

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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Friday, May 15, 2009

50¢ Plus tax

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School board hears complaints ... Page 7

Shockwaves swim team hits the pool ... Page 13



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Interim coach takes charge

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Mike Radebaugh is now the interim coach of the Okeechobee High School Brahms football team. He took over practice on Monday after an hour's notice and said despite some turmoil over the firing of Jeremy Beckham, he is excited to be on board, and help the program.

Radebaugh has been a helper before. Radebaugh was a junior varsity coach and varsity assistant under Coaches Cary McKee and Chris Branham. He also starred in college as a baseball player. He grew up in Arkansas and is an avid Dallas Cowboy fan.

Taking over the Brahms this week might have felt a little like having Terrell Owens in the locker room, as it was a surprise to everyone, including Radebaugh. Owens was known for his unpredictable and controversial nature.

"I'm looking to make the best out of these circumstances. The spring is a time for learning, and my focus is to leave this program in the best possible hands for the permanent coach in the fall," he noted.

Radebaugh said the team can still have a productive spring. Beckham's systems remain ba-



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Mike Radebaugh looks on at Thursday's practice.

sically in place, and his assistant coaches will all stay on at least through May. Radebaugh said some minor changes will be made but the basic schemes the players learned for the past week, will remain in place.

"We will stay as basic as we can, and teach fundamentals. We will block, tackle, pass, throw and catch, just like any other team using the basic parts of his schemes," he said.

See COACH — Page 2

Hoover wants action on county budget

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

A glance at the Okeechobee County Commission agenda revealed a very short routine meeting. Indeed all the items on the agenda for the May 14 meeting of Okeechobee County Commissioners were acted upon in about 30 minutes. A few more routine, non-controversial items were brought up by staff.

Then at 10:40 a.m., Commissioner Joey Hoover brought up the dreaded "B" word.

"I'm a little bit past talking about," Mr. Hoover said as he urged action to reduce the county's \$2.7 million budget deficit.

Commissioner Clif Betts tried to sidestep the issue by saying it was not on the agenda. But Mr. Hoover was insistent.

"The citizens of Okeechobee are getting tired of us meeting and talking," Mr. Hoover asserted. "I'm getting tired too."

Mr. Hoover mentioned several definite steps to reduce spending. While he admitted that each one would only save a few thousand dollars, he said they would all add

See COUNTY — Page 2

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COUNTY

Continued From Page 1

up. He suggested curtailing reimbursement for use of private vehicles for official use except for pre-approved mileage or in an emergency. He said that in addition to mileage, owners of private vehicles are reimbursed for wear and tear. He said that factor is already budgeted for county vehicles. He also questioned the policy of paying membership dues for commissioners to belong to certain organizations.

Centralized purchasing was another cost

COACH

Continued From Page 1

Radebaugh said he got a call Monday at 2 p.m. from High School Principal Toni Wiersma to come help out at practice. He arrived an hour later and learned he would be in charge until the end of May. He said he was happy to help out, although he didn't talk like he wanted to take over on a permanent basis.

Radebaugh will be an Assistant Principal at Okeechobee High School and is also the Director of Vocational Programs for the District. Both of those programs are obviously based at the high school.

Radebaugh did make one change as he named long time Brahman Assistant Rex Erwin, who was passed over for the head football job, the leader of the eighth graders that are practicing at OHS. The eighth grade will have a separate scrimmage this year. It is scheduled for Friday, May 29, at 5 p.m. at Brahman stadium, just before the varsity squares off against Palm Bay. Radebaugh said he is working to recruit more eighth graders to come out for football at the local middle schools.

The team did lose QB Terrance Allen to a leg injury which held him out of practice on Wednesday. He is the leading candidate to start at QB this year.

The annual purple white scrimmage will be held next Thursday, May 21, at the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation. The start time is 6:30 p.m.

Local Forecast

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2pm. Partly cloudy, with a high near 87. East wind around 10 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. East southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 88. East wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

saving feature he suggested. Other options mentioned included taking away some vacation time from employees, a short work week and cutting nonessential services such as recreation.

"When we are asking citizens to do without services, it is only fair we lead by example," Commissioner Hoover asserted as he proposed a 15 percent pay cut for commissioners.

"We have to quit meeting. We have to go ahead and take some action," he asserted.

A new figure was mentioned Thursday that lessened the impact of the deficit. County administrator Lyndon Bonner stated that he had come up with substantial spending cuts that eliminated nonessential services. He said these cuts amounted to a \$2.2 million savings. This was the first time that figure had been mentioned in a commission meeting. That figure does not include any new layoffs or furloughs.

However that revelation was not enough to get him in Commissioner Ray Domer's good graces.

"I'm disappointed with him," Mr. Domer said of Mr. Bonner's performance in the budget situation. "I'm not pleased with his performance. I don't think he can get us through this. There is no trust. We'll never balance the budget."

Mr. Domer specifically asked each commissioner their opinion of Mr. Bonner. Three commissioners expressed confidence in Mr. Bonner except Mr. Hoover. Mr. Hoover, who took office in November, said he had been a commissioner for too short a time to form an opinion of Mr. Bonner. However, he said his opinion of Mr. Bonner would be determined by how well Mr. Bonner handled the budget situation and how well he responded to the revenue reductions Mr. Hoover had suggested.

"Give him a chance," Mr. Betts said of Mr.

Bonner. He said Mr. Bonner was not responsible for the budget situation. While admitting that Mr. Bonner had some weaknesses, he stated that most complaints are handled in a timely fashion.

While commissioners have the authority to furlough or lay off county employees, they do not have the authority to lay off or furlough employees of the constitutional officers - the sheriff, the tax collector, the property appraiser and the supervisor of elections. The constitutional officers are elected by the people and they each have their own budgets which are approved by the commissioners during the budget planning process. While the bulk of the money in each constitutional officer's budget comes from money allocated to the county commission, commissioners do not have to the authority to tell constitutional officers how to spend that money.

Commissioners will meet again on Friday, May 22 at 9 a.m. to consider the budget.

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

Lottery

The Florida Lottery: Numbers selected Wednesday in the Florida Lottery are: **Cash 3:** 8-7-9; **Play 4:** 0-7-1-8; **Fantasy 5:** 9-11-16-19-21; **Lotto:** 5-11-12-31-37-46; **Powerball:** 19-30-32-37-40 **PB 37 x3**. Numbers selected Thursday are: **Cash 3:** 2-4-6; **Play 4:** 7-2-2-4.



Submitted photo/OKMS

Main Street Mixer

Okeechobee Main Street's monthly mixer was held on Tuesday, May 12, at the Law Offices of Philip DeBerard located at 114 North Parrott Avenue. Staff from the Accident Law Office of Philip DeBerard and Okeechobee Main Street Board Members. Rosanna Schachtele, Toni Doyle, Mary Chelsey, Maureen Burroughs, Robin Delgado, Cheryl Daniels and Bonnie Kinchen hosted over 50 attendees who enjoyed networking, refreshments and door prizes. We would like thank The Brahma Bull Restaurant, Preya Persaud, MPT, Mims Veterinary Clinic, Seacoast National Bank and the Law Offices of Philip DeBerard for the great door prizes. Main Street's June Mixer will be held at Seacoast National Bank, the south branch office at 1409 South Parrott Avenue on Tuesday June 9, from 5-7 p.m. Whether you have a business or just live in Okeechobee County and would like to know more about Okeechobee Main Street please join us. The public is always invited to attend.



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'Confused' woman arrested on drug charges

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A woman was arrested Tuesday as she searched for her home on 22nd Avenue in St. Petersburg. The problem was, she was in Okeechobee County.

When Deputy Max Waldron, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), asked Amanda K. Breese where she was, the woman reportedly replied that she had no idea.

At this point, stated the deputy's arrest report, he concluded the woman was ob-

viously "disoriented and confused." A search of her sports utility vehicle cleared up any questions the deputy may have had as to why she was so disoriented.

While searching her SUV, Deputy Waldron and fellow OCSO Deputy Anthony Kibler found 10 to 12 medicine containers in a bag located in the front passenger's seat. While Breese had prescriptions for most of the medications, she could not explain why



Amanda K. Breese

the deputies found hydromophone (dilaudid) and xanax pills in her vehicle.

Breese, 33, E. Bay Drive S.E., St. Petersburg, was then arrested on felony charges of possession of xanax and possession of hydromorphone. She was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$5,000.

In his report, Deputy Waldron said someone had called the sheriff's office shortly after 10 p.m. on May 12 to report a reckless driver. The caller said someone in a silver SUV was driving erratically on U.S. 441 N. and, at one point, was driving south in the northbound lane.

Breese was driving the silver SUV, Deputy Waldron learned later.

The deputy went on to state that he followed the SUV as its driver tried to turn onto N.E. 224th St. but missed the turn. At a slow rate of speed, stated Deputy Waldron, the vehicle pulled back onto U.S. 441 N. and began to head north. However, the driver then stopped the SUV in the middle of the two-lane highway.

At this point the deputy conducted a traffic stop.

Woman arrested on felony drug charges

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A woman was arrested on felony drug charges after the car in which she was a passenger was pulled over because it failed to stop at an intersection.

Mary Ella D. Thomas, 46, N.E. 13th Ave., was arrested Wednesday, May 13, on felony charges of possession of cocaine and possession of ecstasy. She was also arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of marijuana under 20 grams and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Thomas was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$11,500.

An arrest report by a detective with the

Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force states a maroon Buick was stopped in the 2400 block of S.R. 70 because it failed to stop at the intersection of S.R. 70 E. and S.E. 40th Ave.

After stopping the vehicle Deputy John Ashby, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, issued the driver, Reggie Jones, a citation for driving while license suspended without knowledge. Bond information on Jones was not available as of newspaper deadline.

Once the Buick was stopped, the task force detective received permission from Jones to search the car. In the car at the time was another man and Thomas.

By this time a male and female detective

had arrived at the scene.

The report said that Thomas was found to have suspected drug paraphernalia and suspected drugs inside her underwear. According to the report, she was found to be in possession of 10.5 grams of suspected marijuana; 2.1 grams of suspected cocaine; .8 grams of suspected ecstasy; and a 'stem,' which is a device commonly used to smoke crack cocaine.

All of the suspected drugs were field tested and indicated positive results for the presence of marijuana, cocaine and ecstasy, added the report.

The third passenger was not arrested and was released at the scene.

Okeechobee 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) or the Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

- Dazsma Lorethea Washington, 19, N.E. 14th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested May 4 by Sergeant Russell Cale on charges of giving false name or identification and grand theft. Her bond was set at \$5,000. Washington was later arrested on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with failure to appear - violation of probation - petit theft. She is being held without bond on that charge. Washington was arrested again on May 12 by Deputy Corporal Aric Majere on a Department of Corrections warrant charging her with violation of probation - battery. She is being held without bond on that charge.

- Diego Lincerio Mejia, 47, N.E. First St., Okeechobee, was arrested May 4 by Deputy Sergeant J. Royal on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with felony battery. His bond was set at \$2,500.

- William Leighton Combs Jr., 42, S.R. 62, Bowling Green, was arrested May 4 by Deputy Justin Akins on a charge of driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$1,000.

- David Eugene Sherrod, 25, S.E. Street, Belle Glade, was arrested May 12 by Deputy Augustin Saucedo on a charge of aggravated assault (two counts). His bond was set at \$10,000.

- Crystal Michelle Bankston, 28, N.W.

189th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested May 12 by Deputy Cpl. Aric Majere on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with the felony of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon. The warrant also charged her with the misdemeanor of theft. Her bond was set at \$3,000. Bankston was arrested again on May 13 by Deputy Cari Arnold on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with dealing in stolen property and giving false information to a pawnbroker. Her bond on those charges was set at \$1,000.

- Clifford Parler Ryder, 20, U.S. 441 S.E., Okeechobee, was arrested May 13 by Deputy Sergeant J. Royal on a Palm Beach County warrant charging him with violation of probation - driving under the influence. He is being held without bond.

- Erik Arnold Oinonen, 52, S.E. Eighth St., Okeechobee, was arrested May 13 by Trooper Thomas B. White on a charge of driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$500.

- Robert Allen Pohl, 45, S.E. 33rds Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested May 13 by Deputy Dale Hardy on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with trafficking in oxycodone. His bond was set at \$50,000.

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.

Community Event

Considering adoption?

Please join the Children's Home Society of Florida at our monthly Adoption Orientation session, 415 Avenue A, Suite 100, Fort Pierce, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., Thursday, **May 28**. For anyone interested in learning more about adoption. This fun, casual and FREE open house-style orientation will provide an overview of adoption and answer all questions related to adoption and CHS' adoption process. Please help us raise adoption awareness in our community as we try to find additional permanent, loving homes for children in foster care. To RSVP or for more information, contact Children's Home Society's Adoption information line at 772-489-5601, ext. 277.

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The Okeechobee News will be closed *Monday, May 25th* for Memorial Day

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27th DEADLINE

Display Advertising. 3 p.m., Friday, May 22nd

Have A Safe Holiday!

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!

Microchips for kids?

• We'd been hearing a lot about child abductions, rapes and murders of children in the media. Many of these children are never found and time is critical when a child is missing or abducted. Little Haleigh Cummings has yet to be found and so is the child that gunman abducted from the woman leaving to take her children to the park. My thought is this. When a baby is born they are implanted with a small microchip under the skin. This is registered with an agency and each microchip is identified such as they are now with a sequence of numbers. Also if a parent of an older child wants to have this done they can go to their doctor and request this. These children are and will not be monitored, however if a child comes up missing this agency with the aid of the police department can bring up the numbers from the microchip punch in the numbers and locate the child instantly no matter where that child is.

• The microchip id the person still has to be found for them to scan it. A GPS locator would require a power source to provide a constant signal. This I think would be not only expensive but cumbersome, and frankly too Big Brotherish. Also some religious people think that allowing chipping would be accepting the number of the beast. They probably thought this when the idea for social security numbers was first proposed.

Animal shelter

• I was so happy to learn that we now have a "no kill" animal shelter in Okeechobee County in addition to the county animal shelter. I am happy to know that people care enough to try to save these animals. And shame on those who don't get their dogs and cats spayed and let them produce more unwanted puppies and kittens. There are so many animals that need homes, we don't need to breed more.

Head football coach let go

• There is a lot of talk, and it could be just talk, that this is not the first coach to break the FHSAA rules. Why do we spend the time and money to hire from out of state to fire so quickly if others have committed the same sins in the past. Is he a scapegoat, target, or just unlucky?

• I really don't understand what the issue is about the 8th graders. Last summer, my son was 13 and going into the ninth grade. He went for conditioning every day. Every day. During conditioning and regular practice the coaches used him and the other kids against the varsity squad. Why is it an issue NOW?



Wildfires

• People need to be responsible when running any equipment with a muffler -- they all can start a fire. Last year out my way a poor guy was just mowing his grass and ended up starting a fire that lasted for hours. He felt bad and it was an accident and they still fined him for it. They need to put a ban on ATVs this time of year and it will slow some of these fires down.

• The fire near Indiantown was started by children playing with matches, according to the TV news. Parents, make sure your children understand just how dangerous a wildfire can be. And supervise them. One of the kids who started the fires was only 7 years old. There is no substitute for adult supervision.

It's easy to make promises

• The Obama administration is weighing plans to detain some terror suspects on U.S. soil -- indefinitely and without trial -- as part of a plan to retool military commission trials that were conducted for prisoners held in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The proposal being floated with members of Congress is another indication of President Obama's struggles to establish his counter-terrorism policies, balancing security concerns against attempts to alter Bush-administration practices he has harshly criticized. On Wednesday, the president reversed a recent administration decision to release photos showing purported abuse of prisoners at U.S. military facilities in Iraq and Afghanistan, citing that releasing the pictures could endanger U.S. troops.

No parent left behind?

These are real notes written by parents. Spellings have been left intact.

1. My son is under a doctor's care and should not take PE today. Please execute him.

2. Please excuse Lisa for being absent she was sick and I had her shot.

3. Dear school: please excuse John being absent on Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and also 33.

4. Please excuse Gloria from Jim today. She is administrating.

5. Please excuse Roland from p.e. for a few days. Yesterday=2 0he fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip.

6. John has been absent because he had two teeth taken out of his face.

7. Carlos was absent yesterday because he was playing football. He was hurt in the growing part.

8. Megan could not come to school today because she has been bothered by very close veins.

9. Chris will not be in school cus he has an acre in his side.

10. Please excuse ray Friday from school. He has very loose vowels.

YMCA

• If you would be interested in learning more about the YMCA and helping the YMCA learn more about Okeechobee, please go to our Web site at: <http://www.ymcatreasurecoast.org> and click on the link to complete a short online survey. You will be one of the first to learn of our progress in building a YMCA in Okeechobee. If you have questions about the YMCA movement or proposed branch, please contact Brandon Tucker at 863-6970433 or John Lass at 772-286-4444.

• I think it is a terrific idea to start a YMCA in Okeechobee. I remember taking swimming and dance lessons at the Y in the town where I grew up. This is something that Okeechobee could really use. People say we need more for the kids. This is their chance to help provide something for them.

• The YMCA coming to Okeechobee would be a blessing. They have so many wonderful programs for kids and adults. I grew up with Y programs and so did my kids.

• A YMCA can have just about anything that a community wants. I would love to see one here with an indoor skating rink.

Budget

• I don't understand our county commissioners. They meet and say the budget is \$2 million short and they don't take any action. Then they meet again and don't even discuss it because it wasn't on the agenda. How long are they going to put this off before they do something to reduce the budget? And while they ponder what to do, they keep spending money.



• In such a tight budget year, I don't understand why they are spending all this money on the old courthouse renovations. The courthouse was not falling down. It stood through hurricanes since it was built back in the 1920s. Renovations could have waited until the economy improves.

• Instead of firing the workers, I think the county needs to downsize the number of bosses. Keep the people who actually are doing the work.

• I hate to see people lose their jobs. However, we the taxpayers cannot just pay people to keep them employed. We can't just keep paying higher taxes. The county needs to live on the budget and not keep expecting the property owners to pay more and more money in taxes. The county needs to cut back expenses everywhere they can.

Alcohol and marijuana

• People say they should not legalize marijuana and how bad that would be. But I don't see how it could be any worse than alcohol, which is already legal. Look at the crazy things people do when they are drunk. At least when people are smoking marijuana, they are generally very laid back and easy going, not starting fights. Should we make alcohol illegal? They tried that once and it led to a lot of crime and violence. If you legalized marijuana and let people grow it for personal use, how would that be any worse than making your own wine or beer?

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

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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.

MEMBER OF:



Letters to the Editor

Estate taxes hurt family farms

Like most Americans, family farmers and ranchers are affected by the current economic situation facing our nation. Unfortunately, farmers and ranchers face an added economic hardship: the federal estate taxes that come due when a family member dies.

We should all commend Florida Sens. Bill Nelson and Mel Martinez for urging Congress to improve existing estate tax law to allow farms to continue operating when a family member dies. Sen. Nelson was one of only 10 Senate Democrats who voted to approve a crucial bipartisan amendment offered last week by Arkansas Democrat Blanche Lincoln and Arizona Republican Jon Kyl.

Unless Congress acts, the estate tax exemption will drop to \$1 million in 2011. The resulting tax hit may force families to sell farm assets including land to pay the taxes when a family member dies. Here in Florida, buyers are likely to be developers and the farm is ultimately replaced with more intensive uses.

Compared to other sectors of the economy, federal estate taxes fall heaviest on

family farms and ranches. Family operations make up 98 percent of all U.S. farms. Freezing the estate tax exemption at or below the current level is not an acceptable option for America's farming and ranching families. It is also bad for consumers, who rely on U.S.-grown farm products to feed their families.

America's farmers and ranchers will benefit from Sens. Martinez's and Nelson's leadership. So will the rest of us consumers.

**Sincerely,
John Hoblick
President
Florida Farm Bureau Federation**

Give 'change' a chance

We have a new president. We can be proud of that fact and supportive of the changes that we voted for. We are at the start of a new day. We have a chance to move forward -- the only direction that makes sense. Everyone in America deserves the opportunity for economic success, health care, decent housing, and a good education. Let's give the administration a chance to succeed. Our president was elected by us, the American citizens, and he deserves our respect.

We deserve to respect ourselves and each other at the same time. America is a great country—we deserve the best we can have together.

**JuDeane Garrett
Okeechobee**

Property insurance

Last week, the Florida Legislature took important first steps to returning our property insurance market back to a healthy state. The passage of HB 1495 will not only help to protect Floridians statewide, but Florida businesses including nonprofits as well.

Putting the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe (CAT) Fund and Citizens Property Insurance Corporation on a sounder financial footing is the responsible thing to do. While the bill passed last week will increase Citizens' policy rates, we believe this is necessary to protect nonprofits from having to pay the "hurricane taxes" that would continue to be added to our property and automobile policies in the wake of a major storm.

For several years, we have been paying additional assessments on our insurance premiums to subsidize the state's government insurance entities and their policy holders. This "hurricane tax" money should have

been used to help maintain the community programs and support we currently have in place for those less fortunate. If we experience a large hurricane, this tax on churches and charities would increase, as the CAT Fund relies on post-event borrowing.

Throughout the 2009 legislative session, we worked with other concerned groups throughout the state, who believed that implementing a long-term strategy was necessary to stabilizing the state's property insurance market. While we support the bill as passed, we believe the legislature missed an opportunity by not providing funding for the home-strengthening, My Safe Florida Home program, as mitigation helps reduce the state's exposure to catastrophic damage and will help reduce insurance premiums.

HB 1495 is a good bill and we are thankful House and Senate members passed this bill to begin reducing the risk associated with the CAT Fund and Citizens Property Insurance. We urge Gov. Crist to sign this important bill into law to protect our great state and the organizations who work to make a difference in the lives of so many Floridians.

**Dennis Baxley, Executive Director
Christian Coalition of Florida**

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. For information, contact Ollie Morgret at 800-932-8677.

Just for Today Club of Okeechobee, 242 Hwy. 441 S.E., Okeechobee, N.A. Sickest Of The Sick (OP, SP) 8 p.m. **The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.*

A.A. meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. It's 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.

Business Women's Referral Networking Luncheon will be held on the third Friday of every month at the Brahma Bull Restaurant, 2405 U.S. 441 S.E., beginning at 11:30 a.m. for networking and then lunch. Networking opportunities available for women in business and is open to the public. No membership is required. For information, contact Robin Delgado at 800-299-8878; or,

by e-mail at info@flainjurylawyer.com.

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. 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, 242 Hwy. 441 S.E., Okeechobee, A.A. weekend noon Open Discussion; N.A. Sickest Of The Sick Group Step Study meeting 7 p.m.; N.A. Nowhere Left To Go Group (OD) 8 p.m. **The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.*

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



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

A firefighter for ten years

Okeechobee County Commission Chairman Clif Betts, left, presents Richard Jones, firefighter/medic with fire/rescue, a certificate for ten years' service to the county. Mr. Jones came to Okeechobee County from Pompano Beach where he worked at Life Fleet Ambulance. During this time, he attended paramedic classes and obtained his certification. During his tenure with fire/rescue, he has become certified as a public safety diver, urban search and rescue technician and a SWAT/medic for the sheriff's office. The presentation took place at the Thursday, April 30 commission meeting.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Five years' service

Okeechobee County Commission Chairman Clif Betts, left, presents a certificate to Kathy Scott, tourist development coordinator, for five years' service to the county. Mrs. Scott came to Okeechobee County after running her own business, Pro-Art Advertising for 10 years. She has an extensive background in advertising and marketing. Her creative artistic talents have afforded the county recognition at the state fair with her exhibits representing life in Okeechobee County. In addition to her TDC duties, Mrs. Scott is interim airport/industrial park manager. The presentation took place at the Thursday, April 30 meeting of the county commission.

News in Brief

Civil Air Patrol seeks volunteers

The Okeechobee Composite Squadron has immediate volunteer opportunities available for Chaplains, Pilots, Staff Personnel, Non-pilot Air Crew Members, Ground Team Members and Radio Operators. Experience is NOT required, only the desire and willingness to support your local community in Missions for America.

If you are interested in the Civil Air Patrol or any of the many fascinating opportunities it offers to Cadets or Adults please contact Capt. Joe Passaro at 561-252-0916, Lt. Joe Ragon at 954-695-8000 or Lt. Greg Gernat at 863-697-9915. Meetings are every Tuesday at 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Okeechobee Airport, T-Hanger #1. Please call for directions and gate access.

Obituaries

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

Richard Jack Burdick, 80

OKEECHOBEE — Richard Jack Burdick, age 80, of Okeechobee died Saturday, May 9, 2009, at his residence.

Born Nov. 28, 1928, in Hornell, N.Y., he had been a resident of Okeechobee for the last 42 years.

He served in the United States Army during the Korean War as a Master Gunnery Instructor and was a member of the America Legion, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Veterans of Foreign War and the Sheriffs Auxiliary. He enjoyed fishing and hunting.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Francis and Alberta; brother, James Burdick; and sisters, Dolores Burdick Daskam and Gloria Vincent.

He is survived by sister, Beverly Clark of Melbourne; nephews, Sean Clark (Kimberly) of Oviedo, Howard Burdick of Pacifica, Calif.; nieces, Jean Travers (Leo) of Derry, N.H., Joan Burdick of San Mateo, Calif., Cathleen Bierman (Mark) of Melbourne; and a host of great-nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 19, at the American Legion Post 64, 501 SE 2nd Street.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Okeechobee, P.O. Box 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973; or the Okeechobee Humane Society Pet Rescue, Fl, Inc., P.O. Box 233, Okeechobee, FL 4973-0233.

On line condolences may be made at www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

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

Jack Hudson

ORTONA — Jack Hudson, went to be with his wife and grandson on Sunday, May 10, 2009.

He was born in Elba, Ala. on Sept. 18, 1925. Jack's home was wherever he planted his feet, whether it be a watermelon field, watching his grandson's rodeo, attend the birth of his grandchildren, pushing doctors out of the way to deliver them himself, home was where his heart was and Jack had the biggest heart of all.

He was preceded in death by his devoted wife, Mer Hudson; and loyal loving grandson, Jeffrey H. Johns.

Survived by his daughters, Tara Johns (Billy Joe), and Vikki Faulk (Sam); grandsons, Jobe Johns and Karris Johns; granddaughters, Britni Wilson and Stephanie Johns; great-granddaughters, Abrianna Earnhardt and Brienna Johns; brother, Q. P. Hudson and sister-in-law, Thelma Hudson; and special daughters, Susie and Rita.

He will rest at Ortona Cemetery, Highway 78, Ortona. Visitation and service will be graveside 11 a.m. Thursday, May 14, 2009 at Ortona Cemetery, officiated by Randy Johnson.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Reality Ministries in Zolfo Springs, Fla.

Friends may sign the guestbook at www.bas-sokeechobee.com.

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

Naomia 'Polly' Akard Underwood, 81

OKEECHOBEE — Naomia "Polly" Akard Underwood, died Saturday, May 9, 2009, in the Okeechobee Health Care Facility. She was 81.

She was born June 2, 1927 to Hattie and Claude Akard in Bailey, Texas. She moved to Okeechobee and became a member of the First Baptist Church in 1969. She was a homemaker and secretary for her family business in Mobile Home Sales.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Elmer Underwood; brother, John Akard; sister, Tommy Boland; and brother and sister-in-laws, Adell Caphart (Ray), Franklin Underwood (Amary/Dorty), Ellen Richardson (Luke/Don), and Earl Underwood (Peggy).

She is survived by her two sons, Dale Underwood (Betty Taylor), and Nick Underwood (Susan) of Okeechobee; and sister-in-laws, Doris Grant (David) and Johnnie Underwood. In addition she is survived by six grandchildren, Rhonda Underwood of New York, William Underwood (Kelley), Laurie Underwood (John), Lisa Johnson (Marcus) Noah Underwood, all of Okeechobee, and Jennifer Ballard (Gene) of Georgia; and ten great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 from 1 p.m. until service time of 3 p.m. in the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow in the Evergreen Cemetery.

Online condolences may be sent to www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

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

Audrey Ecil Rhodes, 83

OKEECHOBEE — Audrey Ecil Rhodes, died Monday, May 11, 2009, in the Hamrick Home. She was 83.

Born June 20, 1925 in Charleston, W.Va., she had been a resident of Okeechobee for the last five years.

She is survived by her son, Barry Rhodes of Okeechobee.

The family would like to thank the Okeechobee Community for making her golden years memorable.

There will be no public visitation or services.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Okeechobee, P.O. Box 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973.

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



City code board acts on three cases

By Pete Gawda

Okeechobee News

When they met May 12 the City of Okeechobee Code Enforcement Board faced an agenda of six cases. However, they only took action on three cases.

Vicki Staton of N.W. Seventh Street was given 20 days beginning May 13 to bring her property into compliance by either removing household goods from her carport or screening them from view. If she is still in noncompliance at the end of that time she will be fined \$25 a day for every day of non-compliance.

Code enforcement officer Fred Sterling stated that he has had problems in the past with Dan Buchanan over the condition of his N.W. Eighth Avenue property. This time Mr.

Buchanan was cited for disabled vehicles, public nuisance and using a travel trailer as a permanent residence. He was fined \$100 a day for every day of noncompliance starting the date notification is given.

The board voted to proceed with foreclosure proceedings on the N.W. Twelfth Street property of Suet-Fong Tsang.

The board was informed that the property of Clark Holding on Parrott Avenue was in compliance and that case was not heard. The case against Robert Leach was not heard because of lack of proper notification. The case against Cody Brown was postponed until next month.

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

Community Events

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.

Parent Education Classes Offered

The Okeechobee County Healthy Start Coalition will be offering parenting education classes for infants to age 3. All pregnant women and parents are encouraged to attend. Each participant will receive a gift. This adult-only parenting class consists of six, one-hour classes. You must attend all six classes to get a certificate of completion. Call 863-462-5877 for registration.

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GRADUATION:
SUSAN EXAMPLE
Susan Example of Your Town graduated magna cum laude from State University on May 10, 2008, with a Bachelor of Science in Biology.
Susan is the daughter of Joseph and Jane Example of Your Town. She is the granddaughter of Tim and Betty Example of Your Town and John and Sally Illustration of Nearby City.
Susan graduated from Heretown High School. She is pursuing a medical degree at Famous Medical School.

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Teachers bring complaints to school board

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Many teachers whose contracts were not renewed expressed displeasure and frustration in the way the decisions were made and presented to them at Tuesday's School Board meeting.

Paul Walker, Technology Teacher at Yearling Middle School addressed the School Board on the circumstances of his non renewal. He spoke about a project he undertook at the computer lab at school to rebuild computers during spring break. He received approval from the principal and used his own time to finish the job. After he received a positive evaluation, the principal informed him that his annual contract would not be renewed. Mr. Walker claimed principal Andy Brewer knew before spring break that he would not renew his contract.

"He chose to use me in a way that is despicable and morally wrong for any administrator of a public school," he said, "As an administrator, his poor judgment and terrible treatment of me undermine the moral and ethical standards of the school district."

OCEA President Candy Walker said the non renewal opinions on teachers should have been handled in a more humane way. She noted at least 40 teachers were not renewed this year, many due to the economy. Ms. Walker said many teachers were told

they were not being renewed for professional reasons and that administrators implied these teachers were not doing their job correctly. "You have done an extreme injustice to these capable, good instructors. OCEA cannot understand why the district chose to humiliate these professionals," she said.

Ms. Walker said under the existing contract teachers and employees could have been laid off. She noted OCEA would have agreed to pay cuts to save these teachers.

"The mindset around the district from the employees is one of quiet resentment toward your administrators," she continued. "Everywhere I've gone in the last two months employees and the public tell me how disgusted they are."

Several teachers addressed the board and expressed concern over the teacher cuts. They encouraged the board to cut their own salary more than 5 percent. They also complained that the decisions were not made professionally. Union officials said they have not been asked for input when budget cuts are discussed. Teachers said teacher morale has definitely declined and that students have been hurt.

One teacher said the teachers deserved honesty and decency, while noting he understood that legally, schools can make few comments about why they didn't renew a contract.

Chairperson Kelly Owens said she

thanked all the teachers for coming forward. She noted no employee should worry about retaliation for making a presentation to the school board.

Board member Joe Arnold said there are ways to do business better and he said there are ways to improve the system.

Board member David Williams said he really felt sorry for a lot of people. He noted he's had to lay off a number of veteran employees at his business due to the economy.

School Board Attorney Tom Conely said administrators have done their job, which has been a tough one this year.

"They were hired on an annual contract, we fulfilled the contract," he said. "It's like a standoff here, it's supposed to be a team effort."

Ms. Owens said the school board does not have a role in selection of teachers to hire—those decisions are up the individual principal's discretion. The principal's recommendation goes to the superintendent for her review.

Ms. Owens said if student enrollment increases they will approve additional teachers.

"We've done that at times," she said. "We are now in year three of projected declining enrollment."



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Candy Walker, President of the Okeechobee School Union spoke on behalf of teachers whose contracts were not renewed at Tuesday's School Board meeting.

IRSC's Provost speaks at the Kiwanis luncheon

By Jim Vensel, club president
Okeechobee Kiwanis Club

Sam Smith, IRSC Provost for Okeechobee County, spoke to members of the Kiwanis Club about IRSC's transition to a State College and the available programs that emphasize education as the cornerstone of a sustainable economy. He told the group how IRSC impacts each of us through education, health, safety and business.



Sam Smith
IRSC Provost

As a State College, IRSC maintains its mission with a open door policy for AA and AS degrees, certificate and adult education programs while adding bachelor degrees and programs that are responsive to the needs of the community.

Currently, IRSC offers over 170 programs ranging from Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Technology, Health Science, Business, Public Safety and Industrial.

Being responsive to community needs, IRSC currently offers nine bachelor degree programs including the Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Organizational Management and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Education.

Currently, 35,000 area residents enroll at IRSC annually with 70 percent of the four county area college bound high school seniors attending IRSC. In Okeechobee Coun-

ty, we learned that 90 percent if the college bound high school seniors attend IRSC.

Mr. Smith explained why the recent IRSC May 8, Commencement exercise was held as historical. He continued telling Kiwanis Club members that this class was the first to graduate from the newly designated State College with the very first bachelor degrees being conferred. It was also the very largest class to graduate with 1,796 completing their degrees.

Other interesting facts that Kiwanians learned included:

IRSC is at the center of the region's life sciences hub emphasizing science, technology, engineering and math, which includes the soon to be STEM building at the St. Lucie West Campus.

The addition of the Treasure Coast Public Safety Complex, a 50 acre campus in Ft. Pierce, will provide our region, and the nation the latest in disaster relief, counter terrorism and cyber security training and much more.

The IRSC Center for Competitive Economics and Entrepreneur (CCEE), opening in 2011, will provide guidance in new product development through the use of think tanks, market research and analysis and a virtual incubator.

IRSC is positioned to impact our future through the Energy Institute focusing in alternative energies, bio-fuels and minimizing dependency on foreign oil and developing sustainable green building programs which

will impact greater energy efficiency and energy savings in our community.

Mr. Smith also presented a slide that indicated the following data from the Florida Tax Watch:

• Every dollar of public support for a Florida College System graduate with a AS or AA degree will return \$13.37 to our economy.

We as a community organization, learned that IRSC is creating the future today.



Okeechobee News/Diana Whitehall

Welcome new members

The Kiwanis Club announced new members during the April 30, meeting. On the far left, Mary Chesley, General Manager, of the new Hampton Inn, Okeechobee along with club member, Maureen Buroughs, new member, third from left, Dawn Smith, Vice President, Branch Manager, Regions Bank, Okeechobee, Toni Doyle, club member and Frank Irby, past Kiwanis Club president.

IRSC to host Advanced Tech Skills open house

Indian River State College is hosting a special Advanced Technology Open House on Wednesday, May 20, at 6:30 p.m. Students and interested individuals can learn more about career options in Power Plant Technology, Cyber Security, Robotics and Photonics, Digital Media and Interior Design at a special Emerging Technologies Open House event on Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. May 20, at the Kight Center for Emerging Technologies, located at the Indian River State College Main Campus in Fort Pierce.

At the Open House, learn about skills in the latest cutting-edge technologies available in the College's Advanced Technology Institutes:

Learn more about the Cyber Security Institute where students can learn about computers and electronics engineering technology. Graduates specializing in these emerging technologies are in high-demand and are hired at salaries well above average.

Find out how to prepare for a career in electronics engineering technology with expertise in robotics, photonics, and laser technologies with the Robotics and Photon-

ics Institute. Changing at the speed of light, the field of photonics affects almost every industry with applications in laser eye surgery, "smart" missiles, fiber optic cable for high speed Internet access, and CD and DVD recording.

Learn about digital imaging, including video and 3-D animation. The Digital Media Institute prepares students for creative careers in computer graphics, commercial arts and multimedia design.

Find out more about high-paying career options available for students who enroll in the Power Plant Technology Institute and earn their A.A.S. degree in Electronics Engineering Technology. Students in the program participate in paid summer internships with FPL that provide valuable work experience at a high-wage salary level. Graduates of the program can expect annual wages that exceed \$50,000 a year.

For more information about courses and degrees in emerging technologies or information regarding the upcoming Emerging Technology Open House on May 20, call 1-866-792-4772 or visit www.irsc.edu.

Chamber welcomes new member

The Chamber of Commerce is announcing a new member! Virtual Solutions Plus, LLC is a new virtual secretarial support service locally owned by Maribel Castaneda. Mrs. Castaneda has 15 years experience working in the legal field and seeks to provide related services through her new business endeavor.

Each client can count on receiving personal, professional and prompt attention. Services offered are divided into three categories: the general consumer, attorney support services, and services for non-profit organizations. Services available for the general consumer consist of notary services,

typing and word processing, preparation of immigration applications/forms, and Spanish translations.

Attorney support services are mainly offered to personal injury attorneys and include the scheduling of hearings, depositions and mediations, the drafting of correspondence, proofreading and editing, coordination of focus groups/mock jury trials, responding to discovery requests, and Spanish translations. Lastly, services offered to non-profit organizations consist of seeking grant monies for new or existing organizations and/or projects.

Brush fires keep firemen busy

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Noticed a lot of smoke on the east end of the county this week? You are not alone.

Okeechobee County firemen battled three separate blazes Tuesday on Berman Road near State Road 710. Firemen responded with three units and five firemen and were on the scene of one blaze for three hours, a report from Lt. Robert Mears said.

The Division of Forestry helped put out that blaze on the Riccochet Ranch. 500 gallons of water was used.

Another larger fire at 5600 S.E. 128th Av-

enue, kept firemen busy for over four hours Tuesday. Six units and 10 firemen battled that blaze. Structures were threatened, but no damage was reported, a report from Paramedic Stephen Briney stated.

Fire officials said these fires might have been caused by lightning strikes.

Brush fires were also reported in Viking, and Fort Drum Ranchettes Tuesday. No homes were damaged in these blazes.

Okeechobee County has also assisted Martin County for two days earlier this week as they fought several brush fires in the Indiantown community.



Submitted photo

Karatti graduates basic training

Air Force Airman Bryan W. Karratti graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Karratti is the son of Angela and Kalani Karratti of N.E. 72nd Circle W., Okeechobee and a 2008 graduate of Okeechobee High School.

News in Brief

Agency on Aging announces advisory council meeting

The Area Agency on Aging of Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Inc. Annual Board of Directors and Advisory Council meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, May 19, at The Area Agency on Aging of Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Inc., 4400 N. Congress Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL 33407. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. Contracts requiring the expenditure of funds are a regular agenda item of this meeting. Please call Vivian Pfau, Area Agency on Aging, at 561/684-5885 for more information.

Business Owners

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Fri, Tues & Thurs. @ 7:00 & 9:00., Sat., Sun. & Wed. @ 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00. Mon., @ 3:00 & 7:00. **PG-13**

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

THEATRE III: "X-MEN ORIGINS WOLVERINE"
Fri, Tues & Thurs. @ 7:00 & 9:00., Sat., Sun. & Wed. @ 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00. Mon., @ 3:00 & 7:00. **PG-13**

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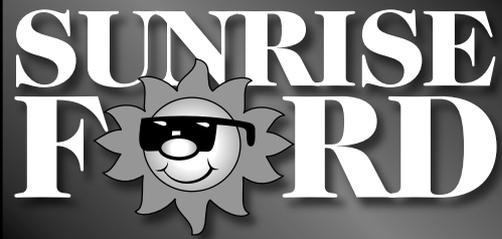


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'04 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 LS 4X4 SUPERCAB, BLACK, AUTO. & MORE!	 \$16,995
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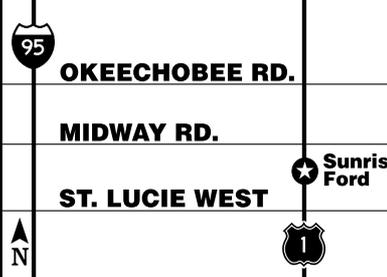
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Lakeport fire guts 3 homes

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Firefighters from three counties battled a structure fire on Lowery Lane off Loop Road on May 6, according to Glades County EMS Director Bob Jones.

Fire reports said three structures were ruled a total loss after the flames were put out. The call was received just before 1 a.m. and the first fire crews were on the scene 10 minutes later.

Mr. Jones report said firemen from Okeechobee County, Clewiston, Glades County volunteers, and the Seminole Brighton Fire Department were all dispatched to the scene.

Mr. Jones said firemen found two of the structures fully involved when they arrived on the scene. Bystanders told firemen that there were people inside but after a search of the residences, no one was located. There were no injuries reported.

Mr. Jones said firemen were hampered by a limited supply of water and limited space for their trucks and equipment. The fire spread to a third structure and also did minor and moderate heat damage to other surrounding structures.

The State Fire Marshall investigated the fires and due to extensive fire damage could not immediately determine the cause.

Firemen were on the scene for close to six hours.

River of Grass deal scaled back

Economic reality has caused the governor's vision of restoring the River of Grass to be scaled back. On Wednesday, May 13 the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Board of Governors approved an amended purchase agreement with U.S. Sugar.

The amended agreement, which is subject to financing, calls for the purchase of 73,000 acres for approximately \$536 million to be used for Everglades restoration. The area to be purchased is about 112 square miles and about twice the size of Orlando. The amended agreement also give SFWMD the option of purchasing the remaining 107,000 U. S. Sugar acres during the next 10 years. If it purchased within the next three years, it may be purchased at \$4,700 an acre.

The original agreement, announced last year was for 180,000 acres at \$1.34 billion.

Current economic conditions, including interest rates and revenue streams caused water managers to revisit the purchase agreement.

Closing is expected to take place some time next year

The U. S. Sugar Board of Directors had approved the amended agreement on May 8.

"Our board approved the revised acquisi-

tion approach implementing governor Crist's bold vision for our property. While the vision and goal remain unchanged, the economy dictated the more affordable approach." said Robert Coker, senior vice president of U.S. Sugar.

"This strategy allows us to take hold of an unprecedented opportunity for restoring America's Everglades with a fiscally responsible hand," said SFWMD Executive Director Carol Ann Wehle. "We took a very conservative financial approach during negotiations, which ultimately allowed us to present an affordable purchase plan to the Governing Board—one that preserves the environmental vision, sustains agriculture and maintains the regional economy in these challenging economic times."

The 73,000 acres to be purchased include 33,000 acres of citrus lands and 40,000 acres of sugarcane lands. U.S. Sugar will be able to lease back the sugarcane land at \$150 an acres for seven years with provisions to extend the lease for up to twenty years. The amended agreement allows for continued operation of U. S. Sugar's mill and refinery, keeping 1,700 direct jobs for at least another decade.

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

Red Cross hosts 'Heroes in the Park'

The Okeechobee Service Center of the American Red Cross is hosting "Heroes in the Park" at Flagler Park on June 6. The family-friendly event, held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., will feature a barbeque cook-off, pie baking contest, bounce house, face painting, rock climbing wall, pony rides, performances by the Okeechobee High School band, and more. The event is free and open to the public, and all proceeds will benefit the local American Red Cross Chapter.

Chaired by Teresa Chandler of Seacoast National Bank, the event is being held in conjunction with The Greater Palm Beach Area Chapter of the American Red Cross' community-wide "Heroes Campaign." The six-week fundraising and awareness initiative encourages individuals, businesses and schools to commit to raising or donating

\$1,000 by June 5. All of the money raised during the fourth annual campaign will support the array of services offered by the organization, including disaster prevention, preparedness and response.

"People may not be natural-born heroes, but they can easily become Heroes for the American Red Cross," said Larry Casey, CEO of the Greater Palm Beach Area Chapter. "We've set a goal this year to raise \$200,000, which will support our long-standing mission of responding to emergencies, providing relief to victims of disaster, and teaching individuals how to prevent and prepare for emergencies."

For more information on the Heroes in the Park event, call 863-763-2488, or visit: www.redcross-pbc.org/okeechobee.

Generator breaks, leaves OCSO in dark

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) and county jail were literally operating in the dark for much of the day Thursday, May 14.

According to OCSO Major Noel Stephen, electricity to the sheriff's office and jail went off at 10 p.m. Wednesday night and was still off at 2 p.m. the next day. Without electricity there were no lights, no computers and, most noticeably, no air conditioning. The major added that the department's phone system was only partially working.

"There's no air conditioning anywhere in the building, period," said Maj. Stephen. "There are no office lights on so we can pump all (the electricity) we can to allow jail door operations and dispatch operations."

Maj. Stephen explained that because of some immediate, and some future, expansion plans FP&L cut off electrical service to the entire sheriff's office and jail on Monday, May 11. FP&L then hooked the building up to a 1,000kw generator so that new electrical wiring could be pulled safely and a transformer could be replaced.

It was planned that the office would still be able to operate, said the OCSO major.

"We were supposed to run at 100 per-

cent with a few interruptions once in a while," he said.

However, the new generator malfunctioned Wednesday night and repairs had not been completed as of Thursday afternoon. Maj. Stephen said it was possibly an oil sending unit that went out.

Maj. Stephen said FP&L had leased the 1,000kw generator.

Without the new generator, the sheriff's office had to switch back to its old 50kw generator. The older unit at least keeps OCSO dispatchers and their computers working.

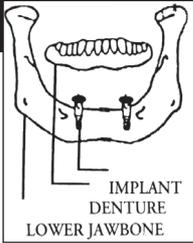
Without lights and computers, on-duty deputies and detectives were spending most of their time working in the field Thursday.

"Since the power didn't come on we sent the administrative staff home at 11 a.m. Thursday," said Maj. Stephen.

Because there is no electricity, Maj. Stephen said jail inmates were all on lockdown and were not allowed to move around.

"We fed them cereal and milk for breakfast and sandwiches for lunch," said the major, "and we'll feed them sandwiches at night if we have to."

However, because the jail kitchen has gas available for its stoves Maj. Stephen said the inmates could be fed soup with their sandwiches.



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Community Events

Memorial set for fallen officers

The annual Law Enforcement Memorial Service will be held Friday, May 15, at the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, 504 N.W. Fourth St., starting at 9 a.m. The public is invited. For information, contact the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office at 863-763-3117.

Impact Cheer Camp registration dates set

The First Baptist Church Summer Impact Cheerleading Camp will be held from June 15-19, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ages run from kindergarten through 10th grade. The cost is \$125 which includes lunch each day and snacks. Registration forms can be picked up at the ROC or the First Baptist Church office. **Deadline to register is May 15.** If you have any questions, please contact Teresa Arrants at the ROC office, at 863-467-7625.

Embroidery club to meet

If you have an embroidery machine, plan to buy one or are just interested in the concept, please join us at our next meeting. It will be held on Saturday, **May 16**, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. in the Red Cross classroom, 3323 N. Parrott Ave. Bring your machine and lunch for a fun-filled day. Cross-stitching, in the past, was a beautiful form of hand sew-

ing that was very time consuming; but now we can create those same beautiful designs using our embroidery machines. Machine cross-stitch will be our project for the month of May. Bring your cross-stitch design and choice of material to see what you can create. For more information, please call Joan at 863-467-0290 or Corry at 863-467-2231.

Early Learning Coalition to hold teleconference

Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin & Okeechobee Counties, Inc. - Emergency Executive Committee meeting via teleconference on Monday, **May 18**, at 1:30 p.m.

Sign ups open for Pop Warner football

Pop Warner will hold signups on Monday, **May 18**, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the soccer field complex. Signups are on a first come first served basis.

IRSC presents Advanced Technology Open House

IRSC Advanced Technology Open House. **May 20**, 6:30 p.m. Kight Center for Emerging Technology, IRSC Main Campus 3209 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce. Learn more about career options in Power Plant Tech-

nology, Cyber Security, Robotics and Photonics, Digital Media and Interior Design. 1-866-792-4772.

Red Cross safety classes

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

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.

Good Habits and Old Spirits to sponsor Annual Putt Putt

Tournament at the KOA on Memorial Day, Monday, **May 25**. There will be an \$8 entry fee, two-man scramble, blind draw. Sign up at Good Spirits from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tee off time is 2 p.m. Must be 21 to play. Join us for great prizes, fun & giggles. Proceeds benefit the KOA Kid Camp.

Chamber of Commerce holds fundraiser

The Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce presents 'Mud Hole Madness' Memorial Day weekend, **May 22-25**. Over 300 acres of family fun over 70 acres of mud! Live music, truck pull, children's riding area, children's play area with pony rides, showers and truck wash. Free camping and RV parking.

Four full days just \$50 or \$20 daily - children age 13 and under free. At Holley Mud Hole-8 miles east of Okeechobee off State Road 70. For information go online to www.holley-mudhole.com or call 863-357-2456 or 863-763-6464.

Church to host Health Fair and Gospel Fest

Saint Stephen A.M.E. Church of Okeechobee will be hosting a Health Fair and Gospel Fest that will take place on Saturday, **May 23**, at Douglas Brown Community Center, located at 726 N.E. 16th Avenue, Okeechobee. The Health Fair will start 10AM-2PM with Special guest: Mrs. Wilma Atkinson, a certified trained HIV/AIDS Counselor who will speak on HIV & AIDS Awareness, the panel will also include a guest speaker who will speak about: Living with Diabetes. The Gospel Fest will start at 4-7 p.m., featuring Serenity Plus who will be ministering through songs and music. Free admission and seating is limited. Saint Stephen A.M.E. Church of Okeechobee is under the leadership of Reverend Pauline Livatt, Pastor. For more information call: 863-763-5018.

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Workforce Solutions for Summer Employers

Employers provide a short-term, meaningful work experience opportunity for youth participants and Workforce Solutions will provide pre-screened, qualified employees and cover the cost of their compensation.

How the Summer Youth Employment Program Works

The youth participants will be compensated at no cost to the company. Salary of \$8 per hour and workers' compensation will be covered for youth while at a company's worksite. Work experiences are 32 hours per week for a period of six to 10 weeks from mid-June through August. A Youth Job Coach will be assigned to each company to monitor the progress of the youth participants and handle payroll. All qualified youth participants will attend a two-week work readiness training to prepare them for their work experience opportunity.

How to Make a Pledge

Private, non-profit and public companies are urged to pledge short-term meaningful work

experiences and training opportunities for youth participants. Visit yourworkforcesolutions.com for more information and to complete a pledge form, or contact John Gurney at 863-462-5350 for more information. Deadline for pledges is May 29, 2009.

Youth interested in participating in the Summer Youth Employment Program can learn more about eligibility requirements by visiting yourworkforcesolutions.com or call the youth hotline at 1-866-228-8864.



Adult Work Experience Pledges are also available for employers to give an individual with limited employment history, or an extended period of unemployment, the opportunity to practice work readiness skills, newly obtained occupational skills, or simply re-enter employment. Work experiences are short-term, subsidized employment experiences, not to exceed six (6) months. Visit our website for more information and to complete a pledge form.

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WEDDING
JOSEPH W. EXAMPLE & JANE A. ILLUSTRATION
Joseph W. Example and Jane A. Illustration were married on June 1, 2008, at Local Church, New Town. The Rev. John P. Hest officiated. The couple is the proud parent of two beautiful daughters: Elizabeth Rose Example and Michael Example. The bride is the daughter of Thomas Example and Susan Example. The groom is the son of Tom Example and Susan Example. The ceremony was officiated by the Rev. John P. Hest.

BIRTH
SUSAN A. EXAMPLE
Susan A. Example was born on 2008 p.m. on June 1, 2008, at Wesley Hospital, Sebring, Fla. She is the daughter of Joseph and Jane Example. The mother is Mrs. Example. The father is Mr. Example. The birth was attended by Dr. Example. The baby is the first of two children for the couple.

ANNIVERSARY
JOSEPH W. EXAMPLE & JANE A. EXAMPLE
Joseph W. Example and Jane A. Example celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary with family and friends on October 1, 2008. The celebration was held at the Country Club. The bride is the daughter of Thomas Example and Susan Example. The groom is the son of Tom Example and Susan Example. The anniversary was celebrated by the Rev. John P. Hest.

ENGAGEMENT
JOSEPH W. EXAMPLE & JANE A. EXAMPLE
Joseph W. Example and Jane A. Example announced their engagement on June 1, 2008. The couple is the proud parent of two beautiful daughters: Elizabeth Rose Example and Michael Example. The bride is the daughter of Thomas Example and Susan Example. The groom is the son of Tom Example and Susan Example. The engagement was announced by the Rev. John P. Hest.

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Jim Arrigo
President of Arrigo Dodge Chrysler Jeep

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"No one should be confused about what a bankruptcy process means," Obama said. "This is not a sign of weakness but rather one more step on a clearly chartered path to Chrysler's revival."

The President went on to say, "If you are considering buying a car, I hope it will be an American car. I want to remind you that if you decide to buy a Chrysler, your warrantee will be safe because it is backed up by the United States Government".

Source: whitehouse.gov

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Shock waves ready for summer season

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The summer swim season got off to a good start this month as 40 kids joined the Okeechobee Shock Waves swim team.

Nicole Johnson, the swim coach for Okeechobee High School, will take the kids, ages 6-18, to four swim meets this year, in Vero Beach, Deerfield Beach, Coral Springs and Boca Raton.

The only requirement for the young kids is you must be able to swim one length of the pool without stopping.

Kids paid \$60 for registration and \$15 for insurance to join the squad.

The kids also will work hard between now and Aug. 1. They'll practice Monday through Friday evenings until school is out. They will also practice in June and July.

"I think the turnout has been awesome," Johnson said, "I think it will help with our high school program."

Johnson and volunteers were busy at practice teaching kids new things, new strokes, and turns that will improve their times. She said only 12 kids participated in last summer's program.

"It's been a large turnout. It should be very beneficial to the high school. I'm trying to make swimming a big sport in Okeechobee," she said.

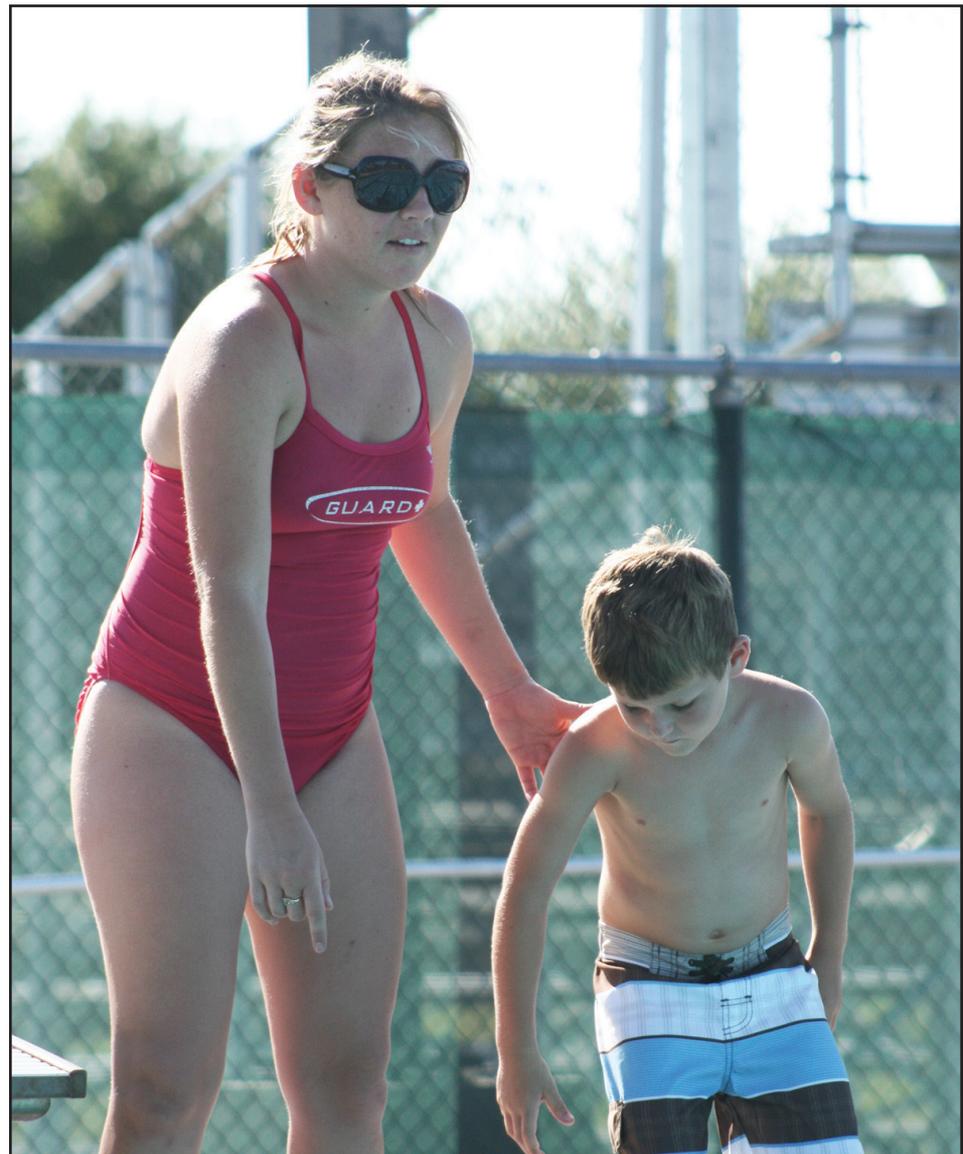
Kids will be placed in competition with other kids their age. The age groups are eight and under, 9-12, and 18 and under. All of the older kids must be high school kids.

For the most part the younger kids will swim shorter distances than they are used to during regulation meets at the high school level.

"I think the shorter distances will be great for the younger kids," Johnson stated.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Chanley Barnhart is assisting the younger kids learn the ropes of swimming.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Coach Nicole Johnson tutors Gavin Cashwell at a recent shock waves practice.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Rylann Maxwell is one of the Shock-waves younger members.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Maddie Garcia takes swim tips during the shock waves practice Thursday.

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Blue Heron Golf Course is coming back to life

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

A dead golf course is coming back to life. Thanks to brothers Ken and Keller Orender, a golf course that has been described as a cow pasture will be transformed into a first rate course.

For six weeks they have been working on clearing out the overgrowth at the long neglected Blue Heron Golf and Country Club. Lakes around the course are now visible. As they clear the course they are discovering how the drainage and irrigations systems work.

Now the brothers are restoring Bermuda grass to the fairways. The greens are as barren as little deserts. However, they will soon be sporting the newest variety of grass for golf greens, Ultra Dwarf.

"We will have the best greens in the tri-county area," Keller vowed.

"We're trying to save golf," said Ken, and make it more affordable."

The brothers view the challenge of restoring Blue Heron as the opportunity of a life time. They have a three year lease with an

option to buy from developer Don McBrayer. Mr. McBrayer had been trying to sell the golf course and had had several offers on it. So he had been reluctant to put any money into the golf course.

The brothers are planning on a grand opening for the Fourth of July. Once the golf course is completed, using earth friendly management practices, the brothers plan to upgrade the club house and renovate the swimming pool.

The Orenders have been in the golf course business since 1984. They began when they were in high school working for their uncle, M. G. Orender, who is a past president of the PGA. They have also worked for Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicholson. From 2001 to 2005 they worked together at Club Med in Port St. Lucie. Before coming to Okeechobee the brothers brought the golf course at Belle Glade back to life.

"They said it couldn't be done" Ken said of the Belle Glade golf course restoration.

It was while they were at Belle Glade that Mr. McBrayer heard about the brothers and asked them renovate his golf course.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Keller Orender, left, and his brother Ken, right, check the condition of grass on one of the fairways at Blue Heron Golf and Country Club. The brothers are renovating the golf course and plan to have a grand opening on the Fourth of July.

Tennis team members make all conference squads

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Due to budget cuts there will be no Treasure Lake Conference schedules in any sport next year, Conference Executive Director Tim Gillis said Tuesday.

Okeechobee was well represented on the tennis all conference squads which were voted on Tuesday. Corey White and Kari Berger made first team all conference. White also made it in doubles with Zach

Fowler. The girl's team of Shaina Ragamat and Alisha Wilcox also made first team all conference.

Zach Fowler made second team all conference and Alex Nielson and Kyle Lunt earned honorable mention.

Shaina Ragamat made second team all conference, and Katie Walker made honorable mention.

The boy's team advanced to the regional quarterfinal this year and the girl's squad also had a winning record.

Jones to return as volleyball coach

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Todd Jones knows that in life, things can go full circle. That circle brought him back to one of his original jobs in Okeechobee, head volleyball coach.

Jones was tabbed by the school to replace Jacque Robinson who left for personal reasons after a short but successful tenure.

Jones knows a lot about success as he had led the Brahms to two district championships in his five seasons, and has also taken the Big Lake Juniors Volleyball programs to new heights in the state.

Jones said he originally turned the offer down over the winter, but after thinking about it, realized the new coach might not keep him as a junior varsity coach, which he was last season. He explained that his daughter Darby and several players are entering high school next year and he would like to continue working with them. "Once the decision was made, I was very excited about it," he said.

Jones came to Okeechobee fresh out of Stetson University in 1993. He had played a lot of sand beach volleyball and his wife is a former high school volleyball player. He took an interest in the sport and led the Brahms to district championships in 1999 and 2000.

He also has been a director of the Big Lake Juniors program for 11 years. He stated there teams have been great. This year they finished in third place in the state. Last year the team won the state championship.

The Brahman volleyball program is poised to be very good this year. They have returning stars like Megan Clements, Monica Koger, LeAnna Cotton, Rebekah Bryan, and Marie Renfranz. Some of the junior players



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Todd Jones.

who will be freshmen next year like Jordan Maynard, Caitlyn Gaucin and Sarah Davis, could also play immediately.

Last year's squad made it to the regional semifinal where they lost to Jensen Beach. Jones said his goal will be to overtake the Lady Falcons.

"A big part of that will be scouting. We've got to get past that team to win a state championship. Part of it will be crunching out fine points on offensive and defense. We need to exploit our strengths and their weaknesses," he said.

The girls have already begun off season workouts and hold open gyms in the high school gym each week. They also will attend a team camp at the University of Florida in July.

Jones teaches math at OHS.



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Harlow takes top honors in bass tourney



Submitted photos
Ray Davino took the Big Fish award at the TCBC monthly tournament.



John Harlow took top honors at the TCBC monthly tournament.

By Teresa Mataushek
Okeechobee News

The Taylor Creek Bass Club held their monthly tournament on May 2, at Okee Tantie where local fisherman John Harlow took top honors.

Mr. Harlow brought to the scales at total of 12 lbs. of fish for first place.

Following Mr. Harlow close in second place was Ray Davino with a total weight of 11.72 lbs. Dave Stout brought 9.78 lbs. to the scales for third place with Les Tory placing fourth with 5.66 lbs.

Gator hunt applications open June 1

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will use new permit-application procedures this year to resolve past permit issuance problems for the highly popular statewide alligator harvest program. In Phase I of the new process, applications will be accepted for a random drawing from 10 a.m. (EDT) June 1 through 11:59 p.m. (EDT) June 15. Approximately 6,000 alligator harvest permits will be available.

During the Phase I random drawing, each person may submit only one no-cost application, which provides the option of prioritizing up to five hunt area and period choices. All people seeking a harvest permit must be at least 18 years of age by Aug. 15, 2009. A permit allows the harvest of two alligators on a designated area. Applications can be submitted at any county tax collector's office, license agent (retail outlet that sells hunting and fishing licenses), and at MyFWC.com/License. Drawing results will be posted at MyFWC.com/Hunting no earlier than June 17. Fee payments must be made by June 29. The cost for an alligator trapping license and alligator harvest tags is \$271.50 for Florida residents, and nonresidents pay \$1,021.50. The cost for each additional alligator hunting permit is \$61.50. All fees are nonrefundable. For more information about these exciting alligator hunts, visit: MyFWC.com/Wildlife-Habitats/Alligator_index.htm.

As well as second place, Mr. Davino took the Big Fish award with his 9.74 lbs. big catch.

Winners of the "Calcutta" with a total weight of 15.80 lbs. went to the team of John Harlow and Dave Stout.

The Taylor Creek Bass Club meets at the Buck Head Ridge VFW Post 9528 on the second Thursday of each month. Tournaments are held the following weekend. New boaters and (especially) non-boaters are welcome. For information call Dave Stout at 863-467-2255.

The club also sponsors and presents the annual Lee McAllister Memorial Kid's Fishing Festival.

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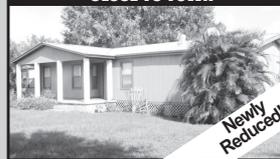
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Okeechobee to host Pop Warner jamboree

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Imagine 10,000 people spending their weekend in Okeechobee and the economic

impact that might bring. Imagine no longer, it will actually happen in August. Once again Okeechobee has been chosen to host the 25th annual Pop Warner jamboree for the Treasure Coast. Fifteen leagues

will provide teams from Sebastian south to Jupiter and West Palm Beach. An estimated 160 football players and a similar number of cheerleaders will participate in the two day event on Aug. 29-30.

Okeechobee Pop Warner President James Shockley said the event has a great impact on the local economy last year as participants, coaches, and their families and fans spend money at local gas stations, restaurants and even motels.

He noted there were very few problems from last year and that the soccer fields across from North Elementary will again be the site for the tournament.

Pop Warner is asking for volunteers to help direct traffic and do other chores.

"I think the County Commission was very pleased with it last year. They gave their approval in April. There were no big issues that came up and it was a good deal for the community," he stated.

Any business who would like to sponsor the jamboree can call Mr. Shockley at 863-634-3482.

"I think Pop Warner has been good for our kids. They play good competition, and those will be the same kids they play when they go to high school," he stated.

Boys and girls ages 5-15 can participate in Pop Warner football. Last year Okeechobee fielded five teams. Three leagues were eligible for the post season playoffs and Okeechobee had all three teams make the post season. Two of them went to the Treasure Coast Championships.

"I feel like the program is improving every year, and getting stronger, when it started people had their doubts, now there are a lot of travel league teams in Okeechobee, they see the advantages of playing better competition," he said.

Pop Warner will hold signups on Monday, **May 18**, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the soccer field complex. Signups are on a first come first serve basis.



Submitted photo/Teresa Chandler

Football stars visit

Chaka Smith held the 1st golf tournament to benefit Chaka's Stars. The tournament was a huge success. Seacoast sponsored a team including, Greg Giles, Billy White, Channing Crowder, Teresa Chandler and Billy Dean. for the tournament.

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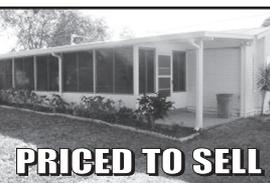
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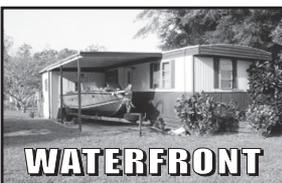
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Boy's basketball honors Jeune

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

David Jeune won almost all the awards Saturday night, most valuable player, best rebounder, best playmaker, and best defender, at the annual basketball banquet. However, he wasn't totally satisfied.

"I'm the only one to get awards. I wanted the other guys to get awards too. It's been a great four years. I worked hard and now I'm taking it to another level," he said.

Jeune recently signed a scholarship with the University of North Florida. He leaves Okeechobee with several records which include most rebounds in a season 429, career rebounds 1,381, most free throws in a career 521, and most blocked shots in a career, 229.

Coach Jon Enrico said giving Jeune these awards was a no brainer, "I've never seen in eight years somebody dominate across the board like he did. He was just phenomenal. It's just super, super stuff. He's earned it all because he's worked hard."

Corey White was named the Brahman award winner this year.

Okeechobee finished (15-14) but Coach Enrico is not satisfied. He thinks with a veteran corps of players on the squad next year,

the team should have higher goals. "It was a wonderful season. We just need to get it together and get the losses into single digits and see if we can make a run.

I think the future looks great. Economically it'll be a challenge. We look forward to having a lot of players coming back and we had a great JV team. We're excited. We've played three games this off season, and the kids are looking good, if they keep it up, we'll be pretty tough."

Brahman great John Hirst spoke to the group about having goals and working hard. He played Division I basketball at Stetson. He also encouraged the group to focus on academics.

He said a good motto to have is "And then some." Hirst explained you must do what's expected, and then some, to get where you want to go. "Work hard, give extra effort, study more, I worked hard and many people

told me I couldn't do it. I did. High school is a small, but important part of your life. It is the first step in a long journey."

Lettermen honored were Joey Voss, a scholar athlete, Ryan Osceola, Ricky Nieto, Troy Harper, Matt Skipper, Austin Willard, Daniel Mancil (videographer), Corey White, and Jeune.

Enrico said he hopes to host a team basketball clinic in early June, and have his team attend a summer camp at Florida Southern this summer. He said the team will have to raise more money this year as they will have to pay the costs of fuel, buses, and pay the bus driver next season. He noted the schedule will be pared back to 20 games.



John Hirst,
Speaker

A 'watchdog' with manners?



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OMS presents student athlete awards

Osceola Middle School athletes who received awards on Wednesday, May 6, include:

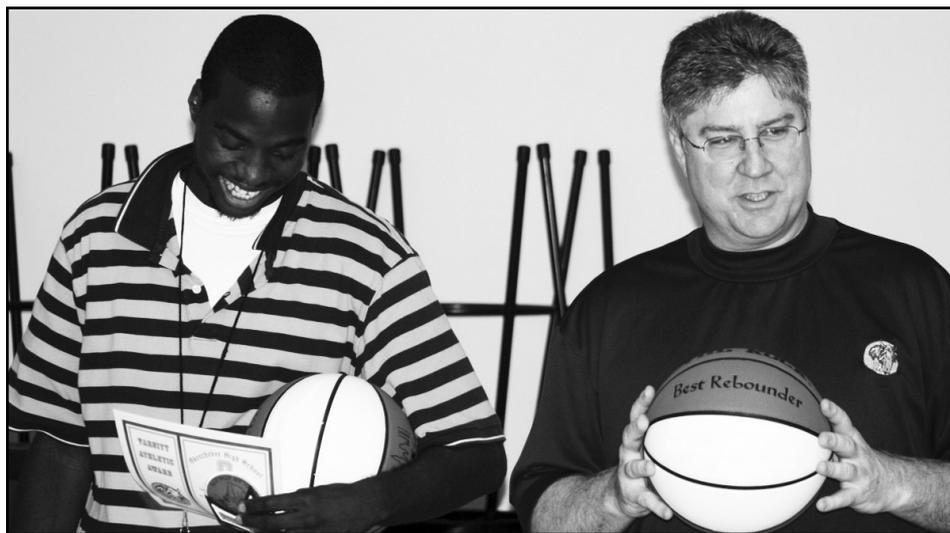
Soccer: Mr. Hustle- Francisco Bucio
Ms. Hustle- Maddison Hanner
Best Offensive Player- Hunter Pritchard
Best Defensive Player- Adel Elhindi
Warrior Award- Diego Rodriquez
Volleyball: Ms. Volleyball- Brooke Snyder
Best Offensive Player- Aubrey Robertson
Best Defensive Player- Darby Jones
Warrior Award- DJ Nunez
Girls basketball: Best Offensive Player- Amber Cunningham
Best Defensive Player- Thadricka Sanders
Ms. Hustle- Lauren Hazellief
Warrior Award- Maddison Hanner
Boys basketball: Best offensive Player- Eddie Neal
Best Defensive Player- Zachary Wingfield
Mr. Hustle- DJ Washington
Warrior Award- Dalton Murray

Community Event

Free VPK program about to open

A FREE Summer Voluntary Pre Kindergarten (VPK) program is available for children who will be entering kindergarten in the Fall. The program is taught by certified elementary teachers. Breakfast, lunch, and snack will be provided at no cost to the parent. The program will begin on Monday, June 8 and end on Friday, Aug. 21. This program is not income based. Child must have turned 4 on or before Sept. 1, 2008; Child must NOT have participated in a VPK program during the school year.

Please call the Early Learning Coalition at 863-357-1154 to schedule an appointment.



Coach Jon Enrico (right) hands out four awards to star player David Jeune, Saturday.

WATER'S EDGE DERMATOLOGY

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

NEW PATIENTS WELCOME

OKEECHOBEE
467-6767

301 NE 19th Drive
(Next to the hospital)

CLEWISTON
805-0030

112 S. WC Owens Ave.

www.wederm.com



Ted Schiff, M.D. Dwayne Montie, D.O. Mark Leach, R-PA Sharon Barribeau, ARNP John Minni, D.O.

Adult and Pediatric Dermatology

- Acne • Psoriasis • Eczema
- Skin, Hair & Nail Disorders
- MOHS Skin Cancer Surgery
- Skin Allergies and Rashes
- Laser Vein Treatments

Anti-Aging Treatments

- Botox® • Juvéderm™
- Radiesse® • Thermage®
- Restylane® • Perlane®
- Permanent Make-up

Removal of:

- Hair • Moles • Brown Spots
- Warts • Tattoos • Skin Tags



MEDICARE AND MOST INSURANCE ACCEPTED.



Classifieds



**TO PLACE YOUR AD GO TO:
WWW.NEWSZAP.COM**

CLICK ON CLASSIFIEDS
For Legal Ads Email:
legalads@newszap.com

For All Other Classified Ads Email:
classads@newszap.com

BUSINESS HOURS

✓ **Monday - Friday** 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

DEADLINES

✓ **Wednesday** 11 a.m. Tues. for Wed. publication
✓ **Friday** 11 a.m. Thurs. for Fri. publication
✓ **Sunday** 10 a.m. Fri. for Sun. publication

- All personal items under \$5,000 ABSOLUTELY FREE when placed online
- Ads phoned in subject to charge
- Price must be included in ad
- Private parties only
- 2 items per household per issue

newszap.com

Create Your Own Ads Online! Three weeks FREE ... It's Easy!

All personal items under \$5,000 ABSOLUTELY FREE!

Submit Your Free Classified Ad Today at WWW.NEWSZAP.COM - Click on Classifieds

Published 3 weeks in all of our Florida papers: Caloosa Belle, Clewiston News, Glades County Democrat, Immokalee Bulletin, Okeechobee News, and The Sun

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

Announcements

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

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Found

CAT - Super Size, Long Hair, Orange. Found off Rt. 70 (Between 60-64 Ave). (863)357-5867

Lost

CELL PHONE - Lost at the Pier 2 on Thursday night 5/7/09. Reward Offered (863)843-0759

Garage/Yard Sales

FREEDOM OUTREACH MINISTRY YARD SALE Okeechobee, Sun, 5/17th 9am-?, 912 NW 2nd St. (2 blocks west of the Meat Shoppe on NW 2nd St.) Furniture, Clothes, Toys, Electronics, H/H Items... Too much to list!

Garage/Yard Sales

HUGE MULTI-FAMILY SALE OKEECHOBEE - Fri., 5/13 & Sat., 5/14, 8am til 1pm, 2741 NE 54th Trail, **R-BAR**. Jewelry, purses, clothes, tools, toys. Hot tub (\$1000, great cond.)

OKEECHOBEE - 05/16/09 and 05/17/09, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., 15395NW30th Terrace. Hugemovingsale. Very-LowPrices. DVDs Clothes Books Toys Antique Furniture Dishes Coffee Mugs Cups Glasses, HomeDecoratoin Brand New Real Jade Bracelets Real Pearl Necklaces and a lot more...

Big Sale

OKEECHOBEE - Sat & Sun May 16th & 17th, 8am-5pm, 1145 NW 98th St. Small Kitch appls, Tools, Clothes, TV, Dishes, Fishing Tackle, 24' Cargo Trlr.

MULTI-FAMILY SALE

OKEECHOBEE - Saturday 5/16/09, 7am-3pm, 425 SE 16th Ave, 34974. 3 Family Yard Sale!! Tons of baby stuff!! And a little bit of something for everyone!!

Big Sale

OKEECHOBEE - Sunday, May 17th, 7am-2pm, 1579 Hwy 70 East. Furniture, clothes, Washer/Dryer, TV's, Home goods and more

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

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

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
For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Employment Full Time

A/C SERVICE TECH with minimum 5 yrs exp. Must have clean D/L & own tools. Good pay, benefits. DFWP. No phone calls accepted. Apply in person at 312 SW 2nd St., Okeechobee.

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

DRIVER/PUMP ATTENDANT NEEDED Must have CDL w/Hazmat and Tanker. Please apply in person at: **Gilbert Oil Company 303 N.W. 9th Street Okeechobee, FL**

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

Employment Full Time

Full Time Position Available
Feed Mill
Experience is a Must!
Benefits Available
Apply Within
Walpole Feed & Supply Co.
2595 NW 8th St.
Okeechobee

Employment Part Time

Part Time Handyman/Maintenance Man WANTED
Good Pay, good working conditions.
Please fax resume to
863-763-7874

Employment Part Time

ADVERTISE and Get Results
www.newszap.com
click on classifieds

Employment Full Time

Part Time Handyman/Maintenance Man WANTED
Good Pay, good working conditions.
Please fax resume to
863-763-7874

Employment Part Time

READING A NEWSPAPER ...
leads you to the best products and services.



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

Handyman Services

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

Merchandise

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Furniture

For Sale Water Bed Beautiful Queen complete with side rails \$400 obo
863-484-2052

Golf Clubs/Equipment

GOLF CLUBS - Ladies Lynx. Includes bag. \$60
(863)763-5265

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

Miscellaneous

CAMCORDER - Sony w/night vision. \$100
(863)763-5265

Pets/Supplies

Apple head toy Chihuahua's For Sale - mother weighs 6 lbs. & father weighs 3 lbs. 6" long by 3" tall.
618-841-1188

CHIHUAHUAS (4-) 2 Long Hair & 2 Short Hair. UKC Reg. w/health cert. \$400 ea (863)763-3073

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



Agriculture

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Horses

MISSOURI FOX TROTTER - Beautiful Gelding. For more info. call 863-634-5406

Seeds/Plants/Flowers

MESA PLANT WORLD -
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

FOR RENT
Rentals
For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

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

BEAUTIFUL 2BR, Close
to town. Newly renovat-
ed. Only \$750 mo. in-
cludes water. Pets
okay upon approval.
Call 561-255-4377

FIRST MONTHS RENT FREE - 2BR, 1BA Du-
plex. \$600 sec. dep. Lo-
cated 1 block from
County Tax Office. Call
(863)634-9850

Houses - Rent

AFFORDABLE NEW HOUSES - 3/2/2 and
3/1/1, tile floors, jacuzzi
tub, Bring Pets, Large
Yards (561)723-2226

DUPLEX 3BR, 2 BA,
Garbage pickup & Lawn
included. \$800 mo., 1st
& sec. (863)634-5283

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

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

LEAVE THE CITY - Live
in the country! 2/2
Share 20 acres. Horses
welcome! Call Buzz
(772)201-8230

LOG CABIN - 2BR,
1BA, Rim Canal. Pool &
Dock. Furnished w/Bed-
ding, Linens & Cookware.
(561)234-0277

OKEECHOBEE - 2/1 SW
section of town,
\$ 7 5 0 / m o .
863-357-1195

Houses - Rent

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

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

TREASURE ISLAND 2/2
Turn Key, Furn, dock,
\$975 mo., Satellite TV
incl. 772-287-7407

Office Space Rent

OKEECHOBEE - 820 sq.
ft. per unit-4 units avail.
Call (772)201-7473 &
ask about free rent.

Rooms To Rent

Rooms for rent in Taylor
Creek - Nice home good
location 863-430-6646

Waterfront Rentals

PRIVATE WATERFRONT
2 BR, W/D, Lg Maintained yard
\$850 Mo (F/L) \$500 Sec
Rent to own w/10 % down
(863)697-1280 or (863)467-8683

Real Estate
For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Houses - Sale

GREAT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY -
Single Family Home,
3 Hunter Rd., Okeecho-
bee, FL \$58,500
(786)231-9362

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

PLAYLAND PARK 3BR,
2BA on 5 acres, w/de-
tached metal dbl car-
port & util rm. 1/2 ml to
Seminole Elm Sch.
\$ 2 7 9 , 0 0 0
(863)467-7770

Mobile Homes
For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Mobile Home Rent

BHR - RVs for Rent,
starting \$300-\$500 &
1BR/1BA Cabin, 55+
park, seasonal or yearly.
(863)763-7164

Mobile Home Rent

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

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

DBL WIDE 3BR, 2BA,
C/Heat & Air, on 2+
acres. Close to high
school. \$850 mo., 1st &
last. Includes trash
pickup, water & lawn
maintenance. Call
(863)467-2563
(863)447-2172

Waterfront Rentals

PRIVATE WATERFRONT
2 BR, W/D, Lg Maintained yard
\$850 Mo (F/L) \$500 Sec
Rent to own w/10 % down
(863)697-1280 or (863)467-8683

Mobile Home Rent

SENIOR PARK - Over
55, 35' travel trailer
w/screen room,
\$600/mo + deposit
(863)824-0835

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

Mobile Home Sale

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

By Owner: Lake access
property, park mod-
el/with lg. Fla. rm. on
corner lot, gated adult
park, fully furn.,
\$78,000. 863-824-0687

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

Motorcycles

LIFAN 150CC 1999 -
Street legal scooter. 4
stroke. 70 original
miles. Brand new bat-
tery. Alarm. \$1200.
(863) 763 - 8581
(863)233-1561

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

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

Classic Cars

CHEVY P/U - '51, 80%
Complete w/350 Came-
ra eng. & Trans. \$3500
neg. (863)801-9136

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

Public Notice

CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Okeechobee will meet in Regular Session on **Tuesday, May 19, 2009, 6:00 p.m.** at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that no stenographic record by a certified court reporter will be made of the foregoing meeting. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at said meeting upon which any appeal is to be based. Please contact City Administration at 863-763-3372, or website www.cityofokeechobee.com, to obtain a copy of the agenda. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Clerk's Office at 863-763-3372 for assistance. by: James E. Kirk, Mayor Lane Gamiolea, CMC, City Clerk 319273 ON 5/15/09

CITY PLANNING BOARD/ BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND APPEALS MEETING NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Board/Board of Adjustment and Appeals will meet as the Local Planning Agency on **Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.** or as soon thereafter as possible to consider any proposed amendments, submitted by City Staff or citizens, to the Comprehensive Plan, which include the Land Development Regulations (LDRs). The meeting will be held at City Hall, 55 Southeast 3rd Avenue, in the Council Chambers, Room 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that no stenographic record by a certified court reporter will be made of the foregoing meeting. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at said meeting upon which any appeal is to be based. Please contact Betty Clement at 863-763-3372, or website www.cityofokeechobee.com, to obtain a copy of the agenda. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the General Services Office at 863-763-3372 for assistance. BY: Brian Whitehall, Zoning Administrator 319275 ON 5/15/09

NOTICE OF FORFEITURE COMPLAINT
On March 5, 2009 in Okeechobee, Florida the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office seized and holds one yellow 2005 Ford Truck, VIN#1FTSW21P15EA53606, Florida tag no. NC800F. A Complaint has been filed in the Circuit Court in Okeechobee County, Florida.

Sherrif Paul May
Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office
(863) 634-9231
320133 ON 5/8,15/09

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
CASE NO.: 2009-CP-74

IN RE: ESTATE OF
DONALD THOMAS MILLER,
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the Estate of Donald Thomas Miller, deceased, whose date of death was March 10, 2009, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representatives and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice May 8th, 2009.

Attorney for Personal Representatives:
GLENN J. SNEIDER, ESQ.
Florida Bar No. 280461
Glenn J. Snieder, LC
200 SW 9th Street
Okeechobee, FL 34974
(863) 467-6570
Personal Representatives:
GLENN R. MILLER
977 Pawnee Drive
Poutage Des Soux, MO 63373
320276 ON 5/8,15/09

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
Case No. 2009-CP-47

IN RE: ESTATE OF
LOWELL TURNER
Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Lowell Turner, deceased, whose date of death was August 11, 2008, and whose social security number is 291-24-7234, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is May 8th, 2009.

Personal Representative:
Robin Woodyard
6460 Woodyard Court
Loveland, OH 45140
Attorney for Personal Representative:
ANTHONY YOUNG, P.A.
Attorney for Robin Woodyard
Florida Bar No. 0172693
1138 South Parrott Avenue
Okeechobee, FL 34974
Telephone: (863) 824-6776
Fax: (863) 824-6778
320269 ON 5/8,15/09

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
File No.: 09-CP-88
Division Probate

IN RE: ESTATE OF
KATHERINE ROSELLA
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Katherine Rosella Gladd, deceased, whose date of death was October 27, 2008, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW Third Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is 5/15/09.

Personal Representative:
Mary J. Ekstein
9576 SW Adams Street
Okeechobee, Florida 34974
Attorney for Personal Representative:
Elizabeth Maxwell
Attorney for Mary J. Ekstein
Florida Bar No. 720895
Maxwell & Maxwell, P.A.
405 NW 3rd Street
Okeechobee, FL 34972
Telephone: (863) 763-1119
Fax: (863) 763-1179
320826 ON 5/15,22/09

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2009-CA-164
JUDGE: F. SHIELDS McMANUS

DAVID NUNEZ, JR., and
ANITA NUNEZ, HIS WIFE,
Plaintiff,

vs.
Estate of ISAAC ZACK ARLIQUIN, deceased and all other heirs, persons or parties claiming by, through, under or against ISAAC ZACK ARLIQUIN or the Estate of ISAAC ZACK ARLIQUIN, deceased, and JENNIFER GRASSO,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: **ESTATE OF ISAAC ZACK ARLIQUIN**, whose last known address was in the State of Florida; and all parties claiming interest by, through, under or against the Estate of Isaac Zack Arliquin, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property herein described.
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Complaint to Foreclose on the following described real property, to-wit:

LOT 5, BLOCK 16, BET-HER ACRES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 12, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to JOHN D. CASSELS, JR., Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is Post Office Box 968, 400 Northwest 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34973, on or before the 7th day of June, 2009 and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's Attorney or immediately thereafter, otherwise a Default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. This Notice shall be published once each week for two (2) consecutive weeks in the "Okeechobee News."
DATED this 4th day of May, 2009.

SHARON ROBERTSON
Clerk of the Circuit Court

BY: Arlene Nealis
DEPUTY CLERK
319977 ON 5/8,15/09

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2009TD008
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **CRYSTAL I LLC** 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: **614** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2007**
Description of Property: **LOT 6 OF TRACT 29 W1/2 OF E1/2 OF S1/2 OF N1/2 OF TRACT 29 22 34S 33E 1-22-34-33-000-00029-G000**
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed:
HAZEL E BARNES ESTATE
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 **18th day of June, 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
320978 ON 5/15,22,29;6/5/09

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2009TD006
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **CRYSTAL I LLC** 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: **63** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2007**
Description of Property: **LOTS C AND D OF TRACT 5 E1/2 OF W1/2 OF N1/2 OF N1/2 OF TRACT 5 09 34S 33E 1-09-34-33-000-00005-C000**
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed:
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 **18th day of June, 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
320961 ON 5/15,22,29;6/5/09

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 1-18-37-35-0020-00061-0030**
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed:
ROSA LEE STURIKS
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
317173 ON 4/24;5/1,8,15/09

NOTICE OF SALE To Satisfy Owners Lien
70 West Self Storage
2190 SR70 West
Okeechobee, FL 34972
Sat. May 23, 2009 @ 9:30 AM
Unit #120 Kelly D. Haight
Unit #220 Crystal Garcia
Unit #238 Hester M. Howard
Unit #406 Kenneth R. Yates
Unit #424 Kiley N. Jackson
Unit #255 Paula Krohmer
Unit #454 Kevin N. Johnson
Unit #455 Jeff Robinson
319738 ON 5/8,15/09

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

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

Public Notice

TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Technical Review Committee of the City of Okeechobee will meet in Regular Session on Thursday, May 21, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida.

Public Notice

tim record of the testimony and evidence at said meeting upon which any appeal is to be based. Please contact Betty Clement at 863-763-3372, or website www.cityofokeechobee.com, to obtain a copy of the agenda.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2009TD007
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that CRYSTAL I LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

Public Notice

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 18th day of June, 2009.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2009TD009
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that CRYSTAL I LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

Public Notice

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 18th day of June, 2009.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2009TD009
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that CRYSTAL I LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

Public Notice

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 18th day of June, 2009.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED SPECIAL EXCEPTION
NOTICE: A PUBLIC HEARING will be held before the City of Okeechobee Planning Board/Board of Adjustment and Appeals on Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Avenue, Room 200, Okeechobee, Florida.

Public Notice

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 18th day of June, 2009.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2009TD005
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that CRYSTAL I LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2009TD010
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that CRYSTAL I LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2009TD011
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that CRYSTAL I LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF HEARING
Okeechobee County Code Enforcement
Special Magistrate
The Okeechobee County Special Magistrate will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2009TD010
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that CRYSTAL I LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2009TD012
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that CRYSTAL I LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2009TD012
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that CRYSTAL I LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2009TD012
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that CRYSTAL I LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF HEARING
Okeechobee County Code Enforcement
Special Magistrate
The Okeechobee County Special Magistrate will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF HEARING
Okeechobee County Code Enforcement
Special Magistrate
The Okeechobee County Special Magistrate will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

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

Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS
1 Store
5 Jewish star
10 Ponzi scheme, e.g.
14 First name in detection
15 Soften
16 Fizzy drink
17 Caterer's minimal requirement?
19 Bounce
20 Synthetic fabric
21 Slip-up in the pulpit?
23 Frank McCourt memoir
24 Some time
26 No longer out, in a way
27 Stayed with
29 Sch. monitor?
31 Creator of Kissy and Pussy
32 Place at the track?
33 Bushy do
34 Writes
35 Reveille duettists?
39 Reason for weight loss?
40 "The Thin Man" actress
41 Small sack?
42 Monopoly purchases: Abbr.
43 Big mouth
44 Most red
47 Flip over
49 Out of shape?
50 Biennial games org.
52 Lumberjack's lament?
55 Muppet with a pet worm
57 Impertinent sort
58 Driver's request, and a hint to this puzzle's theme
60 Playground comeback
61 Opening
62 "Unhappily ..."
63 1986 World Series winners
64 Discrimination
65 "Peer ..."

- DOWN
1 Schnozzle
2 Swedish golfer
3 If not
4 Okefenokee
5 Chinese chairman
6 Out
7 Quark-binding particle
8 House of Lords title
9 MSG site
10 Make a point
11 Palace attendant
12 Non-medalists
13 Some prison guards
18 Ford : RESCU :: GM : _
22 Hunk of history
25 Alan Freed's undoing
28 "Swan Lake" movement
29 Debate side
30 Froot Loops mascot
33 Shoestrings, maybe
34 Ale brewer Slosberg
35 "So sorry"
36 Cause of a bad burn?
37 Dandy
38 More or less
39 "Smokey and the Bandit" car
43 Red-berry bearer
44 Vacation location
45 Island north of Malta
46 Without exception
48 Jobs for towers
49 Commonly biennial garden plants
51 Top
53 Having words daughter, in a TV drama
56 Alone
59 One of them?

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
S W A B A D H O C G E N X
K A R O I R I N A A N T E
I M A M R O S E M A D D E R
D U M B D O W N O F U S E
O U S S C U L P T S
L I B E R T Y P A R T Y
A T R I A O L E
O R A N G E F R E E S T A T E
S Y N M O N C O C O A
C O T T O N M A T H E R
C A L Y P S O O I L
A D O R E B O N A F I D E
S U G A R D A D D Y L A R A
C L A R C A R L A A G A R
A T N O L U M E N B O W L

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16
17 18 19
20 21 22
23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30 31
32 33 34
35 36 37 38
39 40 41
42 43 44 45 46
47 48 49 50 51
52 53 54 55 56
57 58 59
60 61 62
63 64 65

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Love the earth Recycle your used items by selling them in the classifieds.
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REQUEST FOR BIDS
The Okeechobee Utility Authority (OUA) will receive Sealed Bids, for the purpose of purchasing materials only for the following Project:
24-Inch Water Main Installation - Phase I
Detailed specifications and the bid package for the purchase of the materials are available upon request from the office of the Executive Director, Okeechobee Utility Authority, 100 SW 5th Avenue, Telephone: 863-763-9460, Facsimile 863-763-9036.

NOTICE OF MEETING
Okeechobee County Construction Industry Licensing Board
The Okeechobee County Construction Industry Licensing Board will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2009, @ 3:30 P.M. The public meeting will be held at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, located at the 1728 N.W. 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.



THROWING HEAT!

Summer Savings Sale!

0% for 60 mos.*



Stock # 91221178

2009 Mazda3 TOURING VE
was \$21,460

SALE PRICE **\$14,977⁺**

AUTOMATIC

The ALL New
2010 MAZDA3
is Here.



29 MPG

Stock # 95M26311

2009 Mazda6
was \$22,215

SALE PRICE **\$15,977⁺**

TAKE A TEST
DRIVE TODAY!



Stock # 90337122

2009 Mazda5
was \$22,770

SALE PRICE **\$16,977⁺**

27 MPG



Stock # 90238235

2009 Mazda CX7
was \$27,565

SALE PRICE **\$19,477⁺**

23 MPG

FREE LIFETIME WARRANTY** WITH THE PURCHASE OF A USED VEHICLE



LIFETIME WARRANTY

05 MAZDA3 TOURING
Auto, Clean

\$7,777⁺



LIFETIME WARRANTY

01 MAZDA MIATA LS
40k miles, Automatic, One Owner

\$9,977⁺



LIFETIME WARRANTY

06 TOYOTA COROLLA S
All the options

\$11,477⁺



LIFETIME WARRANTY

06 HONDA CIVIC EX COUPE
Auto, Sharp

\$12,977⁺



LIFETIME WARRANTY

07 MAZDA CX7 GT
AWD, 20 K Miles

\$17,977⁺



LIFETIME WARRANTY

06 FORD F-150 SUPER CREW
SLT 5.4 Liter, Good Looker

\$17,977⁺



LIFETIME WARRANTY

07 MAZDA RX-8
7 K Miles, Auto, Sport Coupe

\$18,777



LIFETIME WARRANTY

06 LEXUS GS 300
Nav., pearl white, all the options

\$21,997⁺



LIFETIME WARRANTY

07 CHEVY SUBURBAN LT
20k Miles, Lots of Extras

\$29,977⁺

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SHOWROOM HOURS : Mon-Sat 8:30am-8pm • Sun 11am-6pm

SERVICE HOURS : Mon-Fri 7:30am-6pm • Sat 8am-1pm

Prices good on publication day only. All offers with approved credit to qualified buyers, plus tax, tag and \$799 dealer fee. Offers may not be used in conjunction. Prices are after rebates and equitable incentives including, but not limited to, owner loyalty and are assigned to dealer. All incentives are assigned to dealer and are not applicable to all customers. All vehicles subject to prior sale plus dealer installed options. Pictures for illustration only. *Excluding SRT & diesel models on new vehicles & used vehicles over 100,000 miles. **With approved credit to qualified buyers 750+Beacon credit score required on select models.

1555 Indiantown Rd, Jupiter



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Savings!



Stock #9D104114

2009 DODGE CALIBER SXT
was \$22,728

SALE PRICE **\$14,977⁺**

Final
Blowout
Prices



Stock # 8F152875

2008 DODGE DURANGO SXT
was \$33,303

SALE PRICE **\$18,977⁺**



Stock # 8J228709

2008 DODGE RAM 1500 QUAD
was \$39,718

SALE PRICE **\$22,977⁺**



Stock # 8H236932

2008 DODGE CHARGER SRT8
was \$45,480

SALE PRICE **\$29,977⁺**

CREDIT PROBLEMS? BANKRUPTCY? REPOSSESSIONS? 1ST TIME BUYER?
SLOW PAY? COLLECTIONS? **WE CAN HELP!**



03 DODGE RAM 1500 SLT
Professionally Maintained

\$4,977⁺



02 DODGE CARAVAN SE
Lifetime Warranty, One Owner, Sharp

\$5,477⁺



05 DODGE RAM 1500
38K, Miles, Clean, Final Markdown

\$9,977⁺



08 DODGE AVENGER SE
Satellite Radio, Value

\$10,977⁺



08 DODGE CALIBER SXT
Two to choose from Hurry

\$10,977⁺



08 DODGE MAGNUM SE
1 Owner, Whisper Quiet, Auto

\$12,977⁺



08 DODGE CARAVAN
Alloys, Built in Child Seats, Rack

\$13,977⁺



06 JEEP COMMANDER
30K Miles, DVD, Rear AC, 3rd Seat

\$15,977⁺



06 CHRYSLER 300C

\$16,477⁺

Jupiter DODGE

Open 24/7 @ www.jupitermazda.com **866-404-7184**

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1555 Indiantown Rd, Jupiter

