

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 100 No. 119

Sunday, October 4, 2009

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**Family of drowned teen
sues state ... Page 3**

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Lake Levels

14.51 feet
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H1N1 flu vaccine available soon

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Vaccine for H1N1 will soon be available in Okeechobee. That's the message Frank Kruppa, administrator of the Okeechobee County Health Department, put out to health care workers, school officials, emergency response per-

sonnel and local government officials on Thursday, Oct. 1.

The occasion was the Okeechobee County H1N1 Pandemic Flu Summit held at the Dixon Hendry Campus of Indian River State College to plan for the mass vaccination program that will begin soon in Okeechobee County.

Mr. Kruppa expects the vaccine to be available by the middle of the month. Until that time the message of the health department remains: "Wash your hands, cover our cough and stay home if you are sick."

About a week before receiving the vaccine Mr. Kruppa plans

to get out information on when and where the vaccine will be available. That information will be widely publicized. There will be no charge for the vaccine. At first, the vaccine will be offered only to certain at risk groups. However,

See FLU — Page 9



FPL to harness the power of the sun

The new solar power plant in Martin County is expected to serve about 11,000 homes when it is completed at the end of next year.

Work continues on Solar Energy Center

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Construction is ongoing in Western Martin County of the largest solar thermal energy plant located outside of California.

The Florida Power and Light project broke ground last December and is expected to produce 75 megawatts of solar thermal energy and about 155,000 megawatt hours that can potentially pro-

vide power to serve about 11,000 homes when it's completed at the end of next year.

Utility Spokesperson Jackie Anderson said about 600 workers are at the site on a daily basis. She said

the project is about 12 percent complete at this point.

"We continue to bring in workers to the site, and we are on

See SOLAR— Page 9

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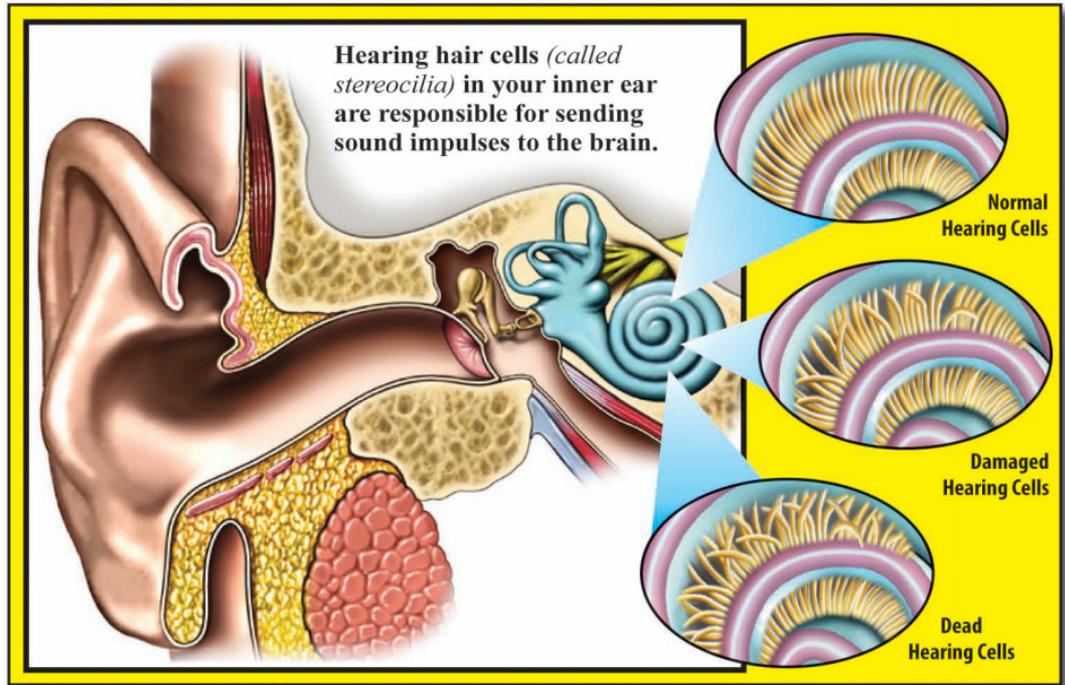
Study by Cambridge University in England Reveals Key Answer

Until recently, there was no practical way to identify dead regions of hearing cells in the ear.

However, a new British developed procedure using standard test equipment now allows for identification of dead hearing cell regions. The study suggests that the presence or absence of dead regions may have serious implications in the fitting of hearing aids.

This research reveals that amplifying dead cells is a mistake which will result in poorer speech understanding in noise. A new type of digitally programmable microcircuit is now being released from Audibel- the world leader in nano Science technology- that can be programmed to by pass the dead cells. As a result, the patient's unable hearing cells receive amplification, there improving speech understanding in noise.

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Wrongful death lawsuit filed in teen's death

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The estate of a 15-year-old Okeechobee boy who drowned in 2007 has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the State, Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Inc. and the Florida Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund.

Tonya Lowe, the personal representative of the Charles Lowe estate, filed the litigation on Sept. 15.

Charles Lowe drowned in October, 2007 when a boat he was riding in on Taylor

Creek, capsized, north of Cemetery Road. Two other teens on board the boat were able to survive.

The litigation filed by Attorney Jean Laws Scott of Stuart claimed the Facility Director, Tom Smith, was negligent because he allowed a gate to remain unlocked and open so a former employee could park a tractor trailer on the property.

The litigation claims the group of teens walked through the unlocked fence and gained access to the canal.

The litigation also claims the facility was

negligent because they allowed the small boat to be left unattended on the canal bank.

The litigation also claims the state was negligent because it failed to properly maintain the canal.

The litigation seeks over \$15,000 in damages for medical and funeral expenses, lost earnings for the estate, the loss of support and services to the victim's family, and mental pain and suffering.

No court date was immediately set in the litigation.

Report: 30 grams of coke found in car

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man was charged with trafficking in cocaine after 30 grams of the white powder was allegedly found in his car Thursday night.

Osbiel Luna, 23, U.S. 441 S.E., was also arrested Oct. 1 on misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and driving while license suspended with knowledge. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$101,500.

An arrest report by an Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force detective indicates that Luna was stopped around 10:27 p.m. for a window tint violation. The detective learned that Luna's driver's license had been suspended for two years because he was found guilty of possession of marijuana under 20 grams, a misdemeanor, in April of this year.

The report goes on to state that another detective and his K-9 Rex were called to the scene. During a sniff of the 2009 silver Pontiac Rex alerted to the quarter panel of the passenger-side door. When that panel was

removed the detective stated that two plastic bags containing a white powder were found.

When field tested, the powder reportedly indicated a positive result for the presence of cocaine.

The detective stated that the each bag weighed 15 grams.

"He was going to sell it (cocaine) for \$1,050," said Detective Ted Van Deman, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office.

According to the Okeechobee County Clerk of Courts web site, Luna was arrested on a felony charge of possession of cocaine in December of 2004 and was found guilty on that charge in November of 2005.

Okeechobee's Most Wanted

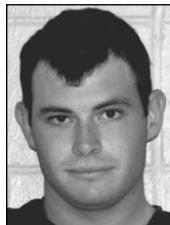
The following people are among Okeechobee's Most Wanted persons. There are active warrants for each of them. The criteria for making Okeechobee's Most Wanted top five is based on the severity of the crime in conjunction with the age of the warrant.

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.



Ismael Vega



Reed Ashton Hair

Reed Ashton Hair, 20, 6'1" 215 lbs. Martin County Charge - Dealing in stolen property - Okeechobee County escape warrant pending.

Ismael Vega, DOB 3/29/1991, 6'2", 180 lbs, heart tattoo with wings right bicep Charge False Imprisonment, Culpable Negligence With Injury - Bond \$10,000.

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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!

Atheism

• I just believe in one fewer god than you do. When you understand why you dismiss all the other possible gods, you will understand why I dismiss yours.

Funding for

emergency services

• There is a lot property that needs to be back on the tax rolls. There are a lot of ag exemptions that just should not be. Putting a couple cows on a property zoned commercial should not qualify it for ag classification.

H1N1

• I just think everyone needs to be made very aware of what is going on. Practicing good hand washing, keeping sanitizer in your pockets can help keep your kids from getting it! It is too scary for those of us with small children to not be concerned about it..

• I think people should take precautions, regardless of the strain, the flu can be bad. But, please understand that the media is blowing it little out of proportion. If tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of people are dying from it, I would worry. but we are still only talking hundreds of people in the U.S. These people already had other complications with their health anyway. like Immune issues, lung related problems etc...

• Over the week end there was a healthy 14 year old with no underlying conditions who died four days after becoming sick.

• If you are sick, stay home. Do not go out shopping or to work and pass the germs around. If your child is sick, keep them at home. Do not take them to school or church or the grocery store. We need to stop the spread of germs. The big problem is the people who are sick and go out in public infecting everyone else.

Ant problem

• One would think that we could get someone out there to the skate park to attempt killing off some of those ants. Really, this is a public park, shouldn't it be kept up a little better than that? Right now, it's not a lot of fun out there for the kids because there are so many ants.

• People complain they are overtaxed. But then they demand a skateboard park for the kids and that the park be absolutely perfect, down to no ants, someone to watch the kids. . . . What's next, refreshments? Stop expecting perfect because it's not going to happen.

Weather predictions

• I'm afraid we may be in for a hard winter this year. Has anyone else noticed the over abundance of wasps? The web worms already are building their nests in the trees. The Cypress seem to be taking on their red coats. Signs say it might be a hard winter.

• I have noticed in the past few weeks the trees up here in Indian Hammock are turning red sooner this year than in years past.

• Winter only lasts for a day here in Florida. Last year, it was on a Tuesday!

County budget

• I agree with the comments about the county budget. For what we pay the county commissioners, they could work a few more hours. They get more for just a few days a month than many of us tax payers get for working full time jobs. Maybe they could do some work at the courthouse so we would not need so many assistants to the administrator's assistants. There must be a way to streamline things at the courthouse and cut back on the paperwork in order to make it more efficient.

• To the commissioner who thinks it is a good idea to add a one cent sales tax to raise even more tax money, think again. We, the taxpayers, are already taxed too much. Think of ways to save money, not ways to raise and spend even more money.

Water

• Until OUA starts giving me water that I can drink without having to run it through a filter system, I don't think they need to raise their rates. I pay for OUA water and then I buy bottled water to drink. Most people I know on OUA water do the same thing.

H1N1 "Swine" flu FAQ

The following information was provided by the Okeechobee County Office of Emergency Management.

What is swine flu?

Swine Influenza (swine flu) is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza viruses that cause regular outbreaks in pigs. People do not normally get swine flu, but human infections can and do happen. Swine flu viruses have been reported to spread from person-to-person, but in the past, this transmission was limited and not sustained beyond three people.

Is this swine flu virus contagious?

CDC has determined that this swine influenza A (H1N1) virus is contagious and is spreading from human to human.

What are the signs and symptoms of swine flu in people?

The symptoms of swine flu in people are similar to the symptoms of regular human flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting associated with swine flu. In the past, severe illness (pneumonia and respiratory failure) and deaths have been reported with swine flu infection in people. Like seasonal flu, swine flu may cause a worsening of underlying chronic medical conditions.

What types of hand-sanitizer besides alcohol based are available?

Washing hands with soap and water is the preferred method for sanitizing your hands. There are also alcohol and non-alcohol based hand sanitizers available; although the non-alcohol based products are not as effective.

What is the best way to keep from spreading the virus through coughing or sneezing?

If you are sick, limit your contact with other people as much as possible. Do not go to work or school if ill. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick. Put your used tissue in the waste basket. Cover your cough or sneeze if you do not have a tissue. Then, clean your hands, and do so every time you cough or sneeze.

What is the best technique for washing my hands to avoid getting the flu?

Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs. Wash with soap and water. or clean with alcohol-based hand cleaner. we recommend that when you

wash your hands -- with soap and warm water -- that you wash for 15 to 20 seconds. When soap and water are not available, alcohol-based disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers may be used. You can find them in most supermarkets and drugstores. If using gel, rub your hands until the gel is dry. The gel doesn't need water to work; the alcohol in it kills the germs on your hands.

What should I do if I get sick?

If you live in areas where swine influenza cases have been identified and become ill with influenza-like symptoms, including fever, body aches, runny nose, sore throat, nausea, or vomiting or diarrhea, you may want to contact their health care provider, particularly if you are worried about your symptoms. Your health care provider will determine whether influenza testing or treatment is needed.

If you are sick, you should stay home and avoid contact with other people as much as possible to keep from spreading your illness to others. 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 skin color;
- Not drinking enough fluids;
- 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;
- Fever with a rash.

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.

Can I get swine influenza from eating or preparing pork?

No. Swine influenza viruses are not spread by food. You cannot get swine influenza from eating pork or pork products. Eating properly handled and cooked pork products is safe.

Information will continue to be provided through our website, www.okeechobeeoc.com, under the current update section.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

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

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

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Our Purpose...

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.



Community Calendar

SUNDAY

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

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

MONDAY

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY

Civil Air Patrol meetings set

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

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

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

New Beginnings **Narcotics Anonymous** has moved to 103 S.W. Second Ave. at 7 p.m. For information, call Monika at 863-801-3244 or Rocy at 863-610-0975.

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

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

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

Family History Center meets from 1 until 5 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 310 S.W. Sixth St. Anyone interest-

ed in finding who your ancestors are is welcome to attend. There is Census, IGI (International Genealogical Index), Social Security Death Index and military information available. For information, call The Family History Center at 863-763-6510 or Richard Smith at 863-261-5706 for special appointments.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W.

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

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

Compulsive overeaters are invited to a weekly meeting, **Overeaters Anonymous (OA)** meets at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Avenue on Tuesdays, 6 until 7 p.m. (Use 4th Street entrance.) **Overeaters Anonymous** is not a diet club. There are no dues, fees or weigh-ins. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop eating compulsively. For more information call Loretta at 863-763-7165 or 863-697-0206.

The Lighthouse Refuge Support Group is for women who are hurting, homeless or been abused. They meet on the first and third Tuesday of every month 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.

Letter to the Editor

Nursing home

Residents have rights

Today, more than 160,000 Floridians live in nursing homes or similar long-term care settings, and many are unaware of their rights and the resources available to protect and defend them.

Every October, Florida's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program partners with the Office of the Governor to secure a gubernatorial proclamation of Residents' Rights Month. The occasion calls attention to the fundamental rights of Florida's frailest elders to be treated with dignity and respect, and to have a say in decisions affecting their care. Long-term care residents have state-mandated rights including fair and courteous treatment, privacy, voting and control over financial matters.

The Ombudsman Program is a government-funded resource available to help defend residents' rights and ensure their safety and well-being. Sadly, a volunteer ombudsman is sometimes the only visitor or voice a nursing home or assisted living facility resident has. As Florida celebrates Residents' Rights Month, I encourage community members to visit someone they know in an assisted living facility, volunteer in a nursing home, participate in a Residents' Rights Month event (see our online calendar at: <http://ombudsman.myflorida.com/RRRmonth.php> for events in your area), or inquire about volunteering with the ombudsman program. Our parents, grandparents, veterans, former doctors and teachers need to know they have not been forgotten.

For information on Florida's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, please call toll-free 1-800-831-0404 or visit us on the web at: <http://ombudsman.myflorida.com>. We can improve the lives of these citizens who have given so much to us. It's time to give back.

Brian Lee
State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
Tallahassee, FL

Reflections from the Pulpit

By Rev. Lois Moranville

Okeechobee Church of the Nazarene

Water is something we need to survive. We can only survive without water for a few days. Water makes up more than 2/3 of our body weight. A two percent drop in our body's water supply can trigger signs of dehydration. When we are dehydrated our body responds through fatigue and our mental alertness becoming less than what it normally is.

There is a difference between living water and "dead" water. The Dead Sea is appropriately named because nothing can survive in the water. It has an inlet but no outlet.

Living water always has an inlet and outlet. In John 4:7-15 we find Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman. "When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Will you give me a drink?' (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?' (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans). Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.'" "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

To experience the living water we begin with a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. First, we recognize our emptiness. We realize that we need something to fill the emptiness. Yet, everything we attempt to do to fill the void continues to leave us feeling empty. Jesus is the only answer. John Peterson penned the song "Springs of Living Water" the chorus is a great reminder of what life will be like when we experience the Living Water of Jesus. "Drinking at the springs of living water, Happy now am I, my soul they satisfy; Drinking at the springs of living water, O wonderful and bountiful supply." The Living Water is the same today as it was when the Samaritan woman drank of the living water Jesus gave. It is the water of eternal life. There is a bountiful

supply and it will satisfy!

Second, if we want to overflow with living water we need to continue to drink from the living water. We do this by remaining at Jesus' feet. We stay in communication with Jesus. I love the story of Mary sitting at Jesus' feet worshipping Him. In fact Jesus told her sister Martha that she was doing the important thing. Since we don't have Jesus here with us in physical form we communicate with Him through prayer and worship in song or Scripture. When we stay at His feet we can drink of the living water as if it were a stream that never runs dry.

If we saturate ourselves with God's word our soul will be revived, the Psalmist said in Psalm 19: 7 "The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul." Everyone who drinks water from a well will be thirsty again. The woman came to the well for natural water but left with living water. She couldn't keep it to herself. She went back to her community and told them of her "living water" experience. If you



Special to the Okeechobee News

Pumpkin cat

Pumpkin is one of the many cats waiting for a home at the Okeechobee Humane Society Shelter on U.S. Highway 98. For more information, contact Humane Society Pet Rescue Florida, at 863-357-1104 To see more available animals go to PETFINDER.COM. Homes are also needed to "foster" animals who are waiting for a permanent adoptive home.

have experienced the Living Water of Jesus tell someone else so they too can share in the "spring of water welling up to eternal life." If you have never experienced the Living Water find a pastor in the community or someone you know who has and ask them how you too can have this experience.

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Community Events

Fall safety classes offered

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

- Thursday, Oct. 8, - Adult CPR/AED at 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Oct. 14, - Infant/Child CPR/AED at 6 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 19 - First Aid Basics at 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.

IRSC to host Hispanic Heritage celebration

Help celebrate the diversity of Hispanic culture at Indian River State College at the IRSC Hispanic Heritage Celebration "Embracing the Fierce Urgency of Now!" on Friday, Oct. 9, at 7 p.m. at the Kight Center for Emerging Technologies, Main Campus, Fort Pierce. Come and hear memorable musical performances by Grammy Award winning jazz musician and producer Roberto Navarro and percussionist Hector Peneida. Navarro will also serve as the keynote speaker and will emphasize the theme of the event, encouraging the audience to embrace and make the most of the moment.

The IRSC Hispanic Heritage Celebration will recognize and highlight IRSC students who have engaged themselves in worthy projects in the Hispanic community. For more information about the IRSC Hispanic Heritage Celebration contact the Minority Affairs Office: 772-462-7610, call IRSC toll free at 1-866-792-4772.

Red Cross Babysitter Training class to open

The Okeechobee Service Center of the American Red Cross will be holding a Babysitter Training class. Please see the following details for this very exciting training opportunity. Youth ages 11-15 years are invited to attend on Saturday, **Oct. 10**, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. The cost for the class is only \$40 and will be held at the Okeechobee Branch American Red Cross, Okeechobee Service Center, 323 N. Parrott Ave. For more information or to register, please call 863-763-2488 as space is limited. Lunch will be provided and participants will receive their Red Cross certification card the day of the training as well as the Babysitter Training package.

Dinner to benefit Cates

The Okeechobee Bar and Club Association will host a benefit for Dee Dee Cates on Oct. 10, from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Cypress Hut Fraternal Order of the Eagles 4509, 4701 U.S. Highway 441 S. Barbecue dinners with all the fixings will be \$8 per person. There will also be a hot dog cart raffle, 50/50 and bottle raffle and an auction. All proceeds will go to offset Ms. Cates' medical bills. She has been diagnosed with stage 4 liver cancer. Donations may also be made at Seacoast National Bank in the account of Dorothy "Dee Dee" Cates. Anyone who wishes to donate an item for raffle can contact Tommy at 863-634-9840

VFW Post 9528 holds October Fest

The VFW Post 9528, 29012 East Hwy 78, will hold an October Fest on Oct. 4. Dinner will be served from noon until 4 p.m. Menu will consist of all German food, knockwurst, brockwurst, German potato salad and German sauer kraut. German music for all for a donation for \$8. Flu shots will also be available. You must sign up for shots. Forms are available at VFW.

Shrine Club reopens spaghetti dinner night

The Okeechobee Shrine Club will once again offer Spaghetti Dinners beginning on **Tuesday, Oct. 6.**

Dinner will be served from 4 until 7 p.m. with music from 6 until 9 p.m. The donation for the dinner is just \$5. The Shrine Club is located at 1855 S.W. 53rd Street, Okeechobee. For more information, please call 863-763-3378.

Local Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy with a high near 87 and a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Winds will be calm becoming east around 5 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy with a low around 71 and a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Winds will be from the east northeast around 5 mph.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Partly cloudy with a high near 89 and a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Winds will be from the east southeast around 5 mph.

Monday night: Partly cloudy with a low around 71 and winds from the east southeast around 5 mph.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy with a high near 91 and a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Winds will be from the east southeast around 5 mph.

Tuesday night: Partly cloudy with a low around 72 and a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Winds will be from the southeast around 5 mph.

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Okeechobee News/Linda Bridges

Special visit

Florida's Attorney General, Bill McCollum visited the Okeechobee area on Saturday, Sept. 26, at the Williamson Conference Center for a personal meet and greet local residents. Those in attendance had the opportunity to meet with him and his wife Ingrid and after listening to him speak, people were able to ask questions as well. It was a very up and personal time with the Attorney General.

Livestock Market Report

September 28 and 29, 2009		Med #1	Steers	Hfhrs	
Cows		200-250	115-125	97-120	bringing 85-95. Plainer cattle off \$2 on steers and \$3-4 on heifers. Good calves off about \$1.00. Slaughter cows and bulls off \$1-2. Pat Tyner topped the calf market with a high of \$1.65, bought by Curt Wilson. Arbutle Creek topped the cow market with a high of 46, bought by Central Beef and Dairymen. Bred Heifer sale - Oct. 9; Bull Sales: Graham Angus - Oct. 16; Lemmon Angus - Oct. 23; Little Creek Brangus - Oct. 30. See ya next week Pete
Breaking	\$38.00	250-300	107-117	90-95	
Cutter	\$35.00	300-350	101-112	88-95	
Bulls		350-400	95-110	85-92	
1000-1500	\$47.00	400-450	89-104	79-89	
1500-2000	\$50.00	450-500	87-95	78-87	
		550-600	82-89	72-82	
		600-650	81-88	72-76	
Monday	Tuesday	Med #2	Steers	Hfhrs	
Calves	953	200-250	105-120	85-91	
Cows	79	250-300	100-112	75-87	
Str	10	300-350	91-107	75-87	
Hfhrs	0	350-400	85-100	72-84	
Bulls	3	400-450	81-94	68-78	
Yrlngs	5				
Mix	0				
Total	1050				

Prices off a little this week, but good 500-600# steers still

Local pet rescue needs help

The Humane Society Pet Rescue of Okeechobee needs help to keep our shelter a great place for adoptable pets to stay. We are also in need of donations to help with food, vet and other operating expenses. Anyone interested in helping is asked to contact Belinda at the shelter at 863-357-1104.

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Nightly 'bird-laries' solved at last

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

The almost nightly thefts at his drive thru store had Eric Kendall bewildered. How did the thief get in through the locked doors? And even more confusing, why did the thief only eat Dorito-brand chips?

After much head scratching and hypothesizing, Eric got his answer.

While on duty at the Hide-away Drive Thru, 3001 S.E. Third Terrace, all of his questions were answered when the thief brazenly entered the store -- the nightly 'birdlaries' were being committed by a mockingbird.

It seems the bird has no concerns about its caloric intake and dines nightly on cheese-flavored Doritos, as it shuns the many other brands of chips on the same display.

When Eric and his father, Howard Kendall, first noticed the thefts they feared a rat had made its home in the store. But, said Eric, the thief ignored bread and other food items.

"It never got anything other than Doritos. That's how we knew it wasn't a rat," explained

Eric on Thursday, Oct. 1. "It usually eats the cheese Doritos."

However, it seems the bird is branching out. In about the last 10 days the 'birdlar' has opened, and dined on, three bags of chips -- including a bag of Fritos and a bag of Cheetos.

It seems the feathered thief made its home, and got its meals, at the drive thru before Howard bought the store about five months ago.

Former owner Becky Croslyn said she not only fed it every day, but indicated the bird is a true Southerner.

"I used to feed it boiled peanuts. I would pick them out of the shell for it and it would come down and eat them," she said. "It just came around and kept coming back. It would wait for me to feed it boiled peanuts."

Howard said he fed his feathered intruder bird seed but that didn't help, "it would still come back and get my chips."

According to Eric, the bird lives just outside the drive thru in a Bougainvillea bush then somehow gains entry into the store after they close at 6:30 p.m.

"I'm not sure how he gets in here at night," said Eric, hypothesizing that the feathered 'birdlar' sneaks into the store under an eave.

Eric went on to say that the snacking bird does have at least one redeeming quality: "He doesn't make a mess. He's a very clean bird."

Just when Eric and Howard were starting to adjust to their

uninvited friend's eating habits, they realized things were only going to get worse. Wednesday evening the bird sauntered into the drive thru with five chicks in tow.

"I said: 'Oh, great, now they're all going to do it,'" said Howard with a wide grin.

Looks like Howard had better order more Doritos.



Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp
Howard Kendall (left) and his son Eric Kendall hold three bags of snack chips that were ripped open and dined on by an uninvited thief -- a mockingbird. The owners of the Hide-away Drive Thru said the bird somehow gains entry into their business after they close and feasts on the cheese-flavored chips.

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Florida Telecommunications FTRI Relay, Inc.



The new solar energy plant, now under construction on State Road 710 in Martin County will cover 500 acres and use 180,000 mirrors.

Special to the Okeechobee News/FPL

SOLAR

Continued From Page 1

schedule for completion next year," she added.

The environmental benefits of the solar plant include less greenhouse gases in the next 30 years. Company officials say the plant will reduce more than 2.75 million tons of gas, the equivalent of 18,700 cars. The plant will also decrease the compa-

ny's reliance on natural gas and oil. Governor Charlie Crist said he is very impressed with the facility.

He said climate change issues will have a big impact on Florida's future growth and economic strength. "We know we can reduce greenhouse gases and use fewer fossil fuels and more natural energy sources like solar. This solar facility is a significant step in that direction," he stated.

The complex consists of 180,000 mirrors over a 500 acre parcel at the FPL Martin Plant on State Road 710. Also in the works

are other solar plants at the Kennedy Space Center and in Desoto County .

The electric utility is also the nation's number one producer of renewable wind energy. They own and operate 58 projects in 16 states, most of them in the south west.

FLU

Continued From Page 1

it is expected that the quantity will be sufficient that within a short time the vaccine will be available to everyone who wants it.

Ken Kenworthy, assistant superintendent of schools, said that the flu has not yet caused any significant increases in absen-

tees. A possible method method of mass distribution that was discussed was administering the vaccination at the schools.

The latest information on H1N1 and the vaccine can be found at the emergency operations center website www.okeechobeeoc.com.

For more information on the H1N1 virus, see page 4.

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

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Okeechobee County Health Department

Invitation to:

The Tobacco-Free Initiative of Okeechobee Network Meeting

DATES:
 Wednesday, September 16, 2009
 Wednesday, November 18, 2009
 Wednesday, January 20, 2010
TIME: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
PLACE:
 Hampton Inn Conference Room
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Special to the Okeechobee News/Teresa Chandler

Teen Dance Party

Teresa Chandler and many volunteers organized a teen dance party to benefit the Shrine Club. Students enjoyed live music by DJ Production with Mr. "S" games, pizza, subs and slushies! Students also viewed a short film to learn about services provided by the Shriners. Proceeds from the teen dance will be donated directly to the Shrine Club to benefit the children's crippled/burn unit at the Shrine Hospital in Tampa. A HUGE thank you goes to the community for helping with donations and volunteer time. Thanks to: Ding-A-Ling Deli, Publix, Dominos, Gizmos, Jersey Mike's, Tiki to go (Garrett Smith), Jill Rogers/Communities in Schools, Stephanie Hand/Shirley's Personal Care, Dr. Wemmer/Wemmer Orthodontics, Quality Tees, East Coast Signs, Mrs. Wiersma/OHS, WOKC, Okeechobee News, Shrine Club and Sheriff Paul May.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Hospice of Okeechobee

Donation check

Hospice of Okeechobee's Director, Lisa Blackman recently accepted a \$500 donation from Riverside National Bank. The check was presented by Riverside's office manager, Tabitha Trent. "Hospice is a great organization that knows how to help people in need. They are part of the fabric of many communities and we feel this investment will allow Hospice to continue providing their much needed services," stated Mrs. Trent. Other bank staff members were present for the presentation including, Jamie Medrano, teller; Esther Banuelos, teller; Tina Clemons, Hospice Board Member; Frank Irby, Hospice Board Member; Linda Durrance, Hospice Board Member; Kristy Crawford, Commercial Lender. For more information about Hospice of Okeechobee, call 863-467-2321 or visit them online at www.hospiceofokeechobee.org



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Senator Joe Negron visits Okeechobee Health Care Facility

Residents and staff at Okeechobee Health Care Facility enjoyed meeting Senator Joe Negron during a recent visit he coordinated to become more familiarized with the economic challenges faced by nursing home facilities in his district, which includes all of Martin County and parts of Palm Beach, St. Lucie, and Okeechobee Counties.

Senator Negron toured the facility and talked with staff and residents about their current healthcare concerns. The Senator was especially interested in the levels of care provided at OHCF, a federal and state 5-star rated facility, and how the needs of the community were being met.

Robert Rosenthal, former President of Florida Health Care Association, past mem-

ber of the board of directors of American Health Care Association, and currently a member of the American Health Care Regulatory Committee, also attended the meeting and discussed with Senator Negron the operational issues providers are facing, not just in Florida, but across America.

Senator Negron, an attorney who served for six years in the Florida House of Representatives, provided an overview of the budget as it relates to Medicare and Medicaid, and then thanked everyone for sharing their perspectives and opinions regarding pending legislation. Senator Negron concluded his visit by urging those in attendance to e-mail him their concerns and welcomed suggestions regarding budget issues.



Submitted photo
Faye Haverlock, OHCF CEO; Senator Joe Negron-38th District; Bobby Rosenthal, consultant; and Andy McKillop, OHCF administrator.

Raulerson Hospital to host Women's Health Care luncheon

Raulerson Hospital presents a Women's Health Care Luncheon, to be held on Oct. 7, at Indian River State College (IRSC), Williamson Conference and Education Center in the Raulerson Hospital Auditorium from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The guest speakers from the Raulerson Hospital medical staff include James Bradfield, M.D. Board Certified Gynecologist, Albert Bravo, M.D. Board Certified in Gastroenterology and Internal Medicine, Philip Moyer, M.D. Board Certified in General and Vascular Surgery and Diplomate American Board of

General Surgery and Gabriel Guerrero, M.D. Board Certified in Endocrinology and Internal Medicine. The seminar will cover many of the gynecology and health services as well as the latest surgical procedures now being offered at Raulerson Hospital for women of all ages. There will also be a drawing for 10 free screening mammograms. You must be present to receive the award. Reservations are required, seating is limited. Call Marnie Lauter 863-824-2702 to register or for more information.



Special to the Okeechobee News

See you at the Pole

See You At the Pole: Students of Okeechobee County Schools were recently asked to meet at the flagpole for open prayer. Many children took advantage of this invitation, gathering in the school yards, and then near the flag pole to prayer for our schools, community and their families. Students joined up for prayer at the pole, music provided by More 2 Life Youth Pastor Micheal Santiago.

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Special to the Okeechobee News/Central Elementary

Students of the Week

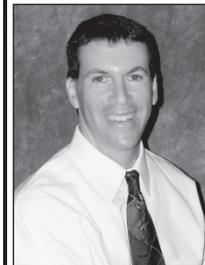
Central Elementary Students of the Week selected for the last week of September include: Alisa Wingfield, Bryton Bohannon, Samia Yamin, John T. Smet, Kyle Lowe, Layla Edmonds, Laura Sanchez, Noelia Martinez, Julissa Sanchez, Jakaira Gutierrez, Chase Mangold, Tara Hunt, Emanuel Ramirez, Timoteo Mejia, Alex Aguirre, Jillian Kennedy, Jennifer Salas-Garcia, Julian Tinajero, Mayra Garcia, Edana Scalf, Scott Yates, Ivy Campbell, Sara Fawzy, Beatriz Perez, Jessica Trent Dania Juarez, Luis Rodriguez, Ana Maria Torres.



Special of the Okeechobee News/YMS

Students of the Week

Standing from left to right are Yearling Students of the Week including: Isaiah Rutherford, Christian Doyle, and Francisco Pinon. Sitting from left to right are: Odalis Garcia, Margarita Martinez and Jacqueline Barrera-Guzman. Not pictured: Haley Chouinard. Also pictured are Mr. Tedders, Mr. Brewer, and Mrs. Markham.



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Holiday ornament sale to benefit scholarship fund

Okeechobee Retired Educators will once again offer the fourth limited edition Christmas ornaments. The ornament is 24kt gold on brass and includes a numbered certificate with historical information. The ornaments are just \$15 each and proceeds from the sale benefit the scholar-

ship fund. Ornaments from previous years are also available in limited quantities for \$10 each. Please call one of the following members if you are interesting in purchasing an ornament: Gay Carlton - 863-763-5755; Kay McCool - 863-763-2829, Paulette Whipple - 863-467-2487, Pam Trent - 863-763-3060, Regina Hamrick - 863-763-8865, Harel Parnis - 863-467-1767 or Marion Davis at 863-763-3991.

Sports complex summer pool hours

The sports complex pool is open for summer hours. Hours through Oct. 31, pool hours will be from 3-6 p.m. from Tuesday through Friday, 10-5 p.m. on Saturday, and 1-5 p.m. on Sunday. The pool will be closed on Monday. The pool will also offer senior water exercise classes until Sept. 30. The classes will be held on Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 10:45. The cost is \$1.50 per class.

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Thomas acquitted of all charges

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Not long after a six-member jury rendered their verdict Thursday afternoon Marvin Gay Thomas walked out of the Okeechobee County Jail a free man.

Thomas, who was arrested in 2008 on charges of sexual battery on a victim under 12 and lewd and lascivious battery on a victim over 12, was acquitted Oct. 1, by a jury of five women and one man. Thomas, a Petty Officer 2nd Class in the U.S. Navy, was then free to return home to his wife of 16 years, Gloria.

During his closing remarks Thursday afternoon, defense attorney Robert Stone pointed to inconsistencies in the testimony of the now 15-year-old female victim.

While on the stand Wednesday, the petit teen told the jury that Thomas, now 34, had made her commit sex acts on at least four occasions. She also stated that on at least one occasion the man slapped her in the face when she tried to resist.

But, according to Mr. Stone, this was the first time she had said anything about being hit.

"Why didn't she tell Detective (T.J.) Brock that Mr. Thomas slapped her? Why, when I took her deposition, didn't she say

'he slapped me?'" said Mr. Stone to the jury. "You heard about it the same time I heard about it."

Brock, a former detective with the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, was the investigator on this case but did not testify at the trial. He was fired earlier this year after being accused of allegedly having sexual relations with an inmate at the county jail.

Assistant State Attorney Ashley Albright told the jury in his opening statement that his case was based solely on testimony. He said he had no evidence, no DNA and no witnesses.

"Crimes like this, obviously, aren't committed in public," he said.

When Mr. Stone delivered his passionate closing argument he said he appreciated the fact that the prosecutor was "very candid" in telling the jury he had no evidence.

"But what's even worse, we have no evidence that they even attempted to get any (evidence)," he said. "We concede that the passage of time would have hampered their getting evidence. At least you could attempt to get semen as evidence. But there was no attempt -- no attempt at all."

Mr. Stone then alluded to a motel receipt from March of 2008 that was introduced into evidence by the state. Testimony indicated that when Thomas was home on leave he and his wife would stay in the Motel Pier II on U.S. 441 S.E. so they could have some privacy because they didn't yet have a home of their own.



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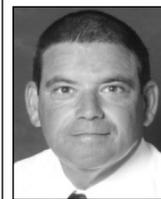
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Rough first half dooms Okeechobee Brahmans

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee continued to struggle in the first half as they fell behind by 21 points and couldn't recover in a 37-13 loss at Martin County Friday night.

Brahmans Coach Myron Jackson said the first half play of his team has him scratching his head, "It's got me perplexed; for some reason we seem to want to ease into games. It's not working for us. We have to bring the week's practice into Friday night," Okeechobee coach Myron Jackson said.

Martin County got 137 yards rushing from QB Mike Duhart. He also threw a touchdown pass to Tyler Raynes. The Tigers also scored on two field goals, a two point conversion, a safety, and a kick return by Juwan Braye.

Okeechobee played both of their young QB's. Jack Radebaugh played the first half and D.J. Washington played the second half. Washington led the team on two scoring drives.

"D.J. Washington gives us more with his QB runs. He can get out of the pocket and is more elusive. If you mold them both into one body and add about five inches, you'd have the greatest QB in the country," Jackson added.

Jackson said both players gave their all and neither of them have disappointed him this season.

Things looked good early as Okeechobee's David Carter recovered a fumble at the Martin County 41 just three plays in the to game. Okeechobee though, returned the favor on the next play as Radebaugh was picked off by Austin Tillman. He returned the interception 41 yards to give the Tigers a first down and ten at the Brahman 38. A penalty pushed them back but the Tigers then drove 57 yards in five plays to take the lead. Duhart threw three complete passes on the drive and carried the final five yards on a draw for the touchdown. Austin Tillman ran in a two point conversion for an (8-0) lead.

After an Okeechobee punt, Martin County drove down for a 35 yard field goal by James Vasquez to make it 11-0 late in the first quarter.

Okeechobee's defense rose to the occasion on the next drive as Martin County drove 45 yards in nine plays to get to the Brahman five yard line. Brant Harden tackled R.J. Fyne on fourth and goal to stop the drive.

Okeechobee, who didn't have a first down until the final minute of the half, gave Martin County a short field again on the next possession and the Tigers connected on a 30 yard field goal to make it 14-0.

Okeechobee got a horrible snap on their next punt attempt, and Walt Fortner was tackled short of the first down. The play gave Martin County the football on the Okeechobee 26 yard line. Five plays later, Duhart found Tyler Raynes for a nine yard scoring pass to make it 21-0.

Okeechobee did get two first downs in the final minute but ran out of time at the Tiger 40 yard line.

Things got better for Okeechobee in the second half but not before they got worse. Okeechobee held the ball for 11 plays on their first drive of the second half, their longest of the year. They drove 48 yards up field but couldn't convert a fourth down pass at the Tiger 46 yard line.

On their next series the Brahmans were backed up after an illegal chop block penalty. A bizarre play occurred in the end zone as Fortner tried to punt the football. It caromed off a players helmet through the goal post for a safety.

Juwan Braye returned the free kick 62 yards for a touchdown to make it 30-0 Martin County.

Okeechobee didn't pack it in and came back to score a touchdown on a 23 yard pass from Washington to Fortner on fourth down. The touchdown was set up by a 48 yard catch and run by LaVante Spivey.

Fortner said he just had to make a play for his QB, "All I know is I had to go up and

get it, the QB threw it up there and I went up and got it. Everybody has got to focus and step up. Were a good second half team but in the first half were not focused enough."

Okeechobee got a 42 yard punt return by Fortner later in the quarter to set up a nine yard touchdown run by Deforest Shanks to make it 30-13.

Washington said he was glad to see the offense click in the second half, "We were still lagging, but I tried to bring them up and bring them back together. We had more intensity in the second half. To come together as a team, a lot of things going on in the locker room has to change. We must come together as a team."

Martin County ended the scoring when

R.J. Fyne hit Justin Simons on a 58 yard scoring pass to make it 37-13.

Game notes

Jose Garcia had a tackle in the backfield for Okeechobee in the first half. Justin Conrad dropped Kyle Baker for a loss in the first half and Treyvon Johnson for a loss in the second half. Brant Harden nearly had a fumble recovery in the first half.

Okeechobee QB's were sacked three times in the first half for a loss of 21 yards.

Okeechobee is off next Friday. They return to the field on October 16 at Dwyer High School.

Martin County celebrated homecoming during halftime and before the game.

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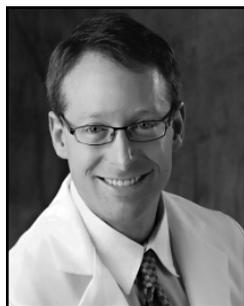
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The South Florida Water Management District will receive sealed bids through the Procurement Office...

Public Notice

Solicitation documents will be available September 9, 2009 in the SFWMD Procurement Office, at the above address, by calling (561) 682-6391. Interested bidders may also call the 24-hour BID HOT-LINE 800-472-5290.

Legal Description
HF10E-007
A parcel of land in Sections 19,20,21,28,29,30,31,32,33 and 34, Township 36 South, Range 35 East, Okeechobee County, Florida, described as follows: All of said Sections 19,30 and 31.

LESS HOWEVER, from the above described parcel of land, the following Two (2) parcels of land:

Parcel 1
That certain parcel of land in SFWMD Contract C-13477-A02, Exhibit "B" described as containing 70 acres, more or less. Said parcel now known as the "Hydromentia Okeechobee ATS Site" described by Mr. Ted Phillips PSM of LBHF in Project No. 05-0054-ATS-LGL dated 6/12/06.

Parcel 2
Tract HF100-002 as described in South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Lease No. LS040986. The bearing used in this descriptions do not relate to any of the other tracts in this description.

Tract No. HF100-002
A parcel of land located in Sections 33 and 34, Township 36 South, Range 35 East, Okeechobee County, Florida. Bounded on the East by Westerly right-of-way of Taylor Creek as recorded in Official Records Book 73, Page 435 of the Public Records of said county, and by the West right-of-way line of State Road 15 (U.S. Highway 441); bounded on the South and West by the Northeastly right-of-way line of Northwest 50th Drive (Hilliard Road), and bounded on the North by the following described line:

Containing 207.75 acres, more or less.
The above described parcel of Land. (Tract No. HF10E-007) contains 4,513.06 acres more or less.
322567 ON 9/9,30;10/4/09

NOTICE OF OUA MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Okeechobee Utility Authority will meet in regular session on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 8:30 A.M., at the Okeechobee Utility Authority Offices, 100 SW 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Authority with respect to such meetings, he or she will need a record of proceedings and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made; which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based.

BY ORDER OF THE OKEECHOBEE UTILITY AUTHORITY

John F. Hayford
Executive Director
335176 ON 10/4/09

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 II

Bid documents 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.

Bids must be delivered to the Executive Director, on or before 4:00 PM, October 9, 2009. Bids shall be contained within a sealed envelope with the bidders name clearly marked on the outside of the bid package.

John F. Hayford
Executive Director
335222 ON 10/4/09

CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Okeechobee will meet in Regular Session on Tuesday October 6, 2009, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida.

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.

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.

NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE OKEECHOBEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO DISCUSS STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION VS. AMERICAN DRILLING SERVICES, INC.

The Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners shall hold an Executive Session between the Board and its Attorney, which will discuss the litigation between State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection vs. American Drilling Services, Inc. regarding the Sports Complex Well, bearing case number 2007-CA-443.

The proposed Executive Session shall be held on Thursday, October 8, 2009 at 11:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter, in the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

Notice is hereby given that the following individuals will be in attendance at the Executive Session: County Commissioner Cliff Betts, Jr., County Commissioner Noel Chandler, County Commissioner Ray Damer, County Commissioner Margaret Garrard Helton, Commissioner Joey Hoover, County Administrator Lyndon L. Bonner, and Attorney John R. Cook.

A Court Reporter will be present to record the session and the transcript shall be made part of the public record upon conclusion of the litigation.

Cliff Betts Jr., Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Okeechobee County, Florida

Sharon Robertson, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Okeechobee County, Florida
335262 ON 10/4/09

ANSWER:
9 2 7 6 8 1 5 2
9 8 1 7 2 9 6 8 2
6 2 8 9 4 1 8 7 9
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1 7 8 2 9 6 8 2 6
2 1 7 8 9 7 9 8 8
8 9 9 8 6 2 2 1 7
4 8 6 9 1 2 2 1 7

SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box.

Need a few more bucks to purchase something deer? Pick up some extra bucks when you sell your used items in the classifeids. Reading a newspaper helps you understand the world around you. No wonder newspaper readers are more successful people!

Construction licensing board to hear two alleged violations

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

When they meet Tuesday afternoon, the construction industry licensing board is scheduled to consider two requests for contractor licenses and two alleged violations of county ordinances.

Ron Vanderhoff of Accent Tile and Marble had previously been licensed to do business in the county. As the result of an automobile accident, he let his license lapse. He is appealing to the board for reinstatement of his license.

Turning to violations, James Sinamore of Top Notch Installations has been cited for installing an above ground pool and building a

If you go ...

What: Monthly meeting of the Okeechobee County Construction Industry Licensing Board

When: 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6

Where: Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1728 NW Ninth Ave.

carport and fence without a building permit. Wilhelm Burkhardt d/b/a Burkhardt & Sons will have to answer charges that he did roofing work without a permit and outside the scope of his license.

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

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS
1 Tees off
5 Lazuli
10 Haze of a different color
14 Bind with rope
15 Island north of the Paraguaná Peninsula
16 Upper hand
17 Words before doing
18 Called
19 Track warning
20 "For children 12 and under," say?
23 Therapist's concern
24 She beat Martina for the 1999 U.S. Open championship
27 Growing influence of the AARP?
31 1985 Broadway musical based on a Dickens novel
32 Frequent texters
33 Bunch
37 C-3PO, for one
39 Film with Bond girl Honey Ryder
40 Less normal
42 Fished with the National Anguilla Club
44 What "No snoring" might be part of?
49 Geneses
50 Fight sites
52 Spontaneous public meeting?
56 Chow chow
58 Award-winning Disney animator Glen
59 Apple or pear
60 Be worthy of
61 Playwright Chekhov
62 Home of Zeno
63 Stargazer's focus?
DOWN
1 24-part classic
2 Spectra
3 Ancient ascetic
4 Slam dunk, so to speak
5 Letter?
6 Saroyan's "My Name Is ..."
7 Shoe company with a big cat on its logo
8 Surefooted goat
9 Extreme cruelty
10 Brought back
11 Dash component
12 Back
13 Bottom line
21 Put down
22 Rendezvous
25 Longtime Georgia senator
26 Kid's retort
28 "Air Music" composer
29 Hit a low note?
30 "Swan Lake" maiden
33 Vagabond
34 Genesis plot
35 Signifies
36 Cannes Christmas icon
38 Beyond lavish
41 VMI program
43 German village
45 Certain Honshu resident
46 Go back into business
47 Open, as a scroll
48 Toledo's river
51 Spread
53 Carnival follower
54 Overdue
55 Nephew of Cain
56 Cardinals, on scoreboards
57 Boy

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

W A D E S G M T I D E S T
A L I T O R E O T E P E E
S T R A P H A N G A S I D E
T E E T H E D E U N I C E
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By Dan Naddor
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Free Kids Day Fishing Festival planned

Taylor Creek Bass Club, Inc., with the support of several local businesses, is pleased to sponsor our 24th Annual Lee McAllister Memorial, Free Kids Day Fishing Festival. The Fishing festival will be held at the Agri-Civic Center on Sunday, Oct. 25, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Entry will be from Highway 710 only.

From 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., Kasting Kids Contest will be held. Following instructions given by members of Taylor Creek Bass Club and a practice period, girls and

boys ages 7-10 and 11-14 are invited to test their fishing skills by flipping, pitching and casting to targets. Rods and reels will be provided for use during the contest. Prizes will be awarded to the winners in each age group.

A live fishing competition begins at 1 p.m. at the Agri-Civic Center back pond. Girls and boys ages 406, 7-10, and 11-14 will be given a fully rigged cane pole and a container of worms. Each child will pick a fishing spot along the shore of the stocked pond to try their luck at catching

the biggest and most fish in their age group. Trophies and prizes will be awarded in each age group.

Registration forms are available at tackle shops, restaurants and local businesses. Drop boxes are available at Okeechobee News, the Pennysaver and Pogy's Restaurant. Participants are encouraged to pre-register by drop-box locations or by mailing forms to Taylor Creek Bass Club, C/O Charlie Eaton, Jr, 5964 N.E. Third Lane, Okeechobee, FL 34974 before Oct. 23. Registration at the event will be possible for those not able to pre-register. Each child participating will be given tickets for two soft drinks, two hot dogs. Additional drinks and hot dogs for adults and children will be available at a nominal cost.

In the interest of safety and comfort, law enforcement and emergency medical personnel will be present. Also, port-a-potties will be available. A parent or guardian must accompany each child in their care.

For more information, call 863-447-3724.

Rentals

King's Bay

Town Home \$650.00
Duplex \$750.00

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FOR THESE LISTINGS, CALL VICKI ANDERSON 863-634-4106.

UNIMPROVED ACREAGE on western side of the Viking. Close to the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park. MLS #202858, \$8000.

CONDO WITH MANY AMENITIES, pool, clubhouse, activities year around. Well maintained park model. Screened porch. Marina and access to Lake Okeechobee. Gated community. MLS# 202773, \$59,500.

GREAT LOCATION IN TOWN This is a unique house loaded with history. Hurricane Hide Room in middle of house. MLS #202951, \$149,900.

WELL KEPT MH. Corner lot with plenty of curb appeal. 2 huge screen porches. Spacious workshop w/sink, bathroom, fridge. Upgraded electrical in 2005. Concrete foundation w/lie downs. "Office/Den" area. \$74,900 MLS#203135

ADORABLE ONE ROOM WINTER OR WEEKEND RETREAT. It is a large corner lot with a beautiful view of the water and many trees. It has a nice carport. MLS #200971, \$85,000.

FULLY UPGRADED DWMH. Double paneled Pella Windows throughout. New 18 gauge metal roof, 50 year warranty on siding. One car garage, boat dock. Too many features to include. MUST SEE THIS BEAUTY. MLS #201548, \$124,900.

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

REGISTRATION FORM

Taylor Creek Bass Club, Inc.
24th Annual Kids' Day Fishing Festival
October 25, 2009 - Okeechobee AG Center

CONTESTANTS:
Name _____ Age _____
Address _____
Phone _____
A Responsible Adult must accompany the participants!

General Release:
The contestants, parents or guardians hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless all members, officers and officials of Taylor Creek Bass Club and Okeechobee Ag Center for any liabilities and/or damages arising from the contestants participation in the Kids' Day Fishing Festival.

Signed _____ Date _____
MAIL REGISTRATION FORM BY OCTOBER 23, 2009 to
CHARLIE EATON, JR. - 5964 NE 3rd Lane, Okeechobee, FL 34974
Or drop off at The Okeechobee News Office,
The Pennysaver or Pogy's Restaurant.

David Hazellief • 863-610-1553 Betty Hazellief • 863-610-0144
Sharon Prevatt • 863-634-7069 Dee Reeder • 863-610-2485

Century 21 (863) 763-2104
Hazellief & Prevatt Realty, Inc. Se Habla Español

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FORECLOSURE

1003-H: Palm Village 2/2 home w/lg master rm, patio, clubhouse w/pool and activities. 55+ community. Seller offers 3% of purchase price credited towards buyer's closing cost. MLS# 203212

REDUCED

1009-H: 3 bd/2 ba w/ground pool, located in the SE section of town on a huge lot. Circular driveway and close to everything. \$89,000 MLS# 202910

NEW LISTING

1006-H: Oak Tree Place 2-Story townhouse. 2 bdms and 1 bath upstairs and 1/2 bath downstairs. Back porch with new panel roof and wooden fence also incl stackable washer/dryer unit. Call today for more info. MLS# 203227

MOTIVATED SELLER

5013-M: 3 Bdrm 2 ba MH on 1.32+/- fenced acre located in Whispering Pines. (NW 36th St.) \$85,000 MLS# 203097

MOTIVATED SELLER

5014-M: North Country 2 story house w/2 bd/1 ba downstairs and 1 bd/1 ba upstairs. Sitting room, freshly painted, new appliances and tile. 2 car garage and balcony. \$165,000 MLS# 203111

MOTIVATED SELLER

5042-H: Lakeport 2 story w/attached carport, completely furnished w/the best furniture. Real bargain. Upstairs sitting rm overlooks Rim Canal (could be extra rm). \$115,000

ACREAGE / LOTS: • 7+/- acres on HWY 68 \$110,000 • Dark Hammock 25+/- acres w/MH or without. • 2 Basswood buildable Lots side by side \$15,000 each • 434+/- acres in Port St. Lucie County • Viking acreage starting at 3,750

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Reduced

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New Listing

"TAKE A LOOK AT ME"
CBS 3/2 home on canal with seawall, dock, attached 1 car carport & 12 x 8 storage building. Bring your boat & enjoy the outdoors. A/C replaced in '08. MLS #93430 \$109,900 Call Marcia Barber 863-634-1229
Reduced

"JEWEL OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD"
This is not just another manufactured home. Extras include rounded archways, drywall finish, large living room and plenty more MLS #203211 \$110,000 Call Marcia Barber 863-634-1229
New Listing

"WHAT A DEAL"
Nicely kept mobile home on the water with its own boat launch. All it needs is a little TLC and it could make the perfect weekend get away. MLS #203236 \$49,900 Call Max Ayala 561-722-0518
New Listing

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Boys golf loses to Martin County

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee High School's golf team had designs on competing head to head with Martin County this year.

Thursday they got their first chance, and the results were not that encouraging.

Martin County played excellent golf and shot 2 over par, without two of their top players, as they easily outdistanced Okeechobee 145-166.

Kodi Stephen led Okeechobee with a four over par, 40.

"We didn't do too good," Brahman Coach Mark Ward said afterward, "They kind of fell apart a little bit."

Ward said the course conditions were excellent and the kids just didn't rise to the challenge of playing the best golf team in the area.

"Our guys were discouraged. I told them I wasn't mad at them but to compete with

Martin County, you have to have focus, and a different mentality," he stated.

Ward had asked the team to go on the internet and really study the course before they played Thursday. He said the kids didn't do that. He said that is part of the mental game that you must emphasize if your going to take your golf game to the next level.

"You want to be like Martin County. If you want to be like those guys, do this assignment. Write five things down that will make you better, and then write how you are going to achieve this," he added. Ward said his team still believes they can compete with Martin County. He said it won't be easy because Martin County has been doing it for a long time, and have a lot of intangibles necessary to remain champions.

The boys play in an all day tournament in Clewiston Monday. Tuesday they host a match at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club against Port St. Lucie.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

Athlete of the month

Selected as male athlete of the month at OHS for the month of August is senior student, Thomas Payne in the sport of bowling. Congratulations Thomas!



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

Athlete of the month

Caitlyn Gaucin, a senior on the OHS Volleyball team was selected as Female Athlete of the Month for August. Congratulations Caitlyn!

Girl's golf loses to Jensen Beach

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee had a rough day on the links Thursday as the girl's golf team fell to Jensen Beach by 59 strokes, 180-239.

Paige Arnold led Okeechobee with a 54 on the par 36 course at Eagle Marsh. Emily Raulerson shot 59, Sam Harrell shot a 63, and Kailey Hoover shot 63.

"It was a tough course. It was extremely

tight as there were water and woods on each side," Brahman golf coach Lonnie Sears said, "Our girls aren't used to those conditions. They are used to open courses. They did play extremely well for the conditions."

Sears said the girls continue to work hard. He stated Paige Arnold has been very steady in recent matches.

Okeechobee's next match is Tuesday in St. Lucie County.

Listings Updated Daily

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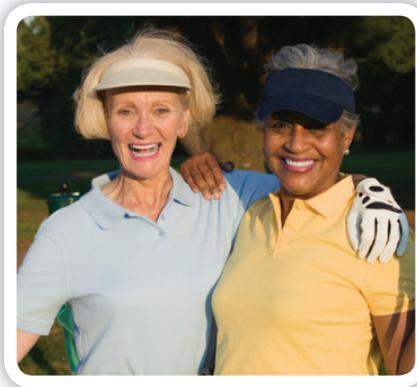
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