

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 100 No. 86

Sunday, July 19, 2009

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US Sugar purchase moves forward

Lake coalition hears updates on Everglades restoration and recent legislation

By Pete Gawda
 Okeechobee News

It was a busy morning for members of the County Coalition for Responsible Management of Lake Okeechobee, St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries and Lake Worth Lagoon. They met in Okeechobee Friday morning July 17 and heard updates on the 2009 legislature, the acquisition of U.S. Sugar property for Everglades restoration and water and economic development.

The coalition is made up of county commissioners represent-

ing Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Martin, Lee, Palm Beach, Hendry, Glades, Highlands, Osceola and Polk counties.

Lee County Commissioner Ray Judah reported that his county had passed an ordinance prohibiting the use of fertilizers containing phosphorus from June to September to cut down on phosphorous runoff.

Commissioner Russel Echols of Glades County expressed a desire that counties be paid in perpetuity a fair and just fee to compensate for property taken off the tax roles to be used in for Everglades restoration.

Ernie Barnett, director of legislative affairs for South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD),

gave the coalition an overview of recent legislation that would benefit conservation causes.

He explained the new legislation that directs the executive director of SFWMD to sign permits rather than requiring approval of the board of governors.

"To me that is an unmitigated disaster," stated Commissioner Judah.

Mr. Barnett noted that there would be public meetings with the executive director before permits are approved and that if a permit is denied, it could be appealed to the board of governors.

Martin County Commissioner Sarah Heard expressed the opinion that the change would make it harder to track permits.

Mr. Barnett also gave an update on the purchase of U.S. Sugar land for Everglades restoration. The purchase of 180,000 acres was announced last June. This land was to be used to increase water storage, deliver cleaner water to the Everglades, prevent tons of phosphorous from entering the Everglades, eliminate the need for back pumping and the sustainable of agriculture and green energy production.

In December the purchase price of \$1.34 billion was approved. However, earlier this year the purchase was scaled down in order to be affordable, prevent any new taxes, sustain agriculture and

See Purchase — Page 2

Former Brahman doesn't let disability keep him down

By Charles M. Murphy
 Okeechobee News

September 23, 1981 is a day David Gant will always remember.

He was helping to install a sewer line near a lift station west of Okeechobee when a 16 foot trench caved in, burying him under 20 tons of dirt.

He suffered a broken back and is now a T4 paraplegic. His condition left him paralyzed from the waist down. He does have complete full head and neck movement, and the full use of his arms, wrists and fingers.

He uses these abilities to good use as the former basketball and track star has continued his interests in sports.

Today he is ranked in the top 20 in the world in wheel chair tennis.

"I had to find something to do," he said. "I got tired of playing basketball. You get to meet different people and go different places."

Mr. Gant read books, learned the rules, and got into wheel chair tennis. He uses a 27 pound titanium wheelchair that has tilted wheels for extra mobility.

He has been able to travel a lot and play tennis. He noted in third world countries he played against players with home made wheel chairs and poor equipment.

"You get to go to different countries and meet different people with disabilities. It makes me thankful for what we have," he added.

One of his greatest memories is playing tennis at the site of the U.S. Open in New York, Arthur Ashe stadium.

Mr. Gant plays in tournaments that are sanctioned by the United States Tennis Association. He was ranked 14th in the nation in 2007, good for second in the state of Florida.

He has also remained active

See Gant — Page 9



Submitted photo
David Gant lost the use of his legs in an accident when he was buried under tons of dirt while installing a sewer line, but he continues to excel as an athlete.

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Purchase

Continued From Page 1

minimize the impact to local communities.

The revised agreement calls for purchase of 73,000 acres for \$536 million with an option to purchase the remaining 107,000 acres during the first 10 years. The closing date for the sale is set to occur 90 days after bond validation. This is predicted to be sometime between April and June of next year.

"These lands were handpicked by our engineers," Mr. Barnett said of the smaller purchase.

Of the land purchased, 3,000 acres will be available for local government use. To ease the economic impact of the loss of agricultural lands, SFWMD is spending \$2 million in fiscal year 2009 in Hendry and Glades counties and the tri-cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay. The district will be committing additional funds to economic development of the area including hiring of an economic development director and regional coordination.

According to the amended agreement, U.S. Sugar can lease back part of the land for agricultural use for up to 20 years.

Temperince Morgan discussed the planning that is going into the project. To date 10 water resource advisory commission workshops have been held as part of Phase I to discuss such topics as identifying problems, objectives and constraints, modelling tools, maps and land information. Several hypothetical configurations were examined. Phase II will soon start. This will involve using the findings of Phase I as a starting point

for more detailed planning and analysis.

Susan Sylvester, director of operations for SFWMD, stated the period November through May was the driest six month period on record. However, May and June have been the wettest months since 1932. So far, rainfall in July has been slightly above average.

"There is nobody in this room that can say where we will go from here," she added.

The coalition also heard from private consultant Forest Michael on water and economic development. He gave examples of how lakes and reservoirs can be used for water treatment and storage as well as ecotourism activities such as fishing, canoeing and bird watching. He stated that lakes and reservoirs can store excess water cheaper than some of the other methods proposed. He noted that all ten counties in the coalition have lakes and that in addition to being affordable, his method benefited the community.

Commissioner Judah stated that the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Pro-

Okeechobee Forecast

Sunday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 92. Calm wind becoming southwest around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Sunday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 71. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

EXTENDED FORECAST

Monday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 87. Southeast wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Monday Night: A slight chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 72. East wind around 5 mph becoming calm. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tuesday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 88. East wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Tuesday Night: A slight chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 75. East wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

gram is a dismal failure because there is not enough water storage. Coalition members expressed so much interest in Mr. Michael's presentation that they decided to devote the entire agenda of their next meeting to that topic.

Col. Paul Grosskruger, commander of the Jacksonville District of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, will soon retire. The coalition passed a resolution commending the colonel for his work on Lake Okeechobee and Everglades restoration issues and expressed the desire that the Department of the Army, the Department of the Interior and the State of Florida consider appointing Col. Grosskruger to a position where he can continue to work with Everglades restoration.

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

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Lotteries

The Florida Lottery: Numbers selected Thursday in the Florida Lotto are: **Cash 3:** 0-5-3; **Play 4:** 3-8-9-5; **Fantasy 5:** 19-28-31-35-36. Numbers selected Friday are: **Cash 3:** 5-0-8; **Play 4:** 2-6-3-2.

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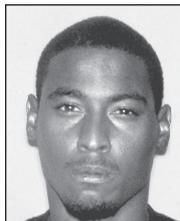
Okeechobee's Most Wanted

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

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

William David Helms, DOB 2/11/1977, 5 ft 11 in - Third Degree Grand Theft.

Felicia Jean Pringle - DOB - 7/23/1987, 5 ft 5 in, 130lbs - VOP - Grand theft, posses-



Ethan Eugene Harris II

session of hydrocodone, possession Alprazolam.

Jesse James Lyng, DOB 2/9/1983, 6 ft, 1 in, 210 lbs - Possession Carisoprodol, Resisting w/o violence.

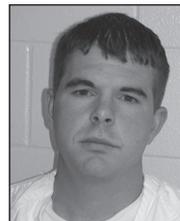
Brandon Wayne Ellis, DOB 4/11/1984, 5 ft, 6 inches, VOP - Grand Theft Auto, Bur-



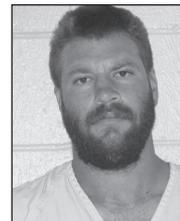
William David Helms



Felicia Jean Pringle



Brandon Wayne Ellis



Jesse James Lyng

glary structure, grand theft.
Ethan Eugene Harris II, DOB 12-15-1982, 5 ft. 8 in., 150 lb., From Belle Glade. Wanted for attempted murder with a firearm. Caution: Armed and dangerous.

Arrest Report

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

• Andrew Mark Richards, 17, N.W. 15th St., Okeechobee, was arrested July 16 by Deputy Joseph Hall on take and hold warrants charging him with burglary of a conveyance, violation of probation - burglary of a conveyance and violation of probation - grand theft. After being booked into the Okeechobee County Jail he was taken to the Department of Juvenile Justice Detention Center in Fort Pierce.

• Howard Vincent Sims, Jr., 57, S.W. 11th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested July 16 by Deputy Donnie Holmes on an Indian River County warrant charging him with violation of probation - trafficking in cocaine. His bond was set at \$2,500.

• Quinesha M. Ash, 15, N.W. Second St., Okeechobee, was arrested July 16 by DOC's M. Jonassaint on a charge of violation of probation - aggravated assault. She was released on her own recognizance.

This column lists arrests and not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Anyone listed here who is later found innocent or has had the charges against them dropped is welcome to inform this newspaper. The information will be confirmed and printed.

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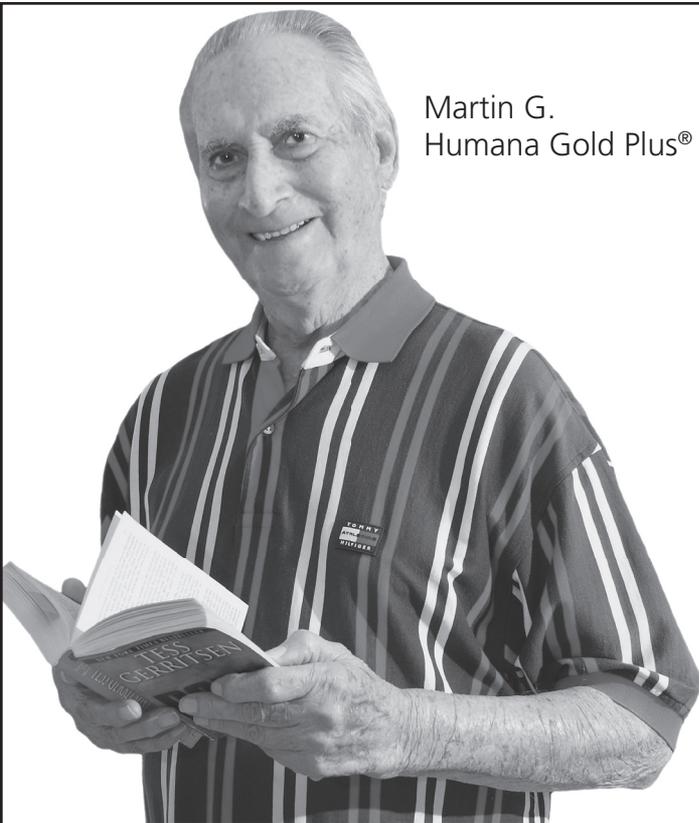
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Public Forum/Speak Out

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

Mustangs abandoned in Hendry County

• In the news, 20 wild mustangs were rounded up in Hendry County after apparently being abandoned by whoever originally adopted them from the Bureau of Land Management. They were on the news and they looked pretty bad. If anyone wants to help donate some feed or adopt one of the horses, contact the Hendry County Sheriff's Office at 863-673-6114 or Investigator Charles White at cwhite@hendrysheriff.org. I know some people in Okeechobee County have some experience adopting and training mustangs so maybe someone can help these horses.

• My husband saw these horses and they were really poor. He said someone cut the fence and dumped them out on the ranch. It seems that the horses wouldn't be that hard to track down since they were adopted and hopefully has a tat or some type of tracker. After all they had to have health papers to cross state lines and there aren't that many mustangs that come to Florida.

• Mustangs are freeze branded with a code that identifies where they came from and I believe each has an individual number so they can go back to the BLM records and find out who adopted these horses. I hope they press animal cruelty charges against them. Just dumping the horses is wrong and cruel.

• What is the proper, legal and caring thing to do if you find yourself degrading from good financial times in which you are able to provide the expensive care for a bunch of horses and then quite suddenly are not? I am thinking that many people may have come upon these times and cannot find anyone to take them. Do the county humane societies have the resources to take that many if they were called upon to do so? I realize that it is believed these horses were acquired out west. I hope we are enlightened about the reasons if they ever find out who dumped them. I know of some people who used to go out to Oklahoma and get some and bring them back to Michigan to sell. What if someone had orders for 20 horses, went and got them, and then found out their people would not take them? All very hypothetical, I know. It's about the same as dropping cats or dogs off near a farm except for the size.

Health care

• I just found out I qualify for medical through the VA. I had always thought that I had to serve during a declared war or had to be a disabled vet., or retired from the service to qualify. With my income right now I have no copay, but even if (hopefully soon) my pay increases the copays are still better than any insurance I have ever had, with no premium to pay. I feel like a kid at Christmas. I have not had insurance in over 10 years, and at my age, and a few health problems I know I have (diabetic, arthritic, and I believe my blood pressure is on the rise, I'm sure my cholesterol is not the best) This was like a gift.

• For those who have been in the military, you should look into the VA system. The following link will take you to the application area. If you have (or know someone who has) just gotten out of the Service, you should immediately apply. You have 365 days to apply where EVERYTHING in your medical record becomes "Service Connected." Why is this important? Because a young man's pain becomes an old man's misery. Even if your injury is rated at 0, it becomes "Service Connected." The link is <https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/>



Nubbin Slough

• If people are hunting alligators, I guess it makes sense they would just go down to Nubbin Slough since the big reptiles are sighted there on a regular basis. But they should get a permit and do it right during hunting season. Because if you hunt alligators out of season or without a permit, you get in a lot of trouble with the law.

Donations

• With the problems with the economy, I know people can't donate cash the way they did in previous years. But you can still help the community by donating items you no longer need. Real Life Children's Ranch accepts donations for their charity yard sale. Hospice and Goodwill both accept donations of household goods and clothing. The new Habitat Restore accepts furniture and household items. Okeechobee Special Equestrians accepts donations of junked cars. You get a tax credit for donating these things that you no longer need. So clean out the closets and the attic and do a little good for your community.

Flu shots

• Does anyone know how many cases are in Okeechobee? I don't want my kids becoming the guinea pigs. Editor's note: According to the Okeechobee County Health Department, as of July 6 there were six confirmed cases of H1N1 virus in Okeechobee County.

• Personally I have not had a flu shot since I was in the Army because it was mandatory every time I would get one I would get the flu worse than it would if I hadn't gotten one. Its been 30 years since then and have had the flu maybe twice since then. I wont be getting it and neither will child.

• The H1N1 seems to be dangerous for certain high risk groups but not much different from other flu for most people. I think they need to educate the public and let people make their own decisions about vaccinations. Some of these vaccinations cause more problems than they solve. I don't think I want my child to get this shot. Most older kids and healthy adults who get the flu have a mild case and build up their own natural immunity. I think they should just make it voluntary and make the shots available at no cost at the county health departments for those who want them.

• What are the symptoms of H1N1 flu? How do we know if we have it? Editor's note: According to the Center for Disease Control, *The symptoms of novel H1N1 flu virus in people are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. A significant number of people who have been infected with this virus also have reported diarrhea and vomiting. Also, like seasonal flu, severe illnesses and death has occurred as a result of illness associated with this virus. The only way to be certain that you have it is with blood tests. According to the CDC, "if you live in areas where people have been identified with novel H1N1 flu and become ill with influenza-like symptoms, including fever, body aches, runny or stuffy nose, sore throat, nausea, or vomiting or diarrhea, you should stay home and avoid contact with other people. Staying at home means that you should not leave your home except to seek medical care. This means avoiding normal activities, including work, school, travel, shopping, social events, and public gatherings. If you have severe illness or you are at high risk for flu complications, contact your health care provider or seek medical care. Your health care provider will determine whether flu testing or treatment is needed. If you become ill and experience any of the following warning signs, seek emergency medical care.*

"In children, emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing;
- Bluish or gray skin color;
- Not drinking enough fluids;
- Severe or persistent vomiting;
- Not waking up or not interacting;
- Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held;

-- Flu-like symptoms improve, but then return with fever and worse cough.

"In adults, emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath;
- Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen;
- Sudden dizziness;
- Confusion;
- Severe or persistent vomiting; and,
- Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough."

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

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- To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues.

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



Reflections from the Pulpit

By Rev. Pauline G. Livatt

Pastor, Saint Stephens A.M.E. Church

Undertaking our Ministry

The mission of the church is to minister to the spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional and environmental needs of all people by spreading Christ's liberating gospel through word and deed. Every local church is to seek out and save the lost, and serve the needy through a continuing program of preaching the gospel, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, housing the homeless, providing jobs for the jobless, administering to the needs of those in prisons, hospitals, nursing homes, asylums

and mental institutions, senior citizens' homes; caring for the sick, the shut-in, the mentally and socially disturbed and encouraging thrift and economic advancement.

When we undertake our ministry we often hear:

"Oh, that will never work."

"Been there, done that."

"We've tried to feed the hungry, and look, we have more hungry."

How many times have you heard that as your community poses a new idea, or a new ministry? How many times have you said it?

I wonder how many of those responses were on the tip of Peter's tongue as this itinerant preacher tells an experienced fisherman

where to fish. I wonder what caught Peter's imagination and encouraged him to try again. Perhaps it was the deeper water. Jesus said, "Cast your net on the right side of the ship, and you will find." (John 21:6) Jesus invites Peter and us to "fish" in deeper water where we cannot easily see the fish or the bottom, out into places beyond our depth.

When a community of faith begins a ministry, it generally starts small and grows. Yes, world hunger is a problem, especially in our community. Let's start a food pantry, a clothing ministry, and mentoring programs for the families and children in our community. We also need to come up with ways to provide jobs for the jobless and give them training sessions on

how to apply and to dress for a job. This will reduce the crime rate within our community.

What if we dare to fish in the deeper water? The problem isn't the lack of people that serve the community, it's the lack of service to the community. For people of faith who undertake ministries of compassion and justice this story carries an important message. If we dare to move into deeper territory (the broader need) the results can be awesome (our nets will be full). The story also suggests that we will need partners to land our catch successfully.

What stands in your way of taking Jesus' advice, of following Jesus' call? What keeps you from casting your nets into deeper water? The catch may be beyond your wildest dreams.

Letter to the Editor

2009/2010 County Budget

Concerning the July 10, Okeechobee News report on the budget plans by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). My first comment is to remind the BOCC whom they work for and as one of those, I do not want to see any additional taxes or assessment increases. Just remember that additional equipment, even if donated, cost to keep maintained. That the BOCC is asking the constitutional officers to reduce their budgets, reasonable request to a degree. These are the same offices who will return a large amount to the county to try to offset the shortfall for this year.

I am really concerned about the sheriff's office. I can work around the offices of the other elected officials being closed a half day

a week, but not the sheriff. The sheriff is, from what I understand, already reducing his budget estimate by some \$1,000,000 and now you want an additional cut of some \$1,300,000. I think the sheriff can do this, no problem, just do not supply the security for the court house and drop the jail from your responsibility. I guess the BOCC may not realize these are not your responsibility unless you select to do so. This will reduce your expenses by millions and leave you with much less of a headache. I think you told them it would cost \$1 million plus for the new courthouse security, how soon they forget.

So back to the BOCC. Let me say once again that the Agri-Civic Center is costing over \$1,000,000 per year above what it generates and is therefore subsidized by the tax payers.

(3rd quarter report ready yet BOCC?) Close it down and open only for the rodeo and maybe the fair and ag sale. You could send the employees to the court house security and to run the jail and the inmates maintain the ag center while not in use.

As for Mr. Bonner, I would suggest he look at his immediate staff and their expenses. This needs to be reviewed, maybe I'll do that. As for the remainder of the county employees I am sure none wants to lose their job but something will have to be done. Some paid holidays changed to non-paid holidays; sick pay for sick people. Any employee who receives a gross pay of a given amount has a percent reduction on an increasing scale. Reduce by 1 percent below \$30K a year then 1 percent (or more) for each \$10K increase; (30,000.01

to 39,999.99 at 2 percent etc.). And naturally no pay increases and continued freeze on replacement of employees unless required by statute.

Just a reminder to those who are on a fixed Social Security income, no Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA) for two years thanks to our congress and Mr. Change Obama. I was so happy to see he got a good room for the G8 conference, only cost \$13,000 per night. So the 50,000,000 million on Social Security think again at election time. Someone can keep his change and give me my money back.

Tax time is soon upon us, save your money so we can pay \$3,000 per day on the Agri-Civic Center to grow grass.

Have a nice day,
Tom Murphy

Community Calendar

SUNDAY

A.A. meeting from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St. It will be an open step meeting.

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

MONDAY

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

Okeechobee Senior Singers will meet at 9 a.m. at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 North Parrott Ave. Everyone who enjoys singing is invited to join the group. For information or to schedule an appearance, contact Patsy Black at 863-467-7068.

The **Okeechobee Historical Society** meets at noon at 1850 U.S. 98 N. Join us with a covered dish for lunch, followed by a business meeting. The dues are \$10 per person, per year, and are due in September. For information, call Betty Williamson at 863-763-3850.

Artful Appliquers is a recently formed chapter in Okeechobee. This chapter meets at the Turtle Cove Clubhouse, 10 Linda Road, in Buckhead Ridge on Mondays from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. All are welcome. For information call 863-763-6952.

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

TUESDAY

Civil Air Patrol set to meet

The Civil Air Patrol meets each Tuesday evening at the Okeechobee Airport T-Hanger #1, meetings start at 7:30 p.m. For information please call Capt. Joe Papasso 561-252-0916 or Lt. Greg Gernat 863-697-9915 **Rotary Club of Okeechobee** meets each Tuesday at noon at Golden Corral Restaurant, 700 S. Parrott Ave. The meetings are open to the public. For information, contact Maureen Budjinski at 863-484-0110.

New Beginnings Narcotics Anonymous meets at The Gathering Church, 735 SW 24th Ave, at 7 p.m. in the youth building behind the church. For information, call Monika at 801-3244 or Rocy at 610-0975.

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

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

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

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

Family History Center meets from 1 until 5 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 310 S.W. Sixth St. Anyone interested in finding who your ancestors are is welcome to attend. For more information, call The Family History Center at 863-763-6510 or Richard Smith at 863-261-5706 for special appointments.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Compulsive overeaters are invited to a weekly meeting. **Overeaters Anonymous (OA)** meets at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Avenue on Tuesdays, 6 until 7 p.m. (Use 4th Street entrance.) Overeaters Anonymous is not a diet club. 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.

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

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

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

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Community Events

Sons of the American Legion host Steak Dinner

The Sons of the American Legion will sponsor their monthly ribeye steak dinner on Sunday, **July 19**, from 3 until 6 p.m. at the American Legion Post 64, 501 SE Second Street.

Dinner includes steak, baked potato, salad, roll and butter, dessert, iced tea and coffee. Live entertainment for your enjoyment. The public is welcome. Donation is \$12.

Main Street has general membership meeting

Okeechobee Main Street will have their quarterly General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, **July 22**, 12 noon at the Brahma Bull Restaurant on Hwy 441 SE.

All members and anyone interested in Okeechobee Main Street are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 863-357-6246.

Free school/sports physicals

As a service to the community, the Visiting Nurse Association's mobile medical clinic will provide school and/or sports physicals free of charge to any students in need of this service on **July 23** from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Physicals are performed by Sandra Ripper-Brown, ARNP (Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner), who is licensed in the State of Florida to provide this service.

Parents and/or guardians are strongly encouraged to bring any available medical history information, as well as immunization records and student identification. Visiting Nurse Association (VNA), 208 E.S. Park Street, 863-357-2197.

Library book club meeting

The Friends of the Okeechobee Library Book Club will meet on Thursday, **July 23** at 6:00 p.m. in the library board room to discuss "The Double Bind" by Chris Bohalian. The meeting is open to the public. For more information call Jan Fehrman at 357-9980.

VA to host local outpatient clinic

The Dept of Veterans Affairs and Okeechobee Community Based Outpatient Clinic will be hosting an Open House on Saturday, **July 25**, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Okeechobee Community Based Outpatient Clinic, 1201 N. Parrott Ave.

All veterans are invited. Staff will be available to assist with healthcare and benefit questions.

Obituaries

Lewis Thomas, 54

OKEECHOBEE — Lewis Thomas died July 16, 2009, at Raulerson Hospital.

Born April 24, 1955 in Alliance, Ohio to the late George and Margaret Thomas, he was a truck driver and mechanic. He came to Okeechobee from Wiersdale, Fla. in 1980. He was of the Presbyterian faith and a member of the Lion's Club.

Mr. Thomas is survived by his wife of 31 years, Maureen Thomas of Okeechobee; two daughters, Christina (Kirby) Norman and Amanda (Sonny) Baughman; grandsons, Denny Baughman and soon to be born Baby Norman all of Okeechobee; brother, George Thomas of Woodstock, Ga.; and sisters, Peggy Newman of Leesburg and Polly Clements of Umatilla.

Visitation will be 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 21, 2009 until service time of 3 p.m. at Okeechobee Presbyterian Church with Reverend Loy Mershimer officiating.

Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

Please make memorials to Okeechobee Presbyterian Church Memorial Fund or Food Pantry.

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 NE 2nd ST, Okeechobee, FL 34972.

The County Veterans Service Officer will be available to answer VA benefit questions. Registration and enrollment in VA Healthcare will be conducted. Veterans who have been previously denied due to excess income are encouraged to reapply.

Refreshments will be provided. For further information contact the VA Clinic at 863-824-3232 or the County Veterans Service Office at 863-763-8124.

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.

Lorayne Claire Johnson, 63

OKEECHOBEE — Lorayne Claire Johnson died Tuesday, July 14, 2009, in Lawnwood Regional Medical Center.

Born December 26, 1945 in Philadelphia, Pa., she had been a resident of Okeechobee since 1971 and was an active member and past president of the Merah Ladies of the Shrine and member of the Eastern Star. She enjoyed ceramics, playing cards, and painting.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Lorayne Kresser.

She is survived by her brother, Fred Kresser and three nephews.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, July 21, from 5 p.m. until service time of 6 p.m. in the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel.

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

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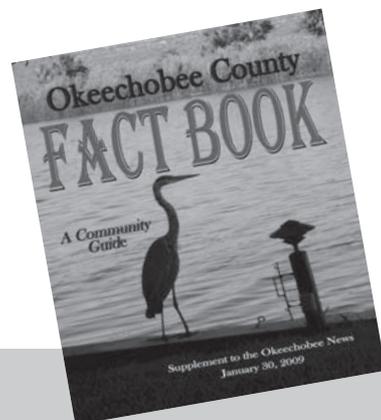
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Resource guide available on harmful algal blooms

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida Department of Health recently released a new tool to assist local health officials when responding to harmful algal blooms in Florida. The Resource Guide for Public Health Response to Harmful Algal Blooms in Florida addresses critical HAB issues that may affect the health of Florida's residents and visitors and recommends procedures to handle events and minimize their impacts.

In Florida, many species of harmful microscopic algae can affect fish and wildlife, and some can cause human illness. The guide is the first reference that compiles critical information related to these species as well as other harmful algal bloom issues in one easy-to-use source.

Along with suggested operating procedures, the guide includes background information on harmful algal blooms, descriptions of different potential scenarios and contact information for various bloom-related organizations.

In addition to being a go-to reference for health officials, the guide provides easy-to-read information for the public to learn about this topic.

Based on recommendations from the Public Health Technical Panel of Florida's Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force, scientists and managers developed the guide to meet the critical need for this resource.

The guide is available at http://research.MyFWC.com/features/view_article.asp?id=32552.

For more information on harmful algal blooms in Florida, visit <http://research.MyFWC.com> or <http://www.myfloridaeh.com/medicine/aquatic/index.htm>

Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

July 13 and 14, 2009			Med #1	Steers	Hfrs	Small #1	Steers	Hfrs
Cows			150-200	157-175	107-112	300-350		83-92
Breaking			200-250	127-130	89-101	350-400		85-87
	\$47.50	\$50.00	250-300	125-140	87-90	450-500	90-95	82-84
	\$45.00	\$52.50	300-350	115-122	84-91	550-600	87-90	
Canner			350-400	107-112	82-90	We had lots of cattle this week.		
Bulls			400-450	98-109	93-95	Everything stayed pretty steady.		
1000-1500	\$53.00	\$58.50	450-500	95-104	81-88	Lots of good heavy calves		
1500-2000	\$56.00	\$59.00	550-600	90-97	93-102	showed up and there was good demand. Pedro Rodriguez,		
	Monday	Tuesday	600-650	88-94	80-91	of Hialeah topped the calf market with a high of \$1.70, also		
Calves	251	1904				Fletcher Nail, Ft. Pierce, bought		
Cows	72	358	Med #2	Steers	Hfrs	by Curt Wilson. William Turner		
Str	0	24	150-200	100-130	100-102	topped the cow market with a		
Hfrs	2	32	200-250	110-130	80-85	high of 54.50, bought by Dairy-		
Bulls	12	25	250-300	111-122	79-88	mens. Pete		
Yrlngs	26	68	300-350	90-112	73-87			
Mix	0	46	350-400	88-104	75-85			
Total	363	2457	400-450	85-101	75-84			



Sales:
Monday at 12 p.m.
Tuesday at 11 a.m.

Okeechobee Livestock Market
U.S. 98 North, Okeechobee
(863) 763-3127

County Of Okeechobee
Notice Of A Public Workshop To Be Held With The Okeechobee City Council On July 29, 2009
9:00 A.M., Following The Public Workshop, The Okeechobee County Board Of County Commissioners Will At 9:30 A.M., Or As Soon Thereafter, Hold A Public Hearing
At The Okeechobee County Health Department Building, 1728 N.W. 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida
To Consider The Adoption Of

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA; RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, FACILITIES, AND PROGRAMS IN OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND THE IMPOSITION, APPORTIONMENT AND COLLECTION OF AN EMS TAX ASSESSMENT; AUTHORIZING THE IMPOSITION AND COLLECTION OF EMS TAX ASSESSMENTS AGAINST PROPERTY; PROVIDING CERTAIN DEFINITIONS INCLUDING A DEFINITION FOR THE TERM "EMS TAX ASSESSMENT"; ESTABLISHING A PROCEDURE FOR IMPOSING EMS TAX ASSESSMENTS; PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF EMS TAX ASSESSMENT PROCEEDS; PROVIDING THAT EMS TAX ASSESSMENTS CONSTITUTE A LIEN ON BENEFITTED PROPERTY UPON ADOPTION OF EMS TAX ASSESSMENT ROLL; PROVIDING THAT THE LIEN FOR AN EMS TAX ASSESSMENT COLLECTED PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 197.3632 AND 197.3635, FLORIDA STATUTES, UPON PERFECTION SHALL ATTACH TO THE PROPERTY ON THE PRIOR JANUARY 1, THE LIEN DATE FOR AD VALOREM TAXES; PROVIDING THAT A PERFECTED LIEN SHALL BE EQUAL IN RANK AND DIGNITY WITH THE LIENS OF ALL STATE, COUNTY, DISTRICT, OR MUNICIPAL TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS AND SUPERIOR IN DIGNITY TO ALL OTHER PRIOR LIENS, MORTGAGES, TITLES, AND CLAIMS; IMPOSING INTERIM TAX ASSESSMENTS; PROVIDING A PROCEDURE FOR COLLECTION OF EMS TAX ASSESSMENTS AND AN ALTERNATIVE COLLECTION PROCEDURE; PROVIDING A MECHANISM FOR THE IMPOSITION OF ASSESSMENTS ON GOVERNMENT PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

PUBLISH: 7/19/09, OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

New business

Ghada Khankan of S & S Wireless, 117 S.W. Park St., is ready to meet all your mobile telephone needs. In addition to supplying wireless telephones and accessories, S & S Wireless is an authorized dealer for Boost Mobile and does computer repair. The store is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. six days a week.



Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp

Sheriff's Youth Camp

Deputy Rodney Rucks (right), from the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, handed out the hot dogs and hamburgers Friday, July 17, to 45-50 children who took part in the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office Summer Camp. The camp was held July 13-17 at the Okeechobee High School. While at the camp, children between the ages of 8-14 took part in varying activities that included team sports, arts and crafts, environmental education and games. OCSO deputies also put on different demonstrations during the week. "We had a great group of kids," said OCSO Deputy Sergeant and School Resource Officer Mark Roberts. Sgt. Roberts, along with OCSO Deputy Lieutenant Lester Yeates and other school resource officers, ran the camp. The camp was a joint effort of the sheriff's office and Communities in Schools. Friday's barbecue was held at the Okeechobee County Sports Complex.

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Gant

Continued From Page 1

over the years with bowling, swimming, road racing, wheel chair basketball, and coaching youth basketball. He lives in Lake Park. He coached for many years at the Wells Recreation Center in Riviera Beach. He said he is proud of the fact that the players he coached all went to college and graduated.

"I stayed positive from day one when I got hurt," he said. "If you sit around and do nothing, you'll go to waste."

Mr. Gant has gone through nine operations and has learned how to dress, cook, push a shopping cart, and do other everyday activities. He gets regular physical therapy to keep up his physical skills and mobility.

Mr. Gant was a highly regarded high school basketball player for Okeechobee High School. He ran track in events like the 120 high hurdles and 440. In basketball he prided himself on defense and blocked shots. "I didn't care about scoring, but I'd block a shot in a second." Mr. Gant still average 17 points per game. He remembers his coaches Web Pell, Tom Kingery and Gary Elliott. He noted the team went to second round of post season one year. Back then they didn't have district tournaments.

Mr. Gant still has family and friends in Okeechobee. His brother

is U-SAVE Manager Johnny Gant.

Mr. Gant said it is true what people say when they are in a life threatening situation. As he lay under tons of dirt some 28 years ago, a lot of thoughts rushed through his head.

"You're going to do some thinking when you're underneath all that dirt," he said. "It's true. People say they see bright lights and your whole life flashes in front of you for a few seconds. I thought how is my Mom going to take this and is my girlfriend going to be a widow? I thought I was going to the happy hunting ground."

Rescuers dug for close to 90 minutes be-

fore they found Mr. Gant and another man in the trench. He said because he was so tall, the dirt hit him below the shoulder. If he had been shorter, he likely would have been killed or left a quadriplegic.

Mr. Gant said he hoped his story will inspire disabled people in Okeechobee. He noted the worst thing you can do is give up and do nothing.

"There is a nice tennis complex in Okeechobee," he said. "It will be hard work at first, but they'll find that they like it and they'll stick with it."

Mr. Gant relies on private donations to attend tennis tournaments. For information on how you can assist Mr. Gant call 561-863-1653.



Submitted photo

David Gant, a former Okeechobee High School Brahman who ran track and played basketball, now plays tennis in a wheelchair league, where he has earned both state and national rankings. He encourages other handicapped persons to be as active as they can. "If you sit and do nothing, you'll go to waste," he said.



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

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Okeechobee city council to face lengthy agenda

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

When they meet Tuesday for their only meeting this month, the Okeechobee City Council will face a lengthy agenda as they discuss an EMS tax assessment and a possible suspension of impact fees.

The council will have the first reading of a proposed ordinance to establish an EMS assessment. Based on their joint workshop with the county commission on the assessment, this topic should generate some discussion.

Tara Minton of the Economic Council is scheduled to request that the council temporarily suspend and/or reduce impact fees. This topic was brought before the council once before with little response. However, since then the county commission has discussed the issue several times and will be looking at an ordinance to suspend county impact fees when they meet later this week.

The council will also be considering a resolution that would allow law enforcement officials to impound a vehicle if there is evidence the occupants have been engaged in criminal conduct.

The mayor is scheduled to proclaim the month of August to be Firefighter Appreciation Month in the city, present a 20 year service award to Lane Gamiotea, present a 15 year service award to Glenn Hodges, and present certificates of appreciation to Marsha Montesi and Allison Murphy for service on the code enforcement board.

In other action, the council is expected to

- discuss the National Day of the American Cowboy;
- consider a request to place a mobile home in the Okeechobee Trailer & Fishing Resort;
- consider a request to permit liquor sales on Sunday at Cowboys BBQ & Steak Co.;
- consider approving a declaration of covenants, conditions and restrictions per-

taining to First Baptist Church parking requirements;

- award a contract for a vertical lift;
- approve the 2009-2010 tentative budget preparation and millage calendar;
- make an appointment to the general

employee/OUA pension board and consider appointments to the code enforcement board.

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

If you go ...
What: Okeechobee City Council Meeting
When: 6 p.m. July 21
Where: City Council Chambers, Okeechobee City Hall, 55 S.E. Third Ave.

Community Brief

Elder Affairs SHINE program seeks volunteers

The Florida Department of Elder Affairs, along with the Area Agency on Aging Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, invites you to join the award-winning SHINE team of volunteers. This program helps elders make informed decisions about Medicare, health insurance and prescription drug plans.

SHINE volunteers provide individual counseling and assistance to elders and their caregivers about Medicare, Medicaid, Medi-

care plan choices, long-term care planning and prescription discount drug programs. Volunteers may also make educational presentations to community groups and participate in local health fairs, senior fairs and other outreach and educational events. If you would like additional information about this exciting opportunity and would like to become a SHINE volunteer in Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie Counties, please call our Elder Helpline at the Area Agency on Aging at 1-866-684-5885.

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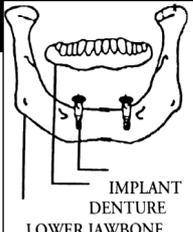
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Okeechobee Kiwanis Club busy

By Jim Vensel

Okeechobee Kiwanis Club

Over the past month the Okeechobee Kiwanis Club has had the opportunity to hear from various quest speakers informing our members, how funds are dispersed in our educational system as well as community projects, informed on a newly formed Agriculture Emergency Contact Decal Program, Boat Safety, Red Cross Heroes Program, Grad Night and Drug Court.

Mary Hurley, Assistant Superintendent and Renee Geeting Principal of South Elementary and several students came to thank Kiwanis for the \$1,000 donation toward "Reading is Fundamental" a program that enables the school system to purchase additional reading materials enhancing the reading skills at the elementary level. Reading is Fundamental is an ongoing Kiwanis project giving no less than a thousand dollars per year.

Sharon Vinson, Treasure of the Okeechobee Educational Foundation Inc. came to thank Kiwanis for the \$1,500 Dick & Marge Blair Memorial Elementary Mini Math Grant. South Elementary, Seminole Elementary and Central Elementary were recipients of the grant receiving \$500 each.

Mrs. Brown, third grade teacher from South utilized their funds to purchase materials to create a wide variety of instant math centers. Each math center is geared toward making it a fun way to learn their math skills.

Mrs. Padgett, third grade teacher from Seminole Elementary, utilized the funds to purchase elapsed time teacher manipulatives, elapsed time games, timers, and geared student clocks that allow students to see time pass in a real time manner. The manipulatives will continue to make a huge difference in Mrs. Padgett's instruction and in the children's understanding of elapsed time.

Mrs. Howard, Kindergarten/First Grade Teacher, Central Elementary. Kindergarten students will be using the sensory math kits, 3D and texture cards, to stimulate retention of learning numbers and basic counting concepts. First grade students will use the addition and subtraction kits to improve their speed at which, each student accomplished simple adding and subtracting facts.

Over the past ten years our Club has donated \$43,000 in Scholarships.

Paul Buxton a K-member requested additional funding for "Grad Night." We already donated our yearly \$1,000. Because of today's hard times and being such an important event for our graduating students we approved an additional \$500.

Grad Night began 22 years ago as a special Kiwanis project to protect our most precious jewels, our children. For 22 years there has not been one death or drug related incident as a result of Grad Night. Kiwanis graciously thanks the Buxton family for their overwhelming generosity monetarily and for chairing the event year after year. We thank our Sheriffs Department/City Police Department for their time and all the volunteers who worked through the night.

Noel Stephen, Undersheriff introduced Deputy Hazellief who presently is overseeing his dream project the Agriculture Emergency Contact Decal Program (AECDP) established guidelines for a countywide system for the immediate contact of livestock, citrus, horticulture, and aquaculture owners during emergencies that relate to their business property and/or livestock. This system will facilitate the use of law enforcement personnel more efficiently in locating and informing owners of emergencies that take place on their properties.

Teresa Chandler, Chairman of Red Cross's newly formed program Heroes In the Park requested a club donation, which the members approved \$100 as a Gold Sponsor. All monies donated stay right here in Okeechobee and are used for disaster relief.

Dowling Watford introduced Col. Daniel Moore from the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Col. Moore informed members on water and boat safety. Important points of the topic; don't forget to put those life jackets on each person in the boat. Make sure you have plenty of water on hand in case you get stranded. Make sure your boat is properly inspected, which is free by the USCGA. Make sure you have a back up radio. To learn more call 1-937-335-0877.

The most moving moment for members came when a young female gave her testimony on her drug/alcohol abuse. This was a young lady who had only three ways to go in her life. One, continue on drugs/alcohol and die, two, get arrested, which she did, third, seek help, which she did through Judge Bryant's Drug Court, a one-year commitment program. Now that she has graduated from

the program she has taken full responsibility for past actions, is employed and caring for her child. She is also getting ready to return to school to further her education, and most of all, has return to her faith thanking the Lord for a second chance in life. She also gives special thanks for Judge Bryant's Drug Court for affording her another opportunity in life rather than jail.

Kiwanis believes in our youth and we are fully committed to continue our support in whatever manor we can to meet the needs of our students in their educational needs and their safety. Come have lunch with us. We meet every Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. at the American Legion.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Beginning (On or About) June 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009

IN COMPLIANCE WITH Federal Air Regulations of the Federal Aviation Agency, Public Notice is hereby given that the Buckhead Ridge Mosquito Control District of Buckhead Ridge, Glades County, Florida has authorized Clarke Environmental Mosquito Management, Inc. to apply insecticides approved and labeled for this use over the congested areas of the community known as Buckhead Ridge by low flying aircraft at altitudes under 500 feet from time to time through the mosquito season of 2009.

Populations of both potential disease bearing and pest mosquitoes will be suppressed by spray flights within the area. All such flights will be made in the public interest at such times as are considered necessary and under such conditions as are considered effective and safe for the purpose of providing comfort and public health protection for residents.

Spray flights will be made over congested areas which ordinarily cannot be adequately treated for the suppression of adult mosquitoes with ground equipment.

Additional public notice may be given via local newspapers and/or radio stations as needed. Additional information is available by calling your Buckhead Head Ridge Mosquito Control District at 763-7840. Please leave your name, address and phone number so that the Director or a Commissioner can return your call and address your concerns.

Buckhead Ridge Mosquito Control District

Your Commissioners: Al Crank, Chairmain, Sally Edwards, Sec. and Karen Werne, Treas.

Director: Charlie Norris



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Fourth District Court denies Alvarez's appeal

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man convicted in the 2006 murder of a local man and woman saw his appeal denied by the 4th District Court of Appeals earlier this week.

Mark Anthony Alvarez and his attorneys raised issues for appeal in regard to his June 2007 trial in which he was found guilty of killing Wayne Lindon Tenney and Elizabeth Johnson.

The appeals court handed down its ruling Wednesday, July 15. Alvarez, 20, was sentenced to two life sentences for the killings and another 15 years for second degree arson. Each murder charge carries a minimum mandatory prison sentence of 25 years. The minimum mandatory sentence on the arson charge is 10 years. This means Alvarez will have to serve a mandatory 65 years in prison. Alvarez, through his public defenders, argued that his Miranda warning failed to tell him he had he right to have an attorney present before questioning.

Carey Haughwout and Margaret Good-Earnest, from the public defenders office in West Palm Beach, also argued that their client's subsequent confession was given after he clearly invoked his right to remain silent. Alvarez was first questioned by former De-



Mark A. Alvarez

tective Sergeant T.J. Brock, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO). He was then given a voice stress test by OCSO Detective M.D. Faulkner, and when that was ended Alvarez was interrogated again by Sgt. Brock. It was during this third interrogation that Alvarez confessed to the killings.

At the heart of the appeal was that Sgt. Brock gave Alvarez a pre-printed Miranda rights form and read it aloud. Then, before the voice stress test, Detective Faulkner gave Alvarez a pre-printed Miranda rights form and went over it with him.

Sgt. Brock then questioned Alvarez a second time and it was at the end of this interrogation that Alvarez confessed. However, his appeal attorneys argued that because Sgt. Brock did not read the Miranda rights form again, that the confession should be suppressed.

The trial court denied that motion, and the appeals court confirmed that denial.

As for Alvarez invoking his right to remain silent, the appeals court ruled that he was given his Miranda rights both orally and in writing and that he was adequately informed that "... he had the right to a court-appointed attorney at all times, both prior to and during questioning." The high court went on to say that he was specifically told that he had the right to an attorney "at this time."

Alvarez was found guilty of killing Mr. Tenney and Miss Johnson on Jan. 8, 2006, by shooting each of them in the head with a .38 caliber revolver while they sat in Miss Johnson's 2004 40th anniversary Ford Mus-

tang convertible. After killing them, Alvarez then set the car on fire. The car and bodies were found on N.E. 11th St.

Robert Udell, who represented Alvarez at trial, argued that his client was taking the fall for his brother, Junior Alvarez. "You might not take the fall for a family member, but he is," Mr. Udell told the jury in his closing statement. "Have you never heard of that happening before? That's what's happening in this case." Sgt. Brock, however, said he spoke with Junior Alvarez during the investigation and could find no evidence that he had any responsibility in the case.

Magistrate to impose fines

Lucy Hatfield and Patricia Ann Fryar will have to appear before the special magistrate to answer charges of having a condemned mobile home on their N.E. Seventh Lane property, at Okeechobee County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate hearing at 2 p.m., July 21, at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1798 N.W. Ninth Ave. In addition, the magistrate will consider some who have previously ordered to come into compliance If their property is still not in compliance, they could be fined up to \$250 for every day of noncompliance.

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<p>WATERFRONT - CANAL OFF RIM CANAL - well kept and maintained 3/2 Frame with Stucco home with many new amenities. Furnished, just bring your toothbrush. Boat house. MLS #202762, \$119,900.</p>	<p>LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION. Prime location in City of Okeechobee. It has tremendous potential. The building is CBS/Frame structure. This is a large building and comes with a house. MLS #201877, \$150,000.</p>
<p>WELL-KEPT NEIGHBORHOOD ON LAKE HARMONY. New 3/2 DWMH on a large lot. Adjoining lot for sale, \$25,000. Open concept, spacious. Category 3 hurricane construction. Private fishing dock MLS #202774, \$140,000.</p>	<p>3/2 DWMH ON CAPTURED LAKE. Turn key home. Dock w/double sink for fish cleaning, water, and electric. Automatic sprinkler system. The boat may be bought for \$5,000. MLS #202782, \$129,900.</p>
<p>2/2 TWO STORY TOWNHOUSE. Golf course location on the "14TH TEE BOX." Active community w/clubhouse, pool, and many other activities. Maintenance free. MLS #202816, \$120,000.</p>	<p>HUGE CORNER CUL-DE-SAC LOT. Improved property: water, sewer, septic, and electric. WATER ON 2 SIDES. Seawall needs work. CBS 2 car garage. PRICED TO SELL!! MAKE AN OFFER!! MLS #202951 \$69,900</p>

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Lake area land uses proposed

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Pete Quasias of the Audubon Society updated the Glades County Commission last week on discussions over the purchase of land near Lake Hicopochee in Glades County as part of the purchase of United States Sugar. He urged Glades County to participate in meetings that discuss the Everglades, under the Water Resources Advisory Council of the South Florida Water Management District. By the end of this summer, the committee will present three plans for the lands around Lake Hicopochee to the Governing Board of the SFWMD.

Commissioner Paul Beck talked about recent developments with Curry Island in Lakeport. He noted the County lease will be extended in that area. Grants will be available through the state to provide infrastructure if boat docks, rest rooms, Indian huts, wildlife viewing areas, walkways, and hiking and biking paths are pursued by the County.

State Representative Denise Grimsley announced that the state will likely approve a grant within 30 days to build a new health department complex in Glades County. She thanked Congressman Tom Rooney and State Senator J.D. Alexander for their assistance. The dollars will come from federal disaster funds set aside earlier this decade for hurricane relief, Ms. Grimsley stated.

In other business, the commission approved a small scale amendment to their comprehensive plan to change the future land use map on just under 20 acres at 9555 Main Street in Palmdale from agriculture residential to commercial. Bessie Enterprises of Punta Gorda would like to expand the Sabal Palms RV park by 71 RV sites and also build a bath house and activity center.

Commissioners will hold a budget workshop on Wednesday, July 22, at 9 a.m. They set their first budget hearing for Monday, July 27, at 6 p.m.

Community Brief

Big Lake Mission to sponsor school supply drive

Big Lake Mission Outreach is currently sponsoring their annual school supplies drive for their needy families. Last year the Mission helped 135 children with their list, but this year the need is even greater. They will be accepting donations

up until school starts on Aug. 24. Most all school supplies are needed (No Trapper Keepers). For a complete list, check out the local stores or call the schools. The mission will gladly accept checks made out to the Mission and staff can do the shopping. Please call 863-763-5725 or 863-697-6433 for more information or drop off locations.

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Mitigation Strategy meeting set

The second Local Mitigation Strategy meeting will be held on Monday, July 20, in the Okeechobee County Planning and Zoning conference room.

At this meeting the Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group will prioritize the new mitigation project proposal list. Items

to be covered on the mitigation project priority list as follows:

- Stormwater improvement projects;
- New buildings, hardening buildings, roads, and other structural improvements; and,
- Okeechobee Utility Authority projects.

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<p>"A PLACE TO CALL HOME"</p>  <p>Well maintained 2/2 CBS home in quiet neighborhood. Open concept living room, dining and kitchen. Enjoy your morning coffee or tea on the front screened porch. #202948 \$119,500 Call Kathy Godwin 863-634-7728</p> <p>New Listing!!</p>	<p>"ON HALF ACRE"</p>  <p>What a deal! 3/1 CBS home on half an acre. Home is being sold AS IS and will need repairs and updates, has great potential. Newer Roof #202957 \$69,000 Call Debra Pinson 863-831-9163</p> <p>New Listing!</p>

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<p>FORECLOSURE</p> 	<p>5007-H: 3/2 home located in Basswood Estates with new Metal roof and rear screened porch. \$89,900 MLS# 202443</p>	<p>5024-M: Rucks Dairy Park on Double wide on 1+/- acre pole with barn, shed, part fenced, paved street...extra room could easily be made into a bedroom. \$89,000 MLS# 202873</p>	<p>5026-H: 3/2 CBS home on 5+/- acres with large barn. Needs some TLC. \$99,900 MLS# 202912</p>
<p>FORECLOSURE</p> 	<p>5011-M: Mobile home on 1+/- acre with 2 decks and shed. Enough room for summer cook outs. Master bedroom with double sink. Call today to see! MLS# 202809</p>	<p>FORECLOSURE</p> 	<p>ACREAGE / LOTS: • 2.5 buildable acres in Sunset Strip Airpark in Lazy 7. \$98,000 MLS# 202207 • Okeechobee Hammock 100 x 104 lot off of 15-A. \$29,000 MLS# 200471 • Big "O" RV Park vacant lot or w/ travel trailer. • Basswood buildable lots from \$15K-\$33,000 • 7 acres Hwy 68 \$110,000 MLS# 93452 • Foreclosure 11+/- clear acres for \$69,900 right off of Hwy 70 East.</p>

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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

RETRIEVER MIX - It. brown, fem., 1 yr. old, vic. of Seminole Cove Rd. (863)634-8877

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

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

Giveaway

KITTENS - Free to good home. (863)610-7824

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

Auctions

Auctions

Auctions

Auctions

Public Auction



Suggested Opening Bid \$150,000 **66+/- Acres of Land**

2004 Crescent Ave. S.W. Labelle, Florida 33935
On-site Sunday, July 26th at 11am...Preview & Registration at 10am
Open Houses: Sunday, July 12th & 19th Noon-3pm

Out of the Tension Zone! Contents to sell at 11:30am

Country living at its best! Built in 2006, this 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath ranch home has 3000+/- sq ft. Located on a picturesque 13+/- acre private lake with stone waterfall on a 24 +/- acre parcel. Unlimited upgrades inside and out! Enjoy fishing, boating or just appreciate secluded panoramic vistas and wildlife.

A unique investment opportunity to own this 66 +/- acre Palm tree farm ideally located in Labelle, Florida. (Glades County). This nursery contains a blended inventory of over 14,000 palm trees. This whole-sale inventory is valued in excess of \$300,000.

Complete equipment auction will be conducted same day including, but not limited to: John Deere G, John Deere R Diesel 1951, John Deere 4020 Diesel, John Deere Model H, John Deere D, John Deere B, John Deere, John Deere 5105 4wd, and so much more!

Scott Oglesby, AARE
Licensed Real Estate Brokers
United Country
AB2577 / AU3313

239-765-7673

Call for flyer or view & bid online!
LabelleFarmAuction.com



Employment

For more listings,
go to
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Employment Full Time

BOOKKEEPER ACCOUNTING
2yr degree preferred or adequate work experience. Please fax resume to 863-763-6337

Employment Full Time

SCHEDULER
For busy dental office. Seeking mature, energetic, multi-task person. Bilingual language & dental knowledge a plus. Please fax resume to: (863)763-9112

Shop here first!
The classified ads

Employment Full Time

VPK LEAD TEACHER
For Christian PreSchool. Must have a CDA or Degree in related field. Call between 2pm and 5pm. (863)763-8800 or send resume to:
christianps@embarqmail.com

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

READING A NEWSPAPER...
makes you a more informed and interesting person. No wonder readers are more successful!

Employment Part Time

Healthy Families Okeechobee

FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER

Help families succeed! P/T Bilingual (Spanish/English) position providing educational home visits to families with newborns in Okeechobee County. Comp pay.

Apply to: Helping People Succeed, Inc.,
1100 S.E. Federal Hwy.,
Stuart or Fax resume
(772)320-0180 or to
careers@hpsfl.org.
DFW/EOE.



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

Excavation

CLEARING & HAULING
Dump Truck, Back Hoe & Bobcat Services...
by Jason Summerford
(863)634-7771

Handyman Services

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

? NEED HELP ? CALL GEORGE CARTER

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

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



Merchandise

For more listings,
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www.newszap.com

Guns/Supplies

CZ52 Auto Russian made lots of ammo \$400/S & W Revolver snub nose \$400. 863-697-6095

***Wanted* Handguns**
All types.Cash.
863-697-6095

Tools

GENERATOR - Briggs & Stratton, never used, 5500w, 10hp, \$500.
(863)357-0256



Agriculture

For more listings,
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www.newszap.com

Horses

MUSTANG MARE - Green Broke, \$500 neg
(863)634-4707 or
(863)261-6781

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

Seeds/Plants/Flowers

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Exotic Fruit Plants
US Hwy 27 Palmdale, FL
(863) 673-7280
Lic. # 48006674



Rentals

For more listings,
go to
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Apartments

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

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

OKEECHOBEE, In Town
1BR, 1BA, \$550 mo., 1st & last mo. sec. No pets. (863)467-8705

SE OKEE-FOR RENT, 1/1 Extra Lg LR, new kit & din. rm., pool table rm Fully furn, elec/cable included. W/D Hook up \$500 mo 863-467-4449

Apartments

STUDIO APT \$550 mo., 1st, last & sec. All utilities including cable & internet. 863-801-4949

Condos/Townhouses Rent

KINGS BAY Nice Twnhs. 2/1, New flr tile. Incls Water, Elec. \$800 mo. + sec. 863-697-6428

Oak Lake Villa #53- 2/2 furn., TV, W/D, Linens, etc. Immaculate, \$950 + Dep (863)634-3313

OKLAKE VILLA 17 - Good cond., \$800/mo. 1st, last & \$500 sec. Call 863-467-5965

Houses - Rent

2 BR/1B w/large den; fenced yard w/shed. Near Taylor Creek Bridge. \$700 863-763-8848

ACRES - 4.4 w/3BR, 2BA in Equestrian neighborhood. W&D, Barn, Fenced, Private. Pets okay. Jacuzzi. \$800 mo. F/L/S (863)467-6472

BASSWOOD, 3/2 new home, fenced yard. \$1100/mth, 1st, last & sec. (863)634-2043.

BHR - 3BR, 1 1/2 BA, Furnished, new appl. W/D, on water, cable and yard maint. incl. \$900 F/L/S. (561)262-5206

FOR RENT: 3/2 House, 2 car garage, C/Air & Heat, W&D Hook Up in garage. On Eagle Bay Dr., Call (863)634-9330 or (863)467-2541

IN TOWN - 2BR, 2BA, W&D, porch, lawn serv. small pet ok, Non-smk. env., \$800 mo. + \$500 sec. 941-504-3954

IN TOWN - 3BR/2BA, laundry rm., porch, garage, lawn svc., non-smkg. env., small pet OK. \$1,000 mo. + \$800 sec. (941) 504-3954

LEAVE THE CITY - Live in the country! 3/2 Share 20 acres. Horses welcome! Call Buzz (772)201-8230

New, Large 1/1 CBS in town, \$595, FLS, appl's, lease, plus utilities. (863)801-3081

OKEE - 3BR, 2BA, Newly remodeled. All appl. NO PETS. 2272 NW 4th St. \$850 mo. + \$600 sec. dep. 863-610-0001

OKEECHOBEE - 4br, 2 1/2ba, great neighborhood, tile throughout, \$1000 & up/mo, 1st & sec move in (561)248-3888 or (863)599-0156

RIVER ACRES - Cozy cottage 1/1, on the water. Furn. w/Dock, utils., Satellite, in clean. \$700/mo 863-467-1950

Land - Sale

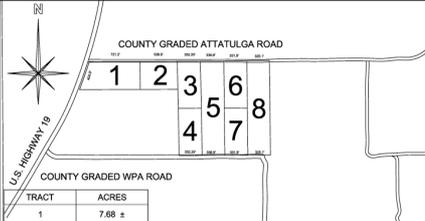
Florida Land Auction  Certified Real Estate Auction Broker

Florida Land Auction
Saturday, July 25th @ 10 a.m.

52 +/- Total Acres
U.S. Hwy. 19, (Florida Georgia Pkwy)
Monticello, FL

Jefferson County

- Offered High Bidders Choice
- Commercial and Residential Acreage
- Good Hunting Tract
- 8 Tracts Ranging from 5 to 10 Acres
- Two Miles South of I-10 exit 225
- Frontage on U.S. Hwy. 19, Attatulga & WPA Roads



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Land - Sale

Mobile Home Rent

OKEECHOBEE - 2br, 1ba with large back porch & front porch on large scenic, wooded, fenced lot. \$700 mo. Also a 1 br, 1ba \$500 mo. Call 863-634-3451

Mobile Home Sale

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

OKEECHOBEE - 2/2, \$700/mo or purchase \$40,000, nice, clean (772)597-2098

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


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

Boats
PONTOON TRAILER
2005 - NEW COST 3600 USED ONCE, 2 AXELS \$2400. (863)824-0801

Campers/RVs

BOUNDER, '87 - 34' needs work, best offer. (863)697-3132 after 5pm

Motorcycles

SUZUKI 650CC 1999 - windshield, new seat. must sell asking \$1800. (863)824-0801

Sports Vehicles/ATVs

PACE ARROW MOTOR HOME, '85 - 36' set up in RV park @ \$250 mo., country setting, \$7500. (863)254-3552

Automotive

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


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

Automobiles

4 Cienra Plus White wall tires - 225/75/15 5000 miles \$60 for all. 863-763-7470

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


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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO. 2009 CA 278

TAYLOR, BEAN & WHITAKER MORTGAGE CORP., Plaintiff,
VS.
MATTHEW LEE; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF MATTHEW LEE; BRANDON B. TANKERSLEY; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF BRANDON B. TANKERSLEY; IF LIVING, INCLUDING ANY UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF SAID DEFENDANT(S), IF REMARRIED, AND IF DECEASED, THE RESPECTIVE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANT(S); FLORIDA LIVING, LLC; WHETHER DISSOLVED OR PRESENTLY EXISTING, TOGETHER WITH ANY GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, OR TRUSTEES OF SAID DEFENDANT(S) AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST DEFENDANT(S); UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2; Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: BRANDON B. TANKERSLEY; IF LIVING, INCLUDING ANY UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF SAID DEFENDANT(S), IF REMARRIED, AND IF DECEASED, THE RESPECTIVE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANT(S);
YOUR ANSWER OR WRITTEN DEFENSES, IF ANY, IN THE ABOVE PROCEEDING WITH THE CLERK OF THIS COURT, AND TO SERVE A COPY THEREOF UPON THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY, LAW OFFICES OF DANIEL C. CONSUERA, 9204 KING PALM DRIVE, TAMPA, FL 33619-1328, TELEPHONE (813) 915-8660, FACSIMILE (813) 915-0559, WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE, THE NATURE OF THIS PROCEEDING BEING A SUIT FOR FORECLOSURE OF MORTGAGE AGAINST THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY, TO WIT:
LOT I OF TRACT 14 OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF TRACT 14, SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 36 SOUTH, RANGE 33 EAST AND LOT J, TRACT 14 OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF TRACT 14, SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH, RANGE 33 EAST, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGES 3A THROUGH 3D, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
A/K/A 14830 NW 250TH STREET AND 14882 NW 250TH STREET OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972
If you fail to file your answer or written defenses in the above proceeding, on plaintiff's attorney, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or Petition.
DATED at OKEECHOBEE County this 8th day of July, 2009.
SHARON ROBERTSON
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Arlene Nealis
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: BRANDON B. TANKERSLEY; IF LIVING, INCLUDING ANY UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF SAID DEFENDANT(S), IF REMARRIED, AND IF DECEASED, THE RESPECTIVE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, OR TRUSTEES OF SAID DEFENDANT(S) AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: UNKNOWN
CURRENT ADDRESS: UNKNOWN

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT AN ACTION TO FORECLOSE A MORTGAGE ON THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY IN OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

LOT 47, BLOCK 51, BASSWOOD UNIT 5, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 51, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses within 30 days after the first publication, if any, on Florida Default Law Group, P.L., Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 9119 Corporate Lake Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, Florida 33634, and file the original with 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 or petition.
This notice shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks in the Okeechobee News (Independent Newspapers).
WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court on this 20th day of May, 2009.
Sharon Robertson
Clerk of the Court
By: Arlene Nealis
As Deputy Clerk
327663 ON 7/19,26/09

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION
CASE NO. 47-2009-CA-000098

CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC, Plaintiff,
VS.
BLUE BISHOP A/K/A BLUE C. BISHOP, et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: **ASHLEY GARCIA**
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 2276 NW 6th ST 4 Okeechobee, FL 34972
CURRENT ADDRESS: UNKNOWN

TENANT #1
N/K/A CHARITY HOPE LEE
N/K/A CHARITY HOPE LEE
N/K/A CHARITY HOPE LEE
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 2874 NW 35th Avenue Okeechobee, FL 34972

TENANT #2
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 2874 NW 35th Avenue Okeechobee, FL 34972
CURRENT ADDRESS: 2874 NW 35th Avenue Okeechobee, FL 34972

ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: UNKNOWN
CURRENT ADDRESS: UNKNOWN

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT AN ACTION TO FORECLOSE A MORTGAGE ON THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY IN OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

LOT 47, BLOCK 51, BASSWOOD UNIT 5, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 51, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses within 30 days after the first publication, if any, on Florida Default Law Group, P.L., Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 9119 Corporate Lake Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, Florida 33634, and file the original with 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 or petition.
This notice shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks in the Okeechobee News (Independent Newspapers).
WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court on this 20th day of May, 2009.
Sharon Robertson
Clerk of the Court
By: Arlene Nealis
As Deputy Clerk
327663 ON 7/19,26/09

Public Notice

NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED ZONING RECLASSIFICATION
NOTICE: A PUBLIC HEARING will be held before the Okeechobee County Planning Board on **Tuesday, July 28, 2009 at 7:00 pm** in the Commission Meeting Room, Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida to consider a request for a change in zoning from the existing classifications of Commercial (C-2) and Residential Single Family (RSF) to the proposed classification of Heavy Commercial (C-2). The property owner and applicant is Florida Community Health Center. The property address is 225 NW 20th Lane. The property is more particularly described as follows:

LOTS 4, 5 AND 6, TOGETHER WITH LOTS 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 AND 26 OF BLOCK 26, "CONNORS HIGHLANDS" ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 21 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, LESS THE FOLLOWING PORTION OF LOTS 4, 5 AND 6: BEGIN AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 4; THENCE SOUTH 00°08'58" EAST ON THE EAST LINE OF SAID LOTS 4, 5 AND 6 FOR 150.04 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 6; THENCE SOUTH 89°43'50" WEST ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT 6 FOR 10.35 FEET; THENCE NORTH 00°08'04" WEST 150.03 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT 4; THENCE NORTH 89°43'50" EAST ON SAID NORTH LINE 10.31 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

In the event that all items scheduled before the Board are not heard, the hearings shall be continued to Wednesday, July 29, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the Commission Meeting Room, Okeechobee County Courthouse, 304 NW 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida.

A SECOND PUBLIC HEARING to consider the request for a change in zoning will be held before the Board of County Commissioners on Thursday, August 13, 2009 at 9:00 am in the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES SHALL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD AT THIS PUBLIC HEARING. Any person deciding to appeal any decision by the Board of County Commissioners or the Board of Adjustments and Appeals with respect to any matter considered at these meetings or hearings will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made and that the record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal will be based. County Clerk and Planning and Development tapes are for the sole purpose of backup for official records of the Clerk and of the Planning Department.

William D. Royce, Planning Director
Petition # R-2009-0684
326506 ON 7/10,19/09

NOTICE OF HEARING
Okeechobee County Code Enforcement
Special Magistrate

The Okeechobee County Special Magistrate will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, July 21, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. The public meeting will be held at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, located at 1728 N.W. 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida. For more information, contact Faye Huffman at the Planning and Development Department, 499 N.W. 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, (863) 824-3015.

All interested parties shall have the opportunity to be heard at this public meeting. Any person deciding to appeal any decision by the Code Enforcement Special Magistrate with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made and that the record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal will be based. Code Enforcement tapes are for the sole purpose of backup for official records of the Department.

Faye Huffman, Secretary to the Code Enforcement Special Magistrate
327300 ON 7/17,19/09

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SUDOKU

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			2					

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Level: Advanced

Xplosion cheerleading to join with Pop Warner football

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Pop Warner President James Shockley announced a partnership with Xplosion cheerleading for the 2009 fall football season.

Victoria Osteen and Paige Cloud will be cheer coordinators for Pop Warner.

Xplosion is the only competitive cheerleading tumbling gym in Okeechobee. They are nationally ranked. All of their coaches are certified. They have an indoor facility for practices.

It is the first time Okeechobee has had football cheerleaders that are able to practice in a gym.

"I think it's great and hopefully it will strengthen our cheerleading in Pop Warner," Shockley said, "Her mom has worked

with Lake Placid Pop Warner in the Peace River Conference for years."

Osteen said she thinks it will be wonderful for her organization. "It's a way to give back to the community, train them the way they're supposed to be, it's great."

Boys and girls ages 5-15 can sign up to be cheerleaders. Anyone interested can stop by the new Xplosion gym at 3125 SW 3rd Terrace. The phone number is 863-441-3826.

Signup forms will be available. Osteen said she expects a good response. "It's a great way for the kids to get involved and not spend big bucks."

The cost is \$75 for cheerleading.

Signups also continue for football players. Practices begin on August 1. Anyone interested in signing up for football can contact James Shockley at 863-634-3482. Late signups will be accepted until August 1.

The Pop Warner also plans to hold the Treasure Coast Conference jamboree in Okeechobee which includes 140 football teams and 130 cheerleading teams. It is held at the Okeechobee soccer fields on August 29 and 30.

"It will be two days of daylight to dark football," Shockley noted.

He said there will be a huge economic impact for local businesses.

A fund raiser golf tournament for Pop Warner will be held on August 1 at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club.

Pop Warner begins their fifth year this fall. They have a number of championships and teams that qualified for the post season over the years. "I'm pleased that we can add Xplosion to our team."

He noted it should better prepare young people to be ready for high school.

Xplosion all stars offers year round competitive cheer leading programs. Osteen noted she is volunteering her coaching services to help the community.

She noted the partnership might also help get more girls and boys interested in competitive cheerleading in Okeechobee.

Pop Warner Xplosion cheerleading signups continue until August 15 at Xplosion at 3125 SW 3rd Terrace. Children ages 5-15

can participate. They must bring a copy of their report card, wallet size picture, and birth certificate to sign up. For more information call 863-441-3826 or 863-634-3482. The cost is for football players and cheerleaders is \$75 apiece.



Charles Murphy/Okeechobee News

Pop Warner President James Shockley (right) has announced a partnership with Xplosion Cheerleading for the 2009 fall football season. Victoria Osteen (left) will be a cheer coordinator for Pop Warner.

Some come by bike. Some come by car. Others come by Jet.

12 DINNER ITEMS \$7.99
Including 2 Sides & Cornbread

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Friday & Saturday
6AM - 8PM

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Will pay up to **30%** of the Purchase Price

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