until 9 p.m. at the Church of Our Savior, 200 N.W. Third St.

Family History Center meets from 1 until 5 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 310 S.W. Sixth St. Anyone interested in finding who your ancestors are is welcome to attend. There is Census, IGI (International Genealogical Index), Social Security Death Index and military information available. For information, call The Family History Center at 863-763-6510 or Richard Smith at 863-261-5706 for special appointments.

Gospel Sing every Tuesday beginning at 7 p.m. The public is invited to participate with vocal and/or instrumental music. For information, contact Douglas Chiropractic Center at 863-763-4320.

Widows and Widowers support group meets at 7:30 a.m. at the Clock Restaurant, 1111 S. Parrott Ave., for breakfast. For information, June Scheer at 863-634-8276

The Gathering Church Overcomers Group meets at 7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall, 1735 S.W. 24th Ave. This is a men's only meeting. For information, call Earl at 863-763-0139.

The Okeechobee Lions Club meets at 7 p.m. at the Golden Corral Restaurant, 700 S. Parrott Ave. Anyone interested in becoming a member is welcome. For information, contact Elder Sumner at 863-763-6076.

Bible study at the Living Word of Faith Church, 1902 S. Parrott Ave., at 7 p.m. Informal and informative discussions bring many Bible truths to life. The public is invited.

Grief and Loss Support Group meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Hospice Building, 411 S.E. Fourth St. Everyone is welcome. For information, contact Brenda Nicholson at 863-467-2321.

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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.

The First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St., will be hosting **God's Time** -- a morning of free organized Christian activities that includes play, instruction and interaction for parents and their pre-school children. The event will be held each Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. until noon. Child care will be provided for infants during the class. For information, call 863-763-4021.

Haven of Rest Church, 2947 S.W. Third Terr., holds meetings for persons with alcohol and drug related problems at 6 p.m. For information call 863-357-3053.

Compulsive overeaters are invited to a weekly meeting, **Overeaters Anonymous (OA)** meets at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Avenue on Tuesdays, 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.

The Lighthouse Refuge Support Group is for women who are hurting, homeless or been abused. They meet on the first and third Tuesday of every month from noon until 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 401 S.W. Fourth St., and on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. at the Red Cross, 323 N. Parrott Ave. For more information call Donna Dean at 863-801-9201 or 863-357-2106.

Freedom Ranch Al-Anon meets every Tuesday and is open to all who deal with someone with addictions. There is support with this epidemic. The meetings are Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the Freedom Ranch, 11655 Hwy. 441 S.E. Contact Jay at 863-467-8683 for questions or concerns.

In The Military...

Stacy graduates USMC boot camp

Pvt. Caleb R. Stacy, age 19, of Okeechobee, graduated from the United States Marine Corps Boot Camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina on April 3, 2009.

Pvt. Stacy successfully completed 13 weeks of intensive basic training at United States Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, as one of 90 recruits in Training Platoon 2017.

While in basic training Pvt. Stacy received the "Spirit" award from his Senior Drill Instructor Sgt. Warren. Pvt. Stacy also qualified

as Expert Rifleman. Following ten days home on leave, he reported to Camp Geiger for one month at Military Combat Training. Afterwards, Pvt. Stacy will report to his Military Occupation Specialty School.

Pvt. Stacy is a 2008 graduate of Okeechobee High School.



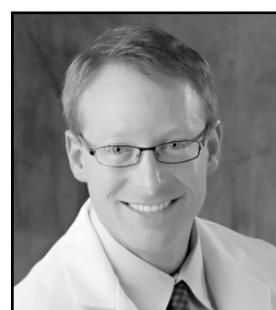
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Two track members qualify for state

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Malcolm Rush and Ricky Nieto finished in the top four in the 200 meters and the boys high jump and qualified for the state track meet when they participated April 30 in the Region 4, Class 3A track meet in Merritt Island.

Nieto finished tied for second in the high jump with a leap of six feet and two inches. Rush finished fourth in the 200 meters with a time of 22.86 seconds.

Rush barely qualified for state as the fifth place finisher was three one hundredths of a second behind him.

Okeechobee's boy's team earned 17 points and finished 19th overall. The girl's squad earned four points and finished 27th.

Monica Koger had a strong finish for the girls as she finished fifth overall in the girl's long jump. Her best jump was measured at 17 feet 2 inches. Stephanie Horvath finished 15th in the discus throw. Her best toss was measured at 76 feet 8 1/2 inches.

Rush also competed in the 100 meter dash where he finished ninth overall. In other running events, Lionel Jones finished 12th in the 800 meters. He finished in just over two minutes and five seconds. Reynel Denova finished 11th overall in the 1600 meters. He finished in a time of 4:52.88.

The boy's 4x800 meter team finished 15th overall with a time of 8:49.17. The girl's 4x100 meter relay team finished 10th overall.



Submitted photo/OCA

Gator fan

Okeechobee Christian Academy middle school student, Colton Brown is the winner of the Official 2008 National Champion Florida Gators Ball Cap signed by Tim Tebow. Colton says he's inspired by Christian Athletes such as Mr. Tebow and was thrilled to win the drawing.



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This publication was made possible by the Rape Crisis Program Trust Fund, administered by the State of Florida, Department of Health (DOH)

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OHS students give of themselves and donate blood

Because of some very generous Okeechobee High School students, tomorrow is in good hands. These are the students who, through civic pride and compassion, are blood donors. Four times a year, donor buses come to the high school and the students respond.

In February, 110 units of blood were donated and on April 29, the total was 82. This was accomplished despite the fact the Junior Class was not in school that day.

The donor program is under the direction of Denise Kelchner, the Health Science Teacher and sponsor of HOSA, the Health Occupation Students of America. This club, in its three-year program, trains students for

careers in the health field, having them certified as Nursing Assistants upon graduation.

The students work each blood drive urging all students to donate blood. They also work with Head Start's many community programs. Many of the program's graduates are working in both our hospital and health care center.

The blood drives are held in the school's Health Center classroom. Students are checked in, registered, receive their health check up then go outside to the bus to donate. Following donation, they come back inside to have something to eat before returning to class.

A group of young men, each sporting

a wrap around their donating arm, were proudly talking about the "lives they saved today." One commented "I saved a life," another corrected it to "you saved three lives," and still another added "I saved four babies." Each is correct, because every unit of blood drawn has the possibility of saving up to three lives or the lives of four babies.

Russ Colwell, of Florida's Blood Centers said, "The high school student is a resource that makes blood available at strategic times during the year and teaches the next generation to be responsible citizens for the future." He expects the donor program to grow annually and looks for each drive in 2010 to collect at least 150 units.



Submitted photo

Teacher Denise Kelchner helps Leonardo Resendiz (l), Hector Chavez (r) and Roger Duque (back to camera) complete their paperwork prior to donating.



Submitted photo/YMS



Submitted photo

Laura Saucedo (l) and Alexandra Frances, members of HOSA, sign in students for the blood drive.

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Students of the Week

Students are achieving excellence at Yearling Middle School everyday. Students of the Week are: Raina Robinson and Maria Bucio, Israel Ascencio, Hayleigh Price, Maggie Buccino, Mrs. Ronkko and Mr. Witt. (Not pictured) Rachel Peterson.

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A very 'Green' class graduates as Master Gardeners

By Dan Culbert,
Okeechobee Extension Service Office

Spring is the time for graduation, and recently the Okeechobee Extension office kept up with this seasonal tradition. No, it's not about our local high school or college students, but our very own Master Gardener Program. Our latest crop of four volunteers has finished their class work and now begins their careers as Florida Master Gardeners.

Master Gardeners are volunteers that work with the Cooperative Extension Service, bringing research-based information about Florida yards and gardens to local residents. To become Master Gardeners, these volunteers spent more than 60 hours in the classroom and made field visits throughout the Treasure Coast. They more time on their own, studying all about plants, soils, pests and problem solving methods. This new class now begins to pay-back the public for all their new found knowledge. They have agreed to provide a minimum of 75 hours of volunteer service during the next year.

Throughout the next year these volunteers are planning to be part of demonstration projects such as the FYN Butterfly Garden in downtown Okeechobee and some other sites

they are working on.

Michael Danielson is an outdoor enthusiast and a devoted family man. His appreciation of all things green stemmed in part from a previous job taking care of commercial landscapes. His real love is edible horticulture, and plans to use his new knowledge in growing vegetables and fruits in the dooryard. Mike plans to be involved in helping share horticulture through 4-H gardening clubs and activities.

Kim Underwood grew up in her granny's garden, and has worked in the commercial pest control business. She now works with landscapes on the Seminole reservation. Her hope is to improve her diagnostic skills in the Master Gardener clinic and improve the use of Florida Friendly landscape principles with her both her employer and the people she will help as a Florida Master Gardener.

Maureen Abel has been gardening for over 30 years in many areas of Florida and in Ireland. She loves to experiment and has a love of learning. Besides beautifying her own ranch, she is looking at ways to help residents learn about food self-sufficiency through vegetable gardening projects in the community.

Debbie Davies gained many of her gardening experiences in the northeast U.S. and in Stuart. She loves color gardening and is a

regular visitor to the new Okeechobee Orchid Club. Working as a designer and a realtor, she is now working in retail sales. Her hope as a Master Gardener is to encourage the use of lots more color in our Okeechobee landscapes.

If you want additional information on the Master Gardening program or would like to be part of the next class, see our webpage: <http://okeechobee.ifas.ufl.edu>, send us an email okeechobee@ufl.edu or call us at 863-763-6469. Happy Graduation Day!



Submitted photo/Dan Culbert

Here is our graduating class of Master Gardeners for 2009 (L to R): Michael Danielson, Kim Underwood, Maureen Abel and Debbie Davies.

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Submitted photo/EES

Students of the Week

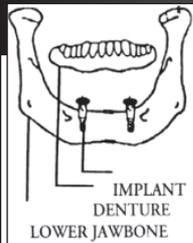
Here is the list of students who are achieving excellence in the classroom. Kindergarten: Layne McPeak, Balin Webb, Tara Wilcox. First grade: Kyla Gayo, Kamin Brown, Kolby Yingling, Travis McKenna, Kelsey Paulus, Estephany Alvarez. Second grade: Yessica Ramirez, Cayla Kite, Jenna Thompson, Luis Colon, Jimmy Bigford, Travis Eshleman, Mia Murray. Third grade: Richard Fresolone, Jennifer Chavez, Perla Orozco, Bailey Hansen, Junior Elias. Fourth grade: Cady McGehee, Kitana Lapp, Zeleste Orozco, Baruc Esquivel, Kyle Giles. Fifth grade: James Skinner, Josie Todd, Alexis Lightsey, Lawna Toole. Congratulations to our many outstanding students.



Submitted photo/SES

Students of the Week

The South Elementary Students of the Week for the week ending May 1 include: Jacob Hernandez, Hannah Hedrick, Vanessa Gomez, Chase Beal, Joseph LoPresti, Kyle Padgett, Jonas Macaldo, Juliett Navarro Nieto, Cole Carpenter, Rick Willet, Chloe McGlamory, Gustavo Martinez, Maggie Congdon, Donnie Watson, Jouse Gonzalez Rodriguez, Jonathan Buck, Bailie Shurley, Breanna Ingram, Kora Chapman, Kevin Hawthorne, Kaitlynn Jarrell, Leticia Bucio, and Shyane Adkins.



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Community Events

City Council Meeting

The Okeechobee City Council will be meeting Tuesday evening, May 5 at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Okeechobee City Hall, 55 S.E. Third Avenue.

Radio Club holds meeting

The Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, May 4, at 7 p.m. at 323 North Parrott Ave. at the Red Cross office. For more information contact Harold Hilliard at 863-763-5337.

Red Cross safety classes

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

- Wednesday, May 6 - First Aid Basics @ 6 p.m.
- Monday, May 11 - Infant/Child CPR/AED @ 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 20- Adult CPR/AED @ 6 p.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.

Hospice to hold yard sale

Hospice of Okeechobee will host a yard sale at the Blue Volunteer Building, next to the Hamrick Home (411 S.E. Fourth Street) on Thursday, May 7, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.,

Friday, May 8, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. and Saturday, May 9, from 8 a.m. until noon. All monies raised will go to the continuing care for patients in the Hamrick Home and those who chose to stay in their own homes. For informatin call 863-467-2321.

KOA fundraiser

Good Spirits, 245 Hwy. 441 SE will sponsor a "Ham Yee-Haw Dinner on Saturday, May 9, beginning at noon. There will be music, games & a delicious ham dinner for a \$5 donation. Eat in or take out, limited delivery is available. Proceeds benefit the little ones at the KOA Cancer Camps. Everyone is welcome.

Roundtable to hold meeting

The Executive Roundtable of the Shared Services Services Network of Okeechobee County will conduct its bi-monthly meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, May 8, in the board room of the Okeechobee County School Board Office. The public is invited. For more information call Sharon Vinson at 863-462-5000, ext. 257.

Chobee Firestix holds fundraiser

The Chobee Firestix will holds a barbecue fundraiser on May 8, from 10:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Eli's Western Wear parking lot. Dinners are \$10 per plate, includes, barbecue pork,

baked beans, cole slaw and roll. Plus, you could win a steer to stock your freezer. Five or more plates and deliveries will be made. The Barbecue will benefit the Chobee Firestix Travel Softball Program. For information please contact Kim Hargraves at 863-634-6322.

Livestock Market Report

April 28, 2009

| | Monday | Tuesday |
|--------|--------|---------|
| Calves | N | 1082 |
| Cows | O | 317 |
| Str | | 34 |
| Hfrs | S | 12 |
| Bulls | A | 42 |
| Yrlngs | L | 196 |
| Mix | E | 21 |
| Total | | 1704 |

Prices stayed pretty much steady this week, starting to see some 'new crop' calves. Looked like heavier cows are selling good, best cows in the low 50s. Gurnee Thomas of Okeechobee topped the calf market this week with a high of \$1.85, bought by Curt Wilson. Jimmy Kicliter of Ft. Pierce topped the cow market with a high of \$55.50, bought by Central Packing. No market reporter this week.

See ya next week,
Todd



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Long commission meeting produces few results

By Pete Gawda

Okeechobee News

Much rhetoric and little action characterized the Thursday, May 30, meeting of Okeechobee County Commissioners.

The over seven and a half hour meeting provoked lengthy discussions on several controversial topics. However, probably the most significant action was the decision by commissioners to continue with present plans for the proposed emergency operations center (EOC). Commissioners also discussed a proposed franchise with Florida Power and Light (FPL) and restoration of the Kissimmee River at River Acres Subdivision.

In light of the present economic situation, it was thought that plans for the proposed combined EOC and 911 communications center would be scaled back or delayed. However, that did not happen. In a later telephone interview emergency operations director Michael Faulkner said the total estimated cost of the project is \$5 million. However, in light of bids recently received for another emergency operations center, he hoped the bids would come in at \$3.5 million. About \$1.5 million of the total cost would come from grants. Mr. Faulkner said the 911 part of the building could not be paid for with EOC grants.

One grant of \$958,463 is scheduled to expire June 30. Also the county would like to secure some additional property. The board

voted to proceed with the project, instructing staff to continue negotiating for the property and apply for an extension of the grant.

For the second meeting in a row commissioners discussed a possible franchise with FPL. The discussion resulted in many unanswered questions but no action. County administrator Lyndon Bonner was instructed to follow up on the questions.

Brian Armstrong of the law firm Nabors, Giblin and Nickerson that specializes in representing local governments, discussed several areas where the standard franchise agreement could be clarified.

The franchise fee could be up to 5.6 percent of FPL's revenue in Okeechobee County and would be passed on directly to FPL customers.

Bill Berman of Davy Dairy and Bob Rydzewski of McArthur Dairy suggested a lower percentage for large electricity users such as dairies and feed mills. "In times like this we just can't afford it," asserted Mr. Rydzewski. He feared a franchise would be a detriment to economic growth.

"Every dairy in Okeechobee is taking a beating," said Mr. Berman.

Nick Blount of FLP said the franchise would be good for the county and for his company. He said a franchise would provide a steady revenue stream for the county and it would help FPL secure funding.

"I am not sold on this," was the opinion

of commissioner Ray Domer. He said he felt government should be spending less money. Businessman Keith Walpole was suspicious of a franchise. He felt FPL wanted something for nothing. "Do a little bit more in depth research," he urged commissioners.

The board listened to representatives of South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) describe plans for restoration of the Kissimmee River in the area of River Oaks Subdivision. Those plans called for the county to abandon a bridge over a canal and for the construction of another bridge at COE expense that the county was asked to maintain.

Commissioner Hoover stated that it would be cheaper to buy out the affected property owners rather than build what he called "a \$6 million bridge to nowhere."

The vote to approve the maintenance agreement and schedule a public hearing to abandon the right of way 3 to 2 with Commissioners Hoover and Domer voting against it. "I am a proponent of putting the river back the way it was," asserted Commissioner Domer even though he also voted against the proposal.

After hearing arguments for lawyers representing the employees union and the county administrator, the board voted to continue with their "at will" policy of settling labor disputes.

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COACH

Continued From Page 1

and you can't think of all of them. I'll have to come up with some way to thank one or two. I thank the wrestling parents of the kids who started out here in the '70s. I thank Mr. Jim Attaway. He was always there for football, baseball, wrestling, and was always helping out."

Kingery said Henry and Jahner have been the two best wrestling coaches in OHS history, and he knew right off that both men knew what they were doing.

"I was not really involved with Jahner coming that much. I did bring John Henry here when he came to Okeechobee," he said. "I was involved in getting him here. With Jahner they told me where he was from, (North Dakota), and I knew where they came from, wrestling was basic in their schools and they knew what they were doing."

Kingery thanked Ira Fleckman for getting him nominated for the hall of fame. Fleckman is also a member of the hall of fame, both as a coach and as a referee. He had a long career at Merritt Island and recently retired as a referee. His son, Soloman, wrestled

for Kingery at Okeechobee High School.

One of Kingery's fondest memories was a wrestling trip to Puerto Rico in 1977. He also remembered some battles with Brandon High School, the most dominant wrestling program in the state. He compared wrestling Brandon to the OHS football team playing the Miami Dolphins.

If he had a regret, it was the failure to the school to designate a permanent wrestling practice location,

"The problem in moving the wrestling practice area around, there is no permanent home at the high school to practice," he explained. "We've used the stage, portables,

and the cafeteria. It's kind of hard rolling mats up and down every day; mop the floors and all this. It's a hard job, not only coaching but you have to be a janitor."

Anyone interested in attending the banquet can reserve a seat by dialing 561-622-8888. Reservations must be made by July 10. For more information about events during Hall of Fame weekend please call Jane Townsend at 561-439-2429.

RV resort restoring natural wetlands near Lake O

As Florida celebrates Earth Day, Silver Palms RV Village (behind the Flamingo Motel on Hwy. 441), is replacing Brazilian peppers with native wetlands plants on a 13-acre site adjoining the resort that will provide natural forage for waterfowl.

For decades, the site where Bill Harvey would build Silver Palms RV Village was used by local ranchers as a cattle pasture.

Some of that land was a natural wetlands. But over time, the wetlands disappeared and a thicket of Brazilian peppers grew in its place, choking off the ability of native plants to survive. But when Harvey presented his plans to build a luxury RV resort to local officials, he agreed to restore nearly 13 acres of land abutting the resort to a natural wetlands. And as Florida celebrates

Earth Day this week, Harvey's plans are being realized.

"We've removed the Brazilian peppers and are now planting small clusters of cabbage palm and wax myrtle, which will serve as a natural buffer between the RV resort and the wetlands," said Chris Sopotnick of Ecological Consulting of Florida, the Stuart-based consulting firm that Harvey hired to oversee the restoration of the wetlands.

Once the buffer zones are planted, Sopotnick will then plant pickerelweed, cord grass, spike rush, Canna lily, blue flag iris, saw grass, thalia, duck potato and bulrush, all of which he'd like to get established before the rainy season begins this summer. By next year, some of the new plants should be mature enough to treat residents and visitors to Silver Palms RV Village to a natural Florida

habitat that provides forage for resident and migratory waterfowl, Sopotnick said.

The work is being done in cooperation with the South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which oversee wetlands protection and restoration efforts in South Florida. For more information on Silver Palms Village's wetlands restoration efforts, please contact Chris Sopotnick at 772-220-7817.



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May 2nd & 3rd, 9am-Dark,
6542 Hwy. 441 SE
in Gator RV Park # 26
Misc. Boating Equip., Life
Jackets & Some Tackle, Lots
of H/H Items...Motorcycle
Leathers & Boots...
Way too many items to list!

Shop here first!
The classified ads

How fast can your car go? It can go even faster when you sell it in the classifieds.

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

Grab a bargain from your neighbor's garage, attic, basement or closet in today's classifieds.

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

Love the earth Recycle your used items by selling them in the classifieds.

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

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

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

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

Employment

For more listings, go to
www.newszap.com

Employment Full Time

IT SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office is looking for an IT Support Specialist.

Duties include desktop user support, project planning & implementation, assisting in computer and network equipment inventory, assisting in maintenance & configuration of computer systems. Job requirements include: Any combination of network computer experience and training that would provide the required knowledge and abilities. Must be able to be "On-Call" for support after typical business hours. Must possess and maintain a valid Florida Driver License. Must be able to sit for long periods of time and lift and move objects weighing up to 25 pounds. The Sheriff or his designee retains the right to vary from these requirements.

Salary Negotiable.

Contact Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office Human Resources for an application to be mailed or stop by at 504 NW 4th Street and pick one up. Deadline for application submissions is May 15th.

Buying a car? Look in the classifieds. Selling a car? Look in the classifieds.

Employment Full Time

EXPERIENCED A/C SERVICE TECH

Needed
Self motivated, ambitious
Excellent pay and benefits!
Fax resume or job information to
863-467-0696

Employment Medical

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

MORE MONEY... MORE FREEDOM

CNA's, HHA's & COMPAINIONS

For Private Duty Work
Great opportunity's available!
Call for information
Recruiters available 24/7
888-783-1133, Ext. 5024
csi.recruit@cgsi.com
www.csicaregiver.com

RN - NURSE MANAGER
Needed full time at Florida Community Health Center in Okeechobee. Must have current FL RN License. Administrative/Management experience required with strong leadership skills. Bilingual Spanish/English preferred. Competitive salary & excel. benefits. Fax resume to Human Resources at (561) 844-1013 hr@fchcinc.org. EOE/DFWP

Employment Full Time

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.
It's never too late to find the perfect gift. Look for it in the classifieds.
Get a quick response to any item you may be selling with a classified ad.

READING A NEWSPAPER HELPS YOU GET INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY.

No wonder newspaper readers have more fun!

Financial

For more listings, go to
www.newszap.com

Business Opportunities

NOTICE

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

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

Services

For more listings, go to
www.newszap.com

? NEED HELP ?

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

Merchandise

For more listings, go to
www.newszap.com

Medical Items

ELECTRIC MOBILITY
Scooter \$500 also for sale electric lift for sale. (863)532-1325

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

Miscellaneous

HIGH TECH CLEAN AIR Machines - 2 - Like new, black tower model. \$175. (863) 763-3932

Get a quick response to any item you may be selling with a classified ad.

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

Wanted To Buy

LOOKING TO BUY Mobile home clam shell awnings 1- 6' x 2'8", 1- 6' x 2' and 2- 4' x 2' Call (863)467-2589

Your next job could be in today's classifieds. Did you look for it?

Agriculture

For more listings, go to
www.newszap.com

Seeds/Plants/Flowers

PLANTS - Blueberry \$13, Pomegranates \$25, Pecans \$60, Apple Trees \$55, Peach Trees \$55, Pear Trees \$55...
Bulk Mulch - Pine or Eucalyptus. (863)673-7280 Lic. # 48006674

Earn some extra cash. Sell your used items in the classifieds

FOR RENT Rentals

For more listings, go to
www.newszap.com

Apartments

Apartment for Rent
2Bd 1 1/2 Ba In Town, Very clean W/D \$650 mo, 1st, last & sec. No Pets 863-697-1129

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

OKEE - Huge, Clean, 2br, 2ba \$725 mo. Call 772-215-0098

Condos/Townhouses Rent

OKEECHOBEE - 2 br, 2 ba, privacy fence, Unit #36, All appls, new tile & carpet. (863)447-0925 or (863)763-2416

Houses - Rent

BASSWOOD - Newer 3/2/1, W&D hookup, big yard, \$1000 mo, 1st,last & sec Avail 6/1/09 (863)697-2795

BHR - 4/2, on water, fenced yard, \$900 mo. + sec. dep. 863-824-0981

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

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

House on Water - 4128 SE 27th St., Okeechobee, 1BR/1BA, 10x20 screened porch, dock, storage shed, \$775 mo. + \$500 sec. dep. & util. (561)714-4050

OAK PARK 3/1 Fenced, Avail mid-June. All appl. \$800 mo. 1st, Last & Sec. Call 407-860-0074 or 321-235-5575 to see.

Houses - Rent

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

LAKE OKEECHOBEE: Modern 3BR/2.5BA, 1 car garage, + cottage. Price neg. Call (772) 359-1640

OKEECHOBEE - 1BR, 1BA, 904 SW 7th Ave. \$600/mo. + dep. & utils. 863-801-9121 or 863-763-9500

OKEECHOBEE - 3BR/1BA Duplex, DW. W&D Hookup, central a/c & heat. \$750 mo. + \$500 sec. (863)763-4414

OKEECHOBEE - 4br, 2ba, great neighborhood, tile throughout, \$1195/mo, 1st & sec move in (561)248-3888 or (863)599-0156

R-BAR - 4/2/2, \$1295 mo. 1st & sec., must have refs, sell for \$205,000. 863-801-9163

Southwest Section - 3/2, w/2 car garage, c/a/h, w/d hookup, oak trees. (863)467-2541/634-9330

Waterfront Rentals

TREASURE ISLAND 3BR, 2BA, with shed. \$950 move in, \$750/mo. Call 863-824-0981

Real Estate

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Houses - Sale

Orange Blossom Ranches - \$99,900. 3/2 on dbl lot, built in 2000, excellent cond. Call Steve (863)801-1739

QUICK SALE Oak Park area. 4BR, 2BA Fenced, Irrigation, Water Treated. Call (863)697-1077 for info.

Waterfront Property

OKEECHOBEE - Waterfront Lot, 100' x 145', must be fast/cash, Mob home on prop rented, \$50,000 (561)202-7702

Mobile Homes

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Mobile Home Rent

BEST VALUE IN TOWN! For Rent: 2/1 apartment. Unit newly remodeled. Located 12 miles north of Okeechobee on Equestrian Ranch. Monthly water, trash & lawn maintenance included. No Pets! \$495 - Move in special. M-F (863)467-2982

Mobile Home Rent

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

CABIN - 1/1,\$475. MO + Sec & elec , also 1/1 RV, BHR \$400 mo. + Sec & elec. 55+ Comm (863)763-7164

It's never too late to find the perfect gift. Look for it in the classifieds.

NICE 2 BR, 1 1/2 BA, All appl. W&D. Completely furnished. \$400 mo. + small dep. (812)989-3022

RIVER ACRES, 2BR/1.5BA, Single, on Kissimmee River, \$600/mo. + sec. & electric. Yearly lease. (863)467-5616

Mobile Home Sale

DEW DROP INN - nice 14 x 48 mob home w/ Fla room, 8761 Hwy 78W #17, Call (618)384-6240

Recreation

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Motorcycles

SUZUKI - 2001 GZ250 - 2002 Intruder. Both Red, low miles, \$4000 for both Call (863)697-3656

Automotive

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Automobiles

FORD T-BIRD, 1995 - V8, auto, a/c, stereo CD, new tires, new paint, extra clean. Only \$2895. U5701. Call 863-467-5243

Classic Cars

CHEVY P/U - 1951- 80% Complete, Camero eng ,Trans. \$3800 or trade for small travel trailer. (863)801-9136

Four Wheel Drive

FORD F150 4x4, 2002 - Auto, V8, a/c, LB, bedliner, only \$4995. U5988. Call (863)467-5243

Pickup Trucks

FORD F250 2006 - Super Duty, Super Cab, V8, auto, a/c, LB, bedliner, tt pkg, only \$8995. U6348. Call (863)467-5243

Sport Utility

FORD EXPEDITION Eddie Bauer, 1998 - V8, a/c, TV, leather int., loaded. Only \$4995. U11884. Call (863)467-5243

Public Notices
For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Public Notices
For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
Okeechobee Utility Authority will temporarily change its method of chlorinating potable water to insure the future safety of our drinking water. The water users may notice an unusual chlorine taste or odor in their tap water after May 4, 2009. These conditions will last thru May 25, 2009.

These temporary conditions will not be harmful to your health; however, if you are on kidney dialysis, you should consult your physician for special instructions concerning this matter. If you have tropical fish or aquatic animals, you should contact your local tropical fish store for advice and take appropriate action to insure that you have properly treated the water before adding it to your aquarium.

The hydrant flushing during this period may cause the water to become cloudy and discolored. This is a temporary condition and should not last more than a few hours.

We sincerely regret any inconvenience you may experience during this time. Please keep in mind that this is necessary to provide safe water for the customers of Okeechobee Utility Authority.

If additional information is needed, contact Kevin Rogers at 763-3239. We regret any inconvenience that this may cause you. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

OKEECHOBEE UTILITY AUTHORITY
319238 on 4/29;5/1,3/09

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

In the Superior Court for the County of Colquitt State of Georgia

In Re: Petition of **CHRISTOPHER CLAY BROOME** for the adoption of **C.R.G.**, a minor male child born October 24, 2006.

Civil Action No. 09-AD-159

To: **SHAUN MICHAEL KOGUT**, Last known address: Okeechobee, Florida, and any other persons claiming an interest in the above referenced child.

You are hereby notified that a petition for adoption and a motion for termination of your parental rights have been filed and commenced in this court and you are required to file written defenses, if any, with the Clerk of the above named Court and serve a copy of your written defenses upon William M. McIntosh, attorney for petitioner, at P. O. Box 250, Moultrie, Georgia 31776, on or before the 22nd day of June, 2009. Otherwise a default judgment will be entered against you for the relief prayed for in the petition.

This notice shall be published once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks in the Okeechobee News pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 19-8-10(c).

Witness my hand and seal of said Court of Colquitt County, Georgia on this the 22nd day of April, 2009.

William M. McIntosh
Attorney for Petitioner
P. O. Box 250
Moultrie, GA 31776
229-985-5881
318899 on 4/26;5/3,10,17/09

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT WILL HOLD A MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2009 AT 9:00 A.M. AT THE ADMINISTRATION ANNEX BUILDING, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE, SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM, 458 HIGHWAY 98 N., OKEECHOBEE, FL. A COPY OF THE PROPOSED AGENDA MAY BE OBTAINED UPON REQUEST FROM THE UNDERSIGNED. IF ANY PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION BY THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING; THAT PERSON WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND FOR SUCH PURPOSES THAT PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, WHICH INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED, IS MADE. ANY PERSON WISHING TO SPEAK AT THE MEETING MUST HAVE THEIR NAME AND TOPIC PLACED ON THE AGENDA ONE WEEK BEFORE THE DATE OF THE MEETING. ALL PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN THE DISTRICT ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, PERSONS NEEDING A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION OR AN INTERPRETER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCEEDINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE DISTRICT'S OFFICES BY CALLING (863)763-4601 AT LEAST TWO (2) DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE MEETING.

NOTICE: COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT HAS AN ONGOING AQUATIC SPRAYING PROGRAM, DISTRICT WIDE.

WILLARD M. BYARS
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
17429 NW 242ND STREET
OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972
(863)763-4601 OR (863)634-3166
319039 on 5/3/09

The classifieds are the most successful salesperson in town.

Shop from a gift catalog that's updated regularly: the classifieds.

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

READING A NEWSPAPER MAKES YOU A MORE INFORMED AND INTERESTING PERSON.
No wonder newspaper readers are more popular!

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA JUVENILE DIVISION CASE NO.: 1999-DP-094

IN THE INTEREST OF: B.F. DOB: 3/30/97 MINOR CHILD(REN)

TO: Crystal Owens by, Mother, Residence and address unknown Jimmy Frady, Father, Residence and address unknown

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A PETITION UNDER OATH HAS BEEN FILED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN THE ABOVE-STYLED COURT FOR THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS RELATIVE TO **B.F.**, A **FE-MALE** CHILD, BORN ON THE 30th DAY OF **MARCH, 1997**. THE CHILD WAS BORN IN THE COUNTY OF **HENDERSONVILLE**, IN THE STATE OF **NORTH CAROLINA**. YOU ARE COMMANDED TO BE AND APPEAR BEFORE A JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, JUVENILE DIVISION IN THE ABOVE-STYLED COURT LOCATED AT:

OKEECHOBEE JUDICIAL CENTER 312 N.W. 3rd STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972

AT **2:30 P.M.**, ON THE **15TH DAY OF JUNE, 2009**, IN **COURTROOM "D"**, FOR HEARING AND TO SHOW CAUSE WHY SAID PETITIONED SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED.

FAILURE TO PERSONALLY APPEAR AT THIS ADVISORY HEARING CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THIS CHILD. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR ON THE DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED, YOU MAY LOSE ALL LEGAL RIGHTS AS A PARENT TO THE CHILD NAMED IN THE PETITION ATTACHED TO THIS NOTICE.

BE ADVISED THAT YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT YOU IN THIS MATTER. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD AN ATTORNEY, ONE MAY BE APPOINTED FOR YOU.

WITNESS MY HAND AS CLERK OF SAID COURT AND THE SEAL THEREOF, THIS 19th DAY OF MARCH, 2009.

SHARON ROBERTSON
CLERK OF COURT
BY: /s/ KIMBERLY J. SARROS DEPUTY CLERK
316410 on 4/26;5/3,10,17/09

Find it faster. Sell it sooner in the classifieds

Get a quick response to any item you may be selling with a classified ad.

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

READING A NEWSPAPER HELPS YOU GET INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY.



No wonder newspaper readers have more fun!



Submitted photo/Raye Deusinger

Blood Roundup award

Okeechobee Main Street officers were presented a plaque awarding their participation in the Third Annual Okeechobee Blood Roundup. Russ Colwell of Florida's Blood Centers, Toni Doyle, Executive Director of Main Street, Maureen Burroughs, Main Street President and Raye Deusinger, Roundup Chairman are pictured. The drive will be held again in November with regular drives continuing weekly throughout the area.

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | 4 Persian Gulf capital | 37 Villain who might pull a 10-Down | 50 Puzzle |
| 1 Clarinetist's supply | 5 Pay a visit | 38 Kind of ear or soldier | 53 Stare at the stars |
| 6 Maintain | 6 1930s Kansas governor Landon | 39 Norwegian saint | 54 Pinnacle |
| 10 Last word of "America the Beautiful" | 7 Itinerary word | 41 Tiny Dickens boy | 55 "Get outta here!" |
| 13 "... then again, I might be wrong" | 8 Mideast honcho | 44 Six-pack muscles | 57 Exam for pre-srs. |
| 14 "Ghostbusters" goo | 9 Put one's faith in | 47 Water under the point | 58 Fizzling sound |
| 15 Car wash option | 10 Unexpected reversal, in slang | 48 Speaks like Sylvester | 59 "Night" author Wiesel |
| 16 Always | 11 Overhang | 49 Winkly fruit | 60 See 32-Down |
| 18 " __ Gotta Be Me" | 12 Cut from the staff | | 63 UFO crew |
| 19 Feisty | 14 Foam opening | | 64 House call? |
| 20 Joined the mob? | 17 Second word in many fairy tales | | |
| 22 Kind of antiseptic acid | 21 Giant Hall of Famer | | |
| 25 Space-saving abbr. | 23 Noted WWII photo site, briefly | | |
| 26 Sometimes | 24 H.S. math course | | |
| 33 City north of Lake Tahoe | 26 Muse of love poetry | | |
| 34 Muffin topper | 27 Many a tofu eater | | |
| 35 Green prefix | 28 Fertilizer's purpose | | |
| 36 Settle on | 29 Caviar, say | | |
| 40 Hold in check | 30 New beginning? | | |
| 42 __ chi: martial art | 31 __ Lodge | | |
| 43 TV handyman Bob | 32 With 60-Down, baseball's career strikeout king | | |

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xworeditor@aol.com

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| 36 | | | | | | | | 37 | 38 | 39 | | 40 | | 41 | | | |
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| 53 | 54 | | | | | | | 55 | | | | 56 | | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 |
| 61 | | | | | | | | 62 | | 63 | 64 | | | | | | |
| 65 | | | | | | | | 66 | | | | | | | | | 67 |
| 68 | | | | | | | | 69 | | | | | | | | | 70 |

By Dan Naddor
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OHS outlasts Westwood for district title



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Coach Dylan Tedders shows off the district championship trophy to his team during the post game celebration Thursday.

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

It was another emotional scene Thursday night as Okeechobee players again stormed the field to celebrate a victory in a tight, over-time game.

Okeechobee defeated Westwood 4-3 in 10 innings to win the District 14-4A championship, their first title in four years.

It was a team effort as the Brahmans got solid defense, a great effort from two veteran pitchers, and even a homerun from Brice Buckner to hold off a game Panthers squad.

"This is unbelievable," Brahmans Coach Dylan Tedders said, "We didn't do anything offensively after (Jarrod) Ward came in to pitch in the fourth. They kept it close. It's a great feeling; we found a way to win. The guys are ecstatic, some of them are crying, it's beautiful."

Tedders said both Lincoln Park and Westwood played very well and when Okeechobee couldn't pull away, he got nervous because Westwood is a scary team in a tight game.

It all came down to a routine play in the bottom of the 10th. Adam Tewksbury struck out but the pitch got past catcher Michael Johnson. Adam hustled down to first and Corey White came on to pinch run. After a strikeout Cameron Tewksbury hit a squib behind the mound that went for an infield hit. Reliever Justin Robinson made a costly mistake as he tried to pick off White at second base. The throw sailed into center field and White raced to third base. After a walk to Joey Voss, Aaron Suarez came up with the bases loaded and one out and won the game with a squeeze bunt that rolled toward first base.

"I knew I had to get the job done," Suarez noted, "It was a team effort and everybody paid off. It took a lot of hard work." Suarez said the team has worked hard for two months on bunt plays and it paid off in this game. "That's why we practice the routine plays all year. We made the routine play and I love it," Coach Tedders noted.

Jonathan Crawford picked up his third victory in as many games. He pitched four and a third of scoreless ball in relief of Dustin Stokes, who allowed two earned runs in five and a third, striking out seven. Crawford didn't allow a hit, walked three, and struck out seven. He made some nasty pitches striking out David Carmona with a nasty sinker with two on base in the ninth.

Crawford said he felt good on the mound, focused, and threw a lot of strikes, "It's excitement. Nothing compares to this in my life, nothing compares to it."

Crawford said he expects a raucous crowd to support the Brahmans when they host a regional playoff game on Tuesday, May 5, against Rockledge.

"This title means everything. Now we're going to win the regional and that will be even better, I can't wait."

Ricardo J. Quintero-Herencia, MD



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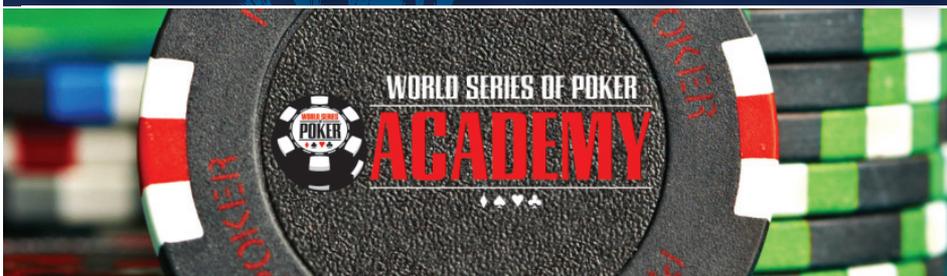
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Win a Trip to the WSOP Academy in Las Vegas! Friday, June 19th • 6:30pm

Take your game to Vegas and learn from poker superstars **Phil Hellmuth, Annie Duke, Greg Raymer, Mark Seif, Phil Gordon, Howard Lederer & many more!** And you could win a seat at the World Series of Poker Main Event – A seat worth \$10,000!

Thursdays & Fridays in May & June
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Must be at least 21 years old to play. See Brush Stand for complete details. Persons who have been trespassed or banned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida or those who have opted into the self-exclusion program are not eligible. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, please call 1-888-ADMIT-IT.

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