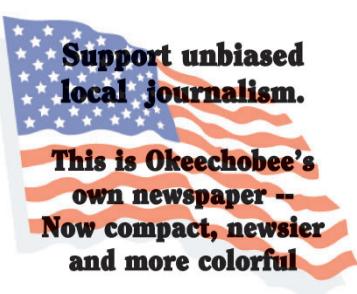




Vol. 100 No. 122

Sunday, October 11, 2009

75¢ Plus tax



Local woman dies in auto accident ... Page 2

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Lake Levels

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School union voting on contract

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee School union members vote Monday on a proposed three year deal that addresses teacher concerns about more planning time, increases supplements for coaches, and adds one step to everyone's salary schedule.

Assistant Superintendent Ken Kenworthy said every employee will see at least a 2 percent raise this year under terms of this deal.

"We are very pleased. When you're able to give a raise during these economic times, everyone should be excited about that," he said.

Lot of districts froze and cut salaries this year in Florida. Kenworthy said Okeechobee Schools were frugal over the past few years and had a little money left over. He predicted a positive vote from the union Monday.

"I certainly hope so. There's nothing really in any of the lan-

guage that we agreed to that I think any bargaining unit will find offensive. We tried to do a good, fair job in the language. I certainly hope they are happy, as happy as we are," he said.

Planning time was a big issue at the bargaining table this year. On that issue, the district and the union both compromised. Mr. Kenworthy said the district recognizes that additional burdens are placed on teachers every year, many times by the legislature. He

noted many teachers have to work at home at night and weekends.

The school board will not schedule more than four meetings per month for teachers. They also designated a planning day, the day of open house, and two one half days for teacher planning and preparation.

In the deal, the District agreed to establish a joint committee to allocate an additional \$70,000 given to the budget for supplements this

See CONTRACT — Page 17

Farmers honored: Agriculture CARES

Annual dinner honors local producers



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Earl and Phoebe Raulerson were honored for two properties they own, the Raulerson Home Place, and the Raulerson Lofton Place. Also in the photo are Frankie Lane of the Florida Farm Bureau, Mike Sole, Florida DEP secretary, and Florida Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson.

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The second annual Northern Everglades and Estuaries Alliance CARES Recognition dinner Thursday night honored 20 local agriculture operations for the participation in state environmental programs.

The recipients this year included the Pines Ranch, Cornerstone Farms, Ray Parker, Karlson's Ranch, Raulerson and Sons, Kennedy Farms in Platt's Bluff and Lamb Island, the 101 Ranch, Candler Ranch, Four Winds Ranch, High Horse Ranch, Fair Bluff, LTD, Coker Cattle, Hook-R Ranch, David



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Danny and Marcia Candler were honored from the Candler Ranch at Thursday's dinner. Also in the picture are (L-r) Frankie Hall of the Florida Farm Bureau, Mike Sole, Secretary of the Florida DEP and Florida Ag. Commissioner Charles Bronson.

Williams Ranch, Raulerson Home Place and Raulerson Lofton Place, McArthur Farms Barn #3, the Fulford Dixie Ranch, and the Fulford Micco Ranch.

State Representative Denise Grimsley of Lake Placid praised local agriculture producers for the work they are doing, "They try to

do the right thing. Agriculture is changing. They are using our natural resources more wisely."

Frankie Hall of the Florida Farm Bureau said the CARES program began in 1998 and was implemented in 2001. He mentioned more and more farmers are tak-

See CARES — Page 17

Elderly woman killed in crash

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A 77-year-old Okeechobee woman was killed Friday, Oct. 9, in a two-vehicle collision at the intersection of S.R. 70 West and U.S. 98.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), Janet A. Maddock was pronounced dead at the scene of the 9 a.m. accident.

In an FHP report by Trooper Corporal Robert G. Leatherow a 1995 Oldsmobile automobile entered the intersection and failed to yield the right of way to Kenneth David Olson, 26, of West Palm Beach. Mr. Olson was west-bound on S.R. 70 and was in the outside lane when the Oldsmobile, driven by Esther Mae Carstensen, 79, of Okeechobee, attempted a left turn onto U.S. 98.

The 2006 Toyota Tundra driven by Mr. Olson struck the right side of the Oldsmobile with its right front. Neither Mr. Olson nor the passenger in his pickup—Robin L. Dickstein, 46, of Royal Palm Beach—were injured.

Detective Ted Van Deman, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), said both vehicles had a solid green light.

Ms. Maddock was seated in the back seat and on the passenger side of the automobile, said the detective.

Cpl. Leatherow's report indicates that Ms. Carstensen was taken to Raulerson Hospital by ambulance and listed her injuries as minor.

Another passenger in the car—Marilyn S. Zody, 68, of Okeechobee—was airlifted by



Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp

A 77-year-old Okeechobee woman was killed in this two-vehicle crash on S.R. 70 W. at its intersection with U.S. 98 Friday, Oct. 9. According to a Florida Highway Patrol report, the white 1995 Oldsmobile attempted a left-hand turn onto U.S. 98 around 9 a.m. and was struck in the right side by a 2006 Toyota pickup truck. The report states that the driver of the car, Esther Mae Carstensen, "violated the right of way" of the pickup.

helicopter to Lawnwood Regional Medical Center in Fort Pierce. The FHP report lists her condition as critical.

The trooper's report indicates that whether

or not Ms. Maddock was using her seat belt is under investigation. All of the other people involved were wearing seat belts, stated the report.



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
1200 NE Park Street
(next to the post office)

RSVP to: 863-462-5781

Lunch will be provided

Looking for representatives from: Local Businesses, All Schools, Colleges, Faith-Based and Youth Organizations, Parents & Parent Teachers Associations, Hospital Health Care Providers, Day Care Providers & Law Enforcement Agencies, State, City & County Agencies

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TC 10/09

Report: woman robbed of cash, pills

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee woman was arrested on a felony charge of armed robbery after being accused of taking cash and prescription pills from another woman at knifepoint.

Elicia Jean Herron, 28, S.E. 21st Court, was also arrested Thursday, Oct. 8, on a misdemeanor charge of theft. She was booked

into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$30,000.

An arrest report by Deputy Max Waldron, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), states that Herron and another woman were at the home of a mutual acquaintance



Elicia Jean Herron

around 1 p.m. when the incident occurred.

The report states Herron approached the woman and put a knife to her throat. She then took an estimated \$100 to \$150 in cash from the woman's wallet, as well as a bottle of 30mg oxycodone pills. The deputy said the victim had a prescription for the painkillers.

According to the report the knife was not found.

The report does not indicate if the money allegedly stolen from the woman was ever recovered, or if she was injured.

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).

- Dewey Alton Lightsey, 33, S.E. 59th Circle, Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 8 by Deputy Matthew Hurst on a warrant charging him with violation of probation - aggravated battery. He is being held without bond.

- Pedro A. Alaniz, 28, N.W. 160th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 8 by Deputy Matthew Hurst on a felony charge of driving while license suspended with knowledge - habitual offender. He was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of resisting a law

enforcement officer without violence. His bond was set at \$10,500.

- Victor Ugo Ayala, 23, N.W. 34th Ave., was arrested Oct. 8 by Deputy Corporal Aric Majere on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with criminal mischief - \$1,000 or more. His bond was set at \$500.

- William Edwards, 49, N.E. 10th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 8 by Deputy Lieutenant Keith Murrish on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with amended violation of probation - driving under the influence. He is being held without bond.

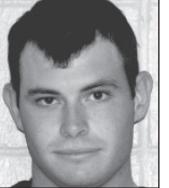
This column lists arrests and not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Anyone listed here who is later found innocent or has had the charges against them dropped is welcome to inform this newspaper. The information will be confirmed and printed.

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.

Reed Ashton Hair, 20, 6'1" 215 lbs. Martin



Reed Ashton Hair



Huber Ambriz Sierra



Iva Jean Maya



Chris Gornall

County Charge - Dealing in stolen property - Okeechobee County escape warrant pending.

Huber Ambriz Sierra, H/M, DOB 6/13/1965, Burglary Structure, Grand Theft, No Bond.

Iva Jean Maya, W/F, DOB 7/12/1977, FTA - Traffic In Cocaine, Poss. Marijuana Less Than 20 Gr., Poss. Drug Paraphernalia, No Bond.

Chris Gornall, W/M, DOB 1/24/1963, VOP - Carry Concealed Weapon, no Bond.

Substance abuse group plans ceremony

The Okeechobee Substance Abuse Coalition will host their third annual Narcotics Overdose Prevention and Education (N.O.P.E.) ceremony at the Okeechobee County Civic Center, U.S. 98 N., on Thursday, Oct. 29.

Refreshments will be served at 5:30 p.m., and the ceremony will start at 6:30 p.m.

To have a family member or friend remembered, log on to www.nopetaskforce.org to register and download a photo of that person.

For information, contact Connie Curry at 863-763-3117 or Lucille Arcuri at 863-261-3685.

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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!

Duck season

- We are overrun with Muscovy ducks on Taylor Creek. They are multiplying faster than ever due in part to a couple of misguided individuals who insist on feeding them. It is not a kindness to feed birds in a place where food is already plentiful. It makes them dependent on you. The Muscovy ducks range through neighbors' yards defecating in abundance on decks, walks and boats. I hope these individuals will wise up, think of their neighbors, the welfare of the ducks, and please stop feeding them.

U.S.A. upset over loss of Olympic bid?

- Local residents seldom benefit from the profits of the Games. In fact displacing people is an almost accepted part. In Seoul, Atlanta,



Sydney and Salt Lake City thousands of poorer families were displaced from their low income homes to make way for the influx of visitors. The same happened on a massive scale in Beijing. And money is not always guaranteed. The taxpayers of Montreal just recently completed paying for the \$1 billion dollar loss of the 1976 Olympics, Sydney in 2000 spent \$3.4 billion on the Olympics while Athens 2004 Olympics cost no less than 9 billion (euro), some estimating 13 billion (euro). Even with these huge costs, profits have been made, and are possible. But there are so many conflicting reports it is difficult to be accurate. Because of the many and varying costs, it is extremely difficult to calculate the financial merits, or otherwise, of any particular Olympic Games.

- How would the Olympics have been good for anyone other than Chicago? Everyone here and everywhere else will still be in the same fix they are in right now.

- Even the most pessimistic forecast of income derived directly from having hosted the Olympics is \$4.4 billion with the possible cost of up to \$500 million to taxpayers. Why would it have been good for our country? Because our countrymen and women in Chicago would have benefited. When one of us benefits don't we all? Are they not Americans too?

- Don't forget the increase in positive world view from the Olympics. It reminds people of the culture here and really would represent our best face forward to the rest of the world. I doubt you would find anyone who would say China suffered from a declining world view when they hosted the Olympics. In fact, much was made about the progress that was made and how it was sort of a coming out to the rest of the world. You have to think that it would positively benefit tourism in general in the long run from that perspective. That benefits the entire country in addition to the host city.

- Here's an idea. Let's make a bid for the 2020 Olympics right here in Chobee town USA. We have plenty of open space. We are within driving distance of many major cities. Visitors can also take a ride to Disney, Universal, Busch Gardens, Seaworld on their downtime. With all the income that this supposedly generates, we can have the highest paid police & sheriffs departments. The Fire departments can get their new trucks with a gigantic raise. Every one can get a raise! Maybe we would finally, actually get some drinking water that we could DRINK with all this extra money just floating around.

- I'm not upset over the loosing of the bid. We have had our chances to host, and I think Rio deserves to host. At least with Rio hosting it will be in our time zone, and we can see things live without having to be up at 3 a.m. I am hoping that by 2016 we will be well out of this economic mess we are in.

- I am not disappointed. With all of the problems we have in this country right now,

I think it is just as well that we didn't get the Olympic bid. Besides, the U.S. has had the Olympics more often in the past than any other country. We should be gracious and let other countries have a chance to host it. Since the modern Olympic Games began in 1896, the United States has hosted a total of eight games. France has hosted five and Germany, Italy and Japan have each hosted three games. Canada and the United Kingdom will host their third games in 2010 and 2012 respectively. Other countries have only hosted once or twice. We've already had eight turns as host country when there are countries who haven't even had one turn. Don't you think people in the other countries resent the U.S. over that? The 2016 games in Rio will be the first time a South American country got to host the games.

- Think about all of the countries in the world. The United States had the Olympics in 2000. Why would anyone expect us to get it again so soon when there are so many other countries in the world who also want to host it? Chicago's bid for the Olympics was a long shot at best. Had it not been for the president and the first lady going to Europe to lobby the Olympic committee, the selection of the 2016 Olympics host city would have just been a one-line mention on the news. It seems a little arrogant for Americans to think that we should get to host the Olympics again so soon. We already had eight turns. Of course they should give it to a country that hasn't even had one turn yet.



Halloween

- My family really enjoyed the Halloween festival at the Agri-Civic Center last year. I hope they hold it again. But seriously, if you enjoy taking your kids to the festival you should support it by donating at least one bag of candy so they have lots to give out. If you stayed at home and had trick or treaters, you would have to buy more than one bag of candy.

- I enjoy seeing the trick or treaters from my neighborhood at my house, but I do not think it is right when people from all over the county dump their kids in my area. Just because there are a lot of houses on my street does not mean we can afford to buy candy for hundreds of kids from all over. I think folks should stay in your own neighborhood or go to the county party.

- Trick or treat seems to have faded. I let my kids trick or treat just a few houses on

our street -- just people we are friends with. When I was a kid, we were only allowed to go to houses of people we knew and I think that is a smart way to keep it. It's just a bad idea to teach children that it is ever a good idea to go knocking on the doors of people you don't know.

One nation under God

- In response to the comment about the man who was threatened that he would be fired if he wore his "one nation under God button," I wish the person would let us know what happened. Did he wear the button again? Was he fired? I think Freedom of Speech should cover wearing a button that says "one nation under God." After all, that is part of our Pledge of Allegiance. No one should object to a person wearing a sign that is part of the national Pledge of Allegiance.

Emergency services

- I feel that any time the county equipment is being used for anything but official county business it is inappropriate use of county property. If it's ok to do, can I borrow a off-road fire truck so I burn some woods or maybe a tractor so I can cut my grass? The county property should only be used for official county business. The Taxpayers are paying for it.

- If a cop is dropping off a child at school on his way to work or picking up something at the grocery store on his way home from work, I see no problem with that. It would be silly to drive home, get the personal vehicle and drive back to the store when he is going right past it on his way home anyway. It's not a big detour that takes a lot of gas. But if the deputy is using a county vehicle to run personal errands when he is off duty, that I have a problem with it. If he is not on duty, he should not be driving the car, except to have it washed or serviced. I think the deputies should take the cars home so that they have the car if they get called in to help with an emergency situation. We have a pretty small department and people not on the schedule sometimes are called in.

- It's my understanding that a deputy or city police Officer, when in his vehicle, is available for duty. He or she cannot safely respond if they have a dependant or civilian with them. Picking up groceries or dropping off laundry would not be a problem.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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

We Pledge...

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

- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.

- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.

- To disclose our own conflicts of interest or potential conflicts to our readers.

- To correct our errors and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.

- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.

- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

MEMBER OF:



Reflections from the Pulpit

By Rev. Calvin H. Fryar

Pastor, Brighton Baptist Church

Shields of Brass

"And it came to pass in the fifth year of King Rehoboam, that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem: And he took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the King's house; he even took away all: and he took away all the shield of gold which Solomon had made. And King Rehoboam made in their stead brazen shields, and committed them unto the hands of the chief of the guard, which kept the door of the king's house. And it was so, when the king went into the house of the LORD, that the guard bare them, and brought them back into the guard chamber." (I Kings 14: 25-28)

The shields of gold were not meant to be used for war - they had a special mission. The golden shields were brought out only when the king went up to the temple to worship. The guards would form a double line and hold the shields to form a gold enclosed pathway for the king as he went up to worship. There were 300 of them. No wonder the Queen of Sheba marveled at the glory and splendor of

Solomon entering the temple to worship. But now, how sad, the gold was gone and they substituted brass instead. But no shield of brass could ever replace the golden ones. The gold represented the king's presence in the temple. Since his entry into the temple was a special event, the golden shields were brought out to represent his presence. But that joy was soon lost when Shishak, the king of Egypt, looted Judah's treasures and ran off with the golden shields. The gold was lost; therefore, they substituted brass.

America has enjoyed the gold of the King's presence. In the thinking of our founding fathers, the center of each township was the church. The first schools they built were to teach the citizens to read the Bible and to train clergy in the Word of God. That is why most Americans do not wish their schools and churches to be taxed. The name "Shishak" means "greedy." Greed has attempted to rob America if its true gold - the Word of God. I am convinced that without it we would have no America as we know it today. And I am not ready for a change. I love the old America because it loved God and His Son, Jesus Christ!

Benjamin Franklin stood up, when the

Continental Congress reached an impasse, and said, "We have been assured, sir, in the Sacred Writing, that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." He called them to prayer and reminded them that without God's approval we were no different than the builders of Babel.

"America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great." - Alexis de Tocqueville, "Democracy in America"

Brass represents judgement. We are allowing evil people to carry the gold of our faith in Christ away, and in its place, they are substituting brass. Therefore, I ask, "Have we traded God's presence and mercy for the brass of judgement?" Every American needs to ask himself this question. Remember, without the gold of His presence we have only the brass of judgment. I believe God's judgment is about to fall on America.

D. James Kennedy relates, "At our Sunday evening service a few years ago, a missionary to Russia told of a most interesting event that took place a year before the disunion of the Soviet Union. This missionary was the first to get approval to distribute Bibles to one Soviet

high school in Moscow. On the appointed day and hour he appeared with the edition of the Bible which was being given away. It was simply entitled "The Book."

"The principle, a man of medium height, stocky shoulders, square jaw, short-cropped hair, steely grey eyes, and the look of a KGB colonel, greeted him politely. When the missionary handed him "The Book" he said, 'Thank you for this book on religion, I have been thinking about possibly teaching a course on religions next year, and I'm sure this would prove to be helpful.'

"The missionary replied, 'Excuse me, sir, there seems to be some misunderstanding. This is not a book on religion. This is a Bible.' The man's eyes opened wide in amazement and he said, 'A Bible, a Bible!' He clasped it to his breast and said 'A Bible!' We were once a great Christian nation, but we turned our backs upon God, and we have destroyed ourselves." - D. James Kennedy

When the king is present the golden joy will return to our land. God has blessed America and He will bless her again if we return to Him. Tucked away in an Old Testament story is the statement "And the Lord blessed the house of Obed-edom, and all that he had." (I Chronicles 13:14) If we ask about the basis of that blessing, we find it explained simply by the fact that Obed-edom had opened his home to the ark of the covenant of Jehovah. That ark, of course, was a symbol and sign of God's presence with His people. Indeed it was more: in the Tabernacle typology it was the throne of the Lord. And Obed-edom opened his house for the throne of Jehovah. No wonder God blessed Him! - "Prairie Overcomer"

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

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.

Coast Guard Auxiliary of Okeechobee meets the second Monday of each month, at 7 p.m. at the entrance to Okee-Tantie Camp Grounds. We are seeking new members who are, "Semper Paratus - Always Ready."

For information call 863-824-7623

VFW #10539 Ladies Auxiliary lunch and bingo will start at noon at the Post, 3912 U.S. 441 S.E. Auxiliary members and their guests are invited. Please R.S.V.P. to 863-763-2308.

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.

The Genealogical Society of Okeechobee will meet at 1:30 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Public Library, 206 S.W. 16th St. The meeting is open to anyone interested in tracing his or her ancestry. The annual membership is \$10 per person, and \$12 for a family. For information, call Eve at 863-467-2674; or, visit their web site at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flgso>.

Artful Appliquers is a recently formed chapter in Okeechobee. This chapter meets at the Turtle Cove Clubhouse, 10 Linda Road, Okeechobee on Mondays from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Karen Graves, Chapter leader would like to extend a warm welcome to any interested persons to come by and see what they are about. For information call 863-763-6952.

Flotilla 57 - U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Station located at the entrance to Okeetantie on Road 78 on the second Monday of each month. Everyone is welcome to come as a guest and inquire about membership. Do get your safe boating certification. Call to enroll for course or to inquire about membership 863-763-0165.

TUESDAY

The Civil Air Patrol meets each Tuesday eve-

ning 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

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

Okeechobee Substance Abuse Coalition meets the second Tuesday of the month, at 11:30 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, lunch is provided. For information contact Jim Vensel at 863-697-1792.

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

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, Call 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.

Christian Home Educators of Okeechobee will meet at the Grace Christian Church Fellowship Hall, 701 S. Parrott Ave. Anyone currently home schooling or interested in home schooling is welcome. For information, call Lydia Hall 863-357-6729 or Betty Perera 863-467-6808.

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 Savior, 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.

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

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 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 at 1735 S.W. 24th Ave. This is a men's only meeting. For information, call Earl at 863-763-0139.

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.

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

Okeechobee Substance Abuse Coalition meets every second Tuesday, at 11:30 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church. For information contact Jim Vensel at 863-697-1792.

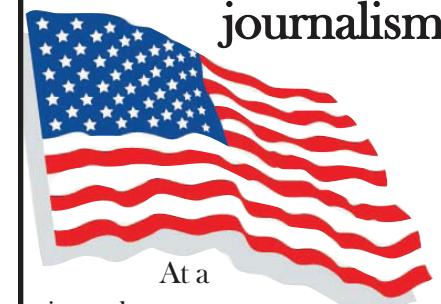
The Lighthouse Refuge support group meets on the first and third Tuesday at 401 S.W. Fourth Street at First Baptist Church and on the second and fourth Tuesday at Red Cross from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. Women who need emotional support or someone just to care are welcome. For information call the hot line 863-801-9201 or 863-357-4447.

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.

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

Eastern Star to host fall breakfast

Okeechobee Chapter No. 128, Order of the Eastern Star, will hold their first breakfast of the season on Sunday, **Oct. 11**, at the Masonic Lodge, 107 N.W. Fifth Avenue. The cost is \$6 per person and the menu includes biscuits and sausage gravy, scrambled eggs, grits, ham, hashbrown casserole, coffee and juice. For information, contact Rick Ellsworth at 863-467-2096 or Mary Ann Holt at 863-634-8087.

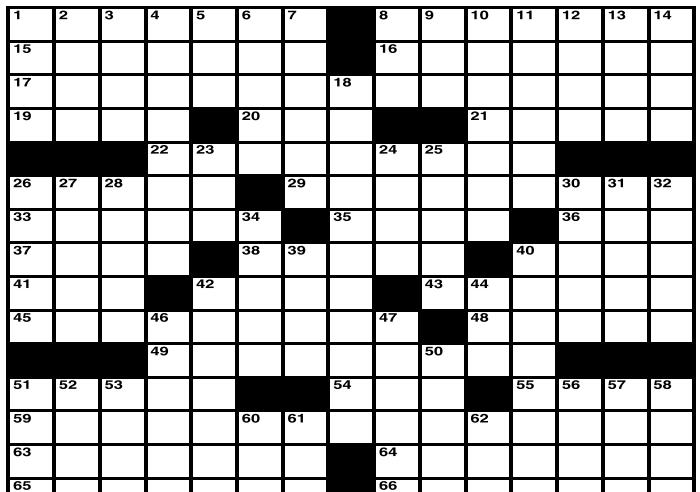
Pink Out Night at OHS

OHS Brahman Football Fans are invited to attend "Pink Out" Night on Friday, **Oct. 30**, in honor of Breast Cancer survivors and Breast Cancer Awareness Month at pre-game festivities. The event is sponsored by OHS Football; OHS Band and OHS Cheerleaders. Please call 863-634-4054 if you are a breast cancer survivor. We will be recognizing local survivors during the program.

Crossword

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS
 1 Budding
 8 "Chéri" novelist
 15 Classic song featured in "Lilo & Stitch"
 16 Inventory aid
 17 International Bowling Hall of Fame site
 19 Cask support
 20 Retirement org.
 21 Charmer
 22 Meltdown of a sort
 26 Obama's younger daughter
 29 Phishing lure
 33 Quality of being possessed?
 35 Provençal poem
 36 Port. title
 37 Hand-cleaning brand
 38 Serve, in a way
 40 Progress
 41 Escort's offering
 42 Exclusive
 43 Like some hams
 45 Completely
 48 2006 World Cup winner
 49 Not even rare
 51 Numbers
 54 Colorful carp
 55 "St. Dominic's Glory" painter Guido
 59 Hemingway novel published in 1986
 63 O'Toole who played Lola in the TV musical "Copacabana"
 64 "Rich Man, Poor Man" Emmy winner
 65 Trimmed facial adornments
 66 Marine slug named for its earlike appendages



Main Street plans mixer

Okeechobee Main Street's October Mixer will be held on Tuesday, **Oct. 13**. This month's mixer will be hosted by the Okeechobee Branch of First Bank and Trust of Indiantown located at 205 East North Park Street from 5 - 7 p.m. Whether you have a new or old business or just new to Okeechobee, come enjoy networking, refreshments, door prizes and a chance at the Mega 50-50. For information call 863-357-MAIN (6246).

Chamber plans meeting

There will be a general membership luncheon meeting for Chamber members and guests on **Oct. 14**, noon at the Golden Corral. The guest speaker for the meeting will be Florida Blood Centers.

Raisin 'Em Right Club meets

The next meeting of the 4-H Raisin 'em right club will be held at the Okeechobee Extension Office on **Oct. 15**, at 7 p.m. If you would like more information on this group, please call 863-634-0154.

Red Cross offers classes

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

- 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.

Dance team to host 'Spaghetti' fundraiser

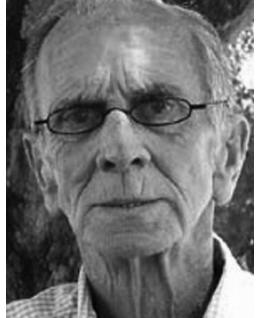
Leslie's Dance Studio/Competition Team will hold a fund raiser spaghetti lunch with meat sauce, tossed salad, roll and homemade brownies for the donation of \$7. Delivery is "FREE" from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on **Oct. 19** or you can pick up your orders for lunch in the office at Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. 3rd Street. If you are interested, you can place your order(s) by **Oct. 15**, by calling Jill at 863-484-0908 or Shannon Wofford at 863-634-9369.

Obituaries

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

James C. Cornette, 71

OKEECHOBEE — Mr. James C. Cornette, passed away Thursday, October 1, 2009, in Hanrick Home Hospice of Okeechobee. He was 71.



He was born January 6, 1938, in Madisonville, Ky., to the late Jack Cornette and Maude Elizabeth Carey Cornette.

Mr. Cornette was a produce manager at Winn Dixie for 34 years.

He was also preceded in death by five sisters, Helen Scott, Geneva Gish, Ruby Barrett, Betty Perry and Mary Agnes Cornette; and one brother, William Ray Cornette.

He is survived by one brother, Robert Cornette of Madisonville, Ky.; on sister, Virginia Foreman of Madisonville, Ky.; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were 2 p.m. Friday, October 9, 2009, at the Barnett-Strother Funeral Home, with Rev. Tondra Daugherty officiating. Burial to follow in Cherry Grove Cemetery in Weir, Ky.

Visitation was from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Pallbearers were Jeff Ford, Jason Ford, Leroy Ford, Kenneth Foreman, Jimmy Stokes and Gene Johnson.

Memorial contributions may take the form of donation to Hospice of Okeechobee.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.barnettstrother.com.

Considering adoption?

Please join the Children's Home Society of Florida at our monthly Adoption Orientation session to be held at the Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County, 804 S. Sixth Street, Fort Pierce, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Thursday, **Oct. 22**. Anyone interested in learning more about adoption is invited to attend this fun, casual and FREE open house-style orientation event. The session will provide an overview of foster care adoption and answer all questions related to adoption and CHS' adoption process. For more information, contact Children's Home Society's Adoption Information line at 772-489-5601, ext. 277 or email frank.avilla@chssf.org.

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In Loving Memory



James "Jimbo" Thomas Gainer, Sr.

You never said you were leaving
 You never said "goodbye"
 You were gone before we knew it
 and only God knows why.

A million times we cried
 If love alone could
 have saved you,
 you never would have died

In life we loved you dearly,
 In death we love you still
 In our hearts you had a special place
 That no one else could fill

It broke our hearts to lose you
 But you didn't go alone,
 For part of us went with you
 The day God took you home.

We love and miss you

Becky, Robbie, Bubba, Heath, Justin, Damian, Ady, Brittany, Family & Friends



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⁴ Visit onstar.com for details and system limitations.

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Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Ranch honored

Pam and David Williams of the David Williams Ranch were honored at Thursday's CARES dinner at the Agri-Civic Center. Also in the picture are (l-r) Frankie Hall of the Florida Farm Bureau, Mike Sole, Secretary of the Florida DEP, and Florida Ag. Commissioner Charles Bronson.

Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

October 5 and 6, 2009

Cows

Breaking \$42.00 \$43.00

Cutter \$37.00 \$45.00

Canner \$33.00 \$38.00

Bulls

1000-1500 \$45.00 \$54.00

1500-2000 \$48.00 \$57.00

Total 606 1891

Med #1 Steers Hfrs

200-250 107-118 97-110

250-300 97-105 87-97

300-350 94-104 82-92

350-400 85-93 73-79

400-450 80-86 72-82

450-500 78-83 70-80

500-600 75-83 70-77

Monday Tuesday 600-650 75-82 70-75

Calves 505 1547

Cows 24 187 Med #2 Steers Hfrs

Str 18 15 200-250 92-112 85-92

Hfrs 40 16 250-300 90-110 82-88

Bulls 7 29 300-350 85-94 72-87

Yrlngs 12 97 350-400 87-102 68-80

Mix 0 0 400-450 80-94 65-74

Feeder calves were fairly steady this week. Some classes a little higher, some lower, so overall steady. Quality of calves was up and down, also, slaughter cows and bulls were down about \$1-2 but quality was down, also. Jess Wolff topped the calf market with a high of \$157.50, bought by Curt Wilson. JM Larson #4 topped the cow market with a high of 44.50, bought by FPL.

Bred heifer sale - Oct. 9; Graham Angus Bull sale - Oct. 16; Lemmon Angus bull sale - Oct. 23; and Little Creek Brangus bull sale - Oct. 30.

See ya next week, Jeff



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Farmers honored

DEP Secretary Mike Sole, David St. Pierre of Cornerstone Farms, and Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson (left to right) were among those at the CARES dinner and celebration at the Agri-Civic Center on Thursday.



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

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- Diabetic neuropathy
- Thyroid problems
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Ronald H. Woody, M.D.



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Special to the Okeechobee News/SES

Students of the Week

South Elementary Students of the week for the week of Oct. 9, include: Robert Hicks, Mason Boney, Matthew Heaton, Sabine Guerra-Rios, Yasmin Medina, Jael Gomez, Raquel Todd, Kaitlyn Williams, Jadene Garcia, Adrian Gomez, Jesus Denova, Keegan Sarros, Mario Pineda, Saira Sandoval, Jared Phares, Kaitlyn Land, Alaysia Hart and Arnoldo Martinez.

In the Military...

Local resident graduates basic training

Army Pvt. Patricia S. Sulzer has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. During the nine weeks of training, Pvt. Sulzer studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

Ms. Sulzer is the daughter of Tammy Norwood of S.E. U.S. Highway 441, Okeechobee.

Early release days

The 2009-10 school calendar contains 4 days which have been designated as Student Early Release Days. The early release is for students only. Employees will work the regular school day hours. The purpose of the days is to provide time for teachers to do academic planning, attend training, and conduct parent conferences. The Student Early Release Days are: Friday, Dec. 4, 2009, Friday, Feb. 19, 2010, and Friday, April 30, 2010. School hours for these days will be: Elementary Schools: 8:10–11:30 a.m.; Middle Schools: 8:55 a.m.–12:10 p.m.; Freshman Campus and New Endeavor: 7:15–10:30 a.m.; Okeechobee High School: 7:08–10:45 a.m. Students will be fed a light breakfast and a meal prior to dismissal. Regular bus service (transporting students home) will occur at the Early Release dismissal times. Parents may pick up students at the Early Release dismissal times.

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OHS volleyball team beats Clewiston

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

Okeechobee High School's volleyball team defeated Clewiston for the second time this year when the two teams met Thursday night at Clewiston High School.

Okeechobee won 25-11, 25-12, and 25-14 and again liberally used all of the players on the roster.

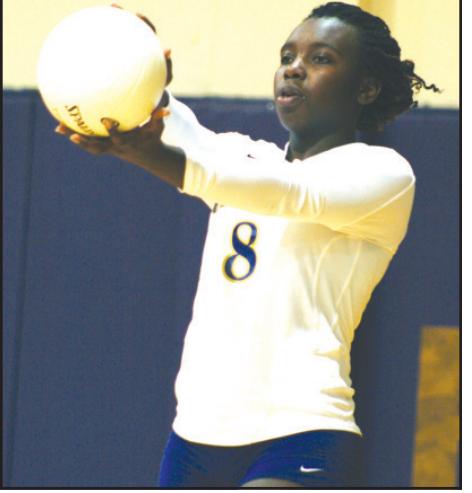
Paige McCrary led the way with 11 kills and five blocks at the net. Senior Monica Koger had two service aces, and eight kills for Okeechobee (15-8).

Okeechobee has a big game next Tuesday night when they visit district contender Suncoast. Okeechobee returns home for a match with Glades Day next Thursday night.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

OHS Volleyball Team member Brittany Freeman warms up with a dig before Tuesday's match with Fort Pierce Central.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
OHS volleyball team member Janezka Koger had 13 service points in the first game Tuesday.

Recycle your soccer cleats

The Okeechobee County Parks & Recreation Department is accepting donations of soccer cleats and shin guards to help those who need a pair. Clean out your closet of any old or outgrown soccer cleats (in decent condition) and bring them to the Recreation Department at 640 N.W. 27th Lane (Sports Complex) between 8:30-5 p.m. Monday-Friday or on or before Oct. 16. If you need a pair of cleats or shin guards and would like to swap your outgrown ones, we'd love to help! For more information, call the Recreation Department at 863-763-6950.

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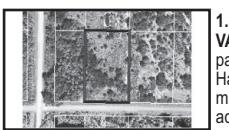
WATERFRONT 3/2 MH, close to shopping, etc. Appliances incldg washer & dryer. Shingle Roof in 2005. 4x7 pantry. Dble roofed/dble sided for extra insulation. Check out this PRICED RIGHT home! MLS #202925, \$70,000.



WATERFRONT - 2/2 SWMH good condition. Very spacious whuge screen rm porch. Gazebo w/swing, Fish Cleaning Station, and a hurricane proof shed. GREAT PRICE FOR A GREAT DEAL!!!! COME SEE!!! MLS #203274, \$59,900.



WATERFRONT - 3/2 DWMH on corner lot. Very spacious and open. Huge living rm, utility rm w/space for laundry, ironing, etc. Boat slip. Deck on the water. Fenced in yard. 1 car carport attached. FURNISHED! MLS #203273, \$110,000.



1.50 ACRES OF UNIMPROVED VACANT LAND. The property is partially cleared, Oak Trees w/Oak Hammock on back property. Two miles from power lines and easy access. MLS #203275, \$10,500.



EFFICIENCY: This is an 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.

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OHS golf teams continue to win

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

Okeechobee High School Boys and Girls Golf teams won recent matches played in St. Lucie County.

The boys team defeated Port St. Lucie for the second time in three days. They continued to use some of the reserve golfers to give their starters a chance to practice and refine their game.

Okeechobee shot 169 while Port St. Lucie shot 174 at the Saints Country Club. Okeechobee (10-4-1) got a three over par 39 from Tony Devoss, a 42 from Austin Hamilton, a 42 from Tyler Finney, and a 46 from Justin Morgan.

Okeechobee had defeated PSL handily

on Tuesday at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club.

The girls squad won their third and fourth matches of the year in a three team match at Indian Hills Country Club. Okeechobee shot 204 to easily defeat St. Lucie West Centennial 225, and Fort Pierce Central.

Paige Arnold led the way with a 46, Kayley Hoover shot 51, Emily Raulerson shot 53, and Sam Harrell shot 54 on the par 36 course.

The girls' squad is scheduled to host Lake Placid on Monday at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club. The boy's squad visits Jensen Beach and South Fork next Tuesday.

David Hazellief • 863-610-1553 Betty Hazellief • 863-610-0144
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1016-H: 3/2 CBS home in the SW section with potentials, large garage, dual sinks, lots of kitchen cabinets, tile and carpet throughout. MLS# 203289



1006-H: Oak Tree Place 2-Story townhouse, 2 bdrms 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



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



5014-M: North County 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



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

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Special to the Okeechobee News/EES

Students of the Week

Students from Everglades Elementary Students of the Week were selected for the week of Oct. 5-9. Students named for achieving excellence include: Kindergarteners, Ahdonna Harper, Riley Carver, Yadhira Yanez-Martinez; first graders, Pedro Estrada, Seaira Jones, Fernando Meza, Maria Castaneda; second grade students, Kolby Yingling, Travis McKenna, Mikayla Moon, Donald Padgett, Molly Hudson, Tia McCoy; third graders, Jennifer Aguilera, Danielle Tribbitt, Emily Hernandez, Colton Leppert, Ariel Eason, Perla Contreras, Jesus Cedillo; fourth graders, Rosa Chavez, Marissa Delacruz, Ashley Weikert, Kylie Ramirez, Rebecca Starnes and fifth grade students, Adrian Gonzalez-Garcia, Marcelo Rodriguez, Cole Tingle, Zeleste Orozco, and Brooke Arnold. Congratulations!



Special to the Okeechobee News/YMS

Students of the Week

Yearling Middle School students selected as students of the week for the week of Oct. 5-10, include: (In the top row standing) Mikeshia Tillman and Kelly Maulin. In the middle row sitting are: Sarah Hurst and Dallas San Miguel and in the bottom row standing are: Josey Pearce, Rabon Carrier and Juan Nunez. Also in the photo are: Mr. Tedders and Mrs. Markham.

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"GREAT BUY"



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"RELAX IN YOUR OWN POOL"



1986 DWMH, on corner lot. 3 BD, 2 BA. Pool has been redone and is now beautiful, the pump, pipes, and liner are still under warranty. MH could use some TLC. #202726 \$84,900 Call Jerry Patent 863-610-7006

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Special to the Okeechobee News/OCA

Students of the week

Okeechobee Christian Academy is proud to announce the 'Students of the Week' for Oct. 5-9. Students selected include: Megan Beard, Jermari Wright, Lance Nipper, Rylee Lopez, Simon Coroza, Emily Sellers and Jared Marin.

Octoberfest Arts and Crafts Show dates set

A new show sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Eagles 4137 Ladies Auxiliary will be held on **Oct. 17 and 18**, 9985 Hwy. 441 North, Okeechobee. The two day event will be the first time in Okeechobee

and will feature The Florida Highwaymen Curtis Arnett, Al Balck, John Maynor and others. Cowboys artist, Hobby Campbell and award winning artist L. Rogers Earley, Kathie Papasso and Mike Moore.

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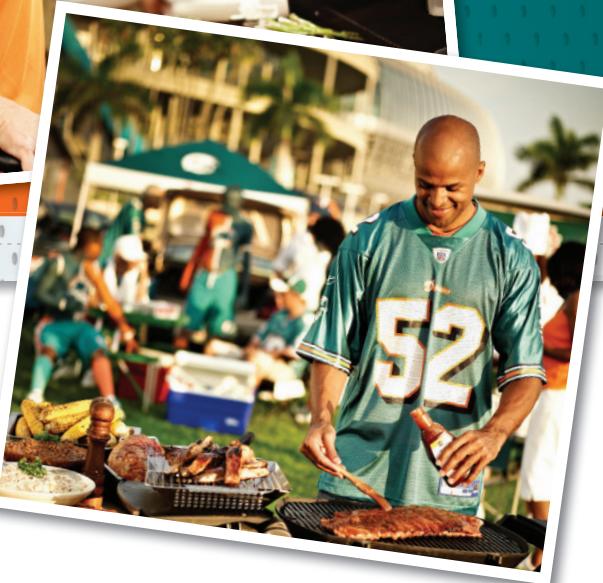
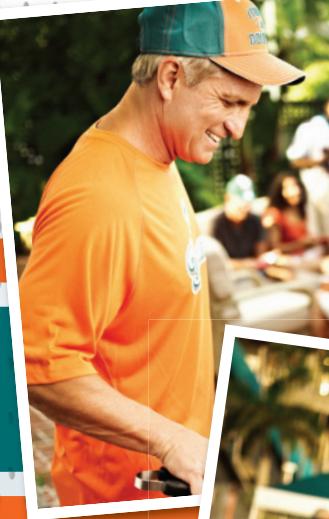
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Church celebrates Clergy Appreciation Month



Special to the Okeechobee News/Westside Christian Church
The youth of Westside Christian Church recently honored their pastor, Rev. Richard Barker, with a skit portraying all the roles there he has played. They are, left to right, front row, Treyin Harden, Megan Vickers, Devin Harden, Layla Gaucin, Sophia Galletto; back row, Mitchell Gaucin, Garrett Ferguson, Cory Vickers, and Gavin Harden. Rev. Barker has served as Florida Highway Patrol Auxiliary Officer, prison chaplain, cowboy, chef, fisherman, preacher and wise man in a Christmas play.

Florida highway Patrol Auxiliary Officer, prison chaplain, cowboy, chef, fisherman and preacher are just some of the hats Westside Christian Church's Preacher, Richard Barker, has worn over the years.

Some on the serious side and a few on the fun side, but all have endeared him to the

congregation. On Sunday, the youth presented a surprise skit, complete with costumes, reflecting all the many roles their preacher has played. The script, written and narrated by Carol Dorrel, drew applause and laughter from the congregation. A fellowship dinner followed the morning worship service.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Riverside Bank

March of Dimes

Riverside National Bank is gearing up for their annual fundraising campaign to benefit the March of Dimes. Riverside will have a drawing for a 32" Flat Screen T.V. with a retail value of \$649, courtesy of Buddy's Home Furnishings. Tickets are available at Riverside Bank \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Drawing will be held Dec. 18. From left to right in the photo are: Megan Gwaltney, Sherri Enfinger, Juan Cortez and Jamie Medrano.

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The youth are currently beginning work on their Christmas program and welcome newcomers to join the fun. A hotdog roast and carolling hayride are planned for them in December.

Rev. Barker, along with his wife, Diane, has been the minister at Westside Christian Church of Okeechobee since 1999. Willard Delaney and his wife Evelyn join the staff as associate minister and pianist during the winter months. The church is located on S.R. 70 W approximately five miles from town and services start at 10 a.m. on Sunday and 6 p.m. on Wednesday. If you are looking for a church home, this would be a great place to visit.

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THEATRE II: "FAME" Tues., Thurs. & Fri @ 7:00 & 9:00., Sat., Sun., & Wed. @ 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00. Mon., @ 3:00 & 7:00. [PG]
THEATRE III: "COUPLES RETREAT" Tues., Thurs. & Fri @ 7:00 & 9:00., Sat., Sun., & Wed. @ 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00. Mon., @ 3:00 & 7:00. [PG-13]

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Brantley case comes up again

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

A property that has been in violation, off and on, for many years will come before the City of Okeechobee Code Enforcement Board again.

Marvin Brantley has been asked to appear before the board on Tuesday night to answer charges of having junk and creating a public nuisance on his 1905 S. Parrott Ave. property. Mr. Brantley has been battling the city for many years over the operation of his junk yard.

The board is also scheduled to hear six other cases - all dealing with general cleaning and beautification. Arthur Davis was cited because of the condition of his NW



Special to the Okeechobee News/North Elementary

Students in grades 1-5 at North Elementary School voted for their Student Council officers with the help of the Okeechobee County Supervisor of Elections office last week. Students cast ballots using the actual voting machines used in our municipal, state, and national elections. The students loved using the ballots and machines, and the teachers loved seeing the newfound sense of civic responsibility in their students!

If you go ...

What: Monthly meeting of the City of Okeechobee Code Enforcement Board
When: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13
Where: City Council Chambers, Okeechobee City Hall, 55 SE Third Ave.

Seventh Street property. According to code enforcement officers, N & A Real Estate, Inc. has two properties not in compliance on NE 4th street and NE 6th Avenue. The SW Second Street property of Atlantic Aggressive Growth Co. was cited for code violations as well as the NE 11th Street property of Church of God by Faith. Okeechobee FL Properties' S. Parrott Avenue property also faces charges of general cleaning and beautification.



Okeechobee News/Diana Whitehall

Kiwanis Club

At the Oct. 8, Kiwanis meeting from left to right are: Brian Cartland, executive director of the Okeechobee Economic Development Council and the speaker; Maureen Burroughs, Kiwanis member, who presented the speaker; and Greg Thogersen, vice president of the Kiwanis Club. Mr. Cartland spoke about Economic Development and the fact that Okeechobee has strong tourism and is an agricultural community which does interest businesses to locate here. He is working on one project to entice an Industrial Use business to locate in Okeechobee which will offer 50 new jobs to the area. He is also working with local businesses to help them with different marketing strategies and ways to diversify and grow their business which will in turn create more jobs, which is a main focus.

ABWA announce guest speaker

ABWA Women of Tomorrow Chapter's Fall Enrollment Event's guest speaker will be Marnie Lauter, Mktg Director for Raulerson Hospital. She will address the new features and programs at Raulerson. Meet at Clock Family Restaurant at noon on **Oct. 22**. Call President Karin Ammons at 863-763-3131.

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The Sportsman's Edge open in Okeechobee

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The Sportsman's Edge is the place for one stop shopping for all your hunting and fishing needs. Owner Donna Durand keeps a good stock of all types of ammunition as well as points for hunting arrows and other bow hunting equipment.

In addition you will find binoculars, scopes, two way radios, hunting knives, turkey calls and gun cases. To brush up on your hunting skills, there is a variety of hunting videos.

For the fisherman they have all types of fishing tackle, tackle boxes and name brand fishing rods. The gator hunters are not left out, either. The Sportsman's Edge has an assortment of gator hunting equipment.

Not only does The Sportsman's Edge sup-

ply all the necessary gear for hunters, fishermen and gator hunters, they also have camouflage and other types of outdoor clothing for men, woman and children.

The sportsman can also go to The Sportsman's Edge to find home furnishings with an outdoors flavor. It is the place to go to find prints of wildlife scenes and outdoor themed knickknacks.

The hours are: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Sportsman's Edge is located at 306 NE Third St. Just look for the hunting blinds out front. The telephone number is 863-357-HUNT (4868).

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



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Owner Donna Durand, of The Sportsman's Edge, stocks a wide assortment of ammunition, hunting and fishing gear, outdoors clothing and outdoor themed home decorations.

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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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Biologists ask anglers to report tagged bass

Biologists with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Fish and Wildlife Research Institute and the University of Florida need assistance with a statewide largemouth bass research study. From this study, biologists hope to learn how frequently bass are caught and harvested. They also hope to learn more about the size range of fish caught.

Beginning this month, biologists are tagging largemouth bass with small, yellow tags along the back of the fish just

below the dorsal fin. These tags carry a printed telephone number, e-mail address, tag number and reward value. Biologists encourage anglers to remove these tags by cutting them as close to the fish as possible and then treat the fish as they would normally. Once anglers remove a tag, they should immediately report it to the FWC Angler Tag Return Hotline at 800-367-4461 or e-mail TagReturn@MyFWC.com.

Anglers participating in the study will receive a reward for each largemouth bass

tag they return to the FWC. When reporting the tag, anglers should provide the following information: the species of fish, tag number, fish length, date and time of capture, name of the lake where the fish was caught, and whether the angler kept or released the fish.

Anglers should mail the tags to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Attn: LMB Tagging Study, 601 W. Woodward Ave., Eustis, FL, 32726. To learn more, visit <http://research.MyFWC.com>.

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Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Dr. Richard Karlson and his wife Mary were honored for their ranch environmental stewardship. They reside in Venus. Also in the picture (l-r) are Frankie Hall of the Florida Farm Bureau, Mike Sole Florida DEP, and Charles Bronson, Agriculture Commissioner of Florida.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Susan Williams of the 101 Ranch is presented an award at Thursday's Cares dinner. Also in picture (l-r) are Frankie Hall of the Florida Farm Bureau, Michael Sole, Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and Florida Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Christina Hooker of Basinger was another honoree at Thursday's dinner. She owns Hook-R Ranch. Also in the picture are (l-r) Frankie Hall of the Florida Farm Bureau, Michael Sole, Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Florida Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson.

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CARES

Continued From Page 1

ing part. There were 400 farm operations honored across the state since 2001. He predicted those numbers will triple in the next decade.

Benita Whalen of the South Florida Water Management District praised the land owners for taking part in best management practices and other programs, "We can't make the progress we're making without the land owners."

The New Director of the Okeechobee Cooperative Extension, Pat Hogue, told the

crowd that agriculture is still the foundation of Okeechobee and of Florida, "We continue to evaluate best management practices and we sincerely congratulate all the award winners, past and present. They are the real stewards of the land," he said.

Jeff Schmidt of the Natural Resources Conservation Service said the past few years have been trying economic times for farmers. He said many farms are still opting to spend a lot of money on environmental programs, "The last few years have been difficult. Many times farmers have been subjected to social ridicule," he said.

Michael Sole, Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection told

the crowd that a stable agriculture is very important to him. He noted now is the time to band together as Washington D.C. has prioritized water quality programs. "We will look at best management practices and do the best we can to improve water quality. I thank you for your leadership role."

Florida Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson said agriculture is doing a good job in providing cleaner air and water to Floridians. He recommended that agriculture operations encourage more farmers to join the effort, "It shows that agriculture is going the extra mile to do the right thing."

Bronson also praised the Future Farmers of America Chapter in Okeechobee for their

excellent work over the years.

"Agriculture is working very hard to do what we can to clean up some of our waterways, I'm real proud of agriculture for stepping up to the plate," he said. Bronson said coastal regions don't understand the positive things agriculture is doing, "Agriculture is open green space. People are raising food for people in this state and all around the country. Twenty million people have moved here in the past 150 years. Agriculture has stepped up to the plate. They have spent a lot of money to do the right thing."

The Okeechobee Area Agri-Council prepared the meal and the Yearling FFA helped serve the crowd. David Hazellie prepared the barbecued beef.

Wayne and Ginger provided the musical entertainment.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Bob Rydzewski, of McArthur Farms Barn #3 is honored at Thursday's CARES Dinner. Also in the picture are Mike Sole, Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (on left) and Florida Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson (on right).



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Ed Pines of Pines Ranch is honored for outstanding environmental stewardship. Also in picture are (L-r) Frankie Hall of the Florida Farm Bureau, Mike Sole, Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and Florida Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson.

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Bylaska and Bylaska win big at Christian Team Trails tournament

Each month Oakview Baptist Church sponsors the Christian Team Trails fishing tournament. This month's tournament was held at the Okee-Tan-tie Marina on Oct. 3. Fifty boats participated and after a good morning of fishing, 48 of the boats brought in fish for the weigh-in.

First through third place was very close, with less than one pound difference between the three places.

John and Sandra Bylaska took the top honors of first place, bringing in five fish weighing in at 16.75 lbs.; following close in second place was Don Van Dyke and Rick Buttenbach, also bringing in five fish which weighed in at 16.43 lbs.; in third place was the team of Mark Hester and Justin Schwier weighed in five fish with a total weight of 16.24 lbs.

First place in the Big Fish category went to the team of Clint Mehrer and Ronnie Mehrer, with a big fish weighing in at 6.47 lbs. They also placed

fourth in the tournament with a total weight of 16.06 lbs. Second place in the Big Fish category went to Richard Stiglitz and Luke Toles with a big fish weight of 5.42 lbs.

First through tenth place were in the pay-out schedule. They are as follows: First place - John and Sandra Bylaska - \$1100; second place - Don Van Dyke and Rick Buttenbach - \$413; third place - Mark Hester and Justin Schwier - \$275; fourth place - Clint Mehrer and Ronnie Mehrer \$138 plus big fish bonus of \$300; fifth place - Jim Wilson and Danny Norton - \$138; sixth place - Richard Stiglitz and Luke Toles - \$138 plus big fish bonus of \$200; seventh place - Rick Bryant and Chuck Saul - \$138; eighth place - Bob Owens and Fred George - \$138; ninth place - Rock Turgeon and Clint Bryant - \$138; and in tenth place was Norris Newhouse and Larry Gipson - \$138. Prize money was presented by Pastor John Garrison.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Pat Ziglar
John and Sandra Bylaska placed first at the Christian Team Tournament on Oct. 3, with a total of five fish weighing in at 16.75 lbs.



Third place went to the team of Mark Hester and Justin Schwier at the C.T.T. on Oct. 3, with a total of 16.24 lbs.



The second place winners of the Christian Team Tournament for the month of October were Don Van Dyke and Rick Buttenbach with a total of 16.43 lbs of fish.



Special to the
Okeechobee News/Pat
Ziglar
At left . . .
Second place in the "Big Fish" category went to the team of Richard Stiglitz and Luke Toles. Their big fish weighed in at 5.42 lbs.



Clint Mehrer and Ronnie Mehrer brought in the largest fish for the tournament. The big fish weighed in at 6.47 lbs.

Gray important to golf team

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

All winning teams have their stars, but they also have those other players, whose steady and dependable performance turn the team into champions.

Tim Gray might fit that description for the Brahman boy's golf team this year. His steady play has been important as the team enjoys another winning season.

"The golf team has been doing great this year. The coach has pumped us up lately," he said. "We've had a lot of help from everyone around Okeechobee. We have a great team this year and at the districts we'll show Okeechobee what we have."

Gray was hurt playing football as a freshman. After that he turned his attention to golf and he has no regrets. He said he hopes he can earn a golf scholarship in college.

"Right now I could earn one for a small college," he said. "My goal is to post a 37 average as a senior and reach a Division I school."

Gray doesn't let grass grow under his feet as he tries to reach his goal. He stated he puts in a lot of time into improving his golf game and is often seen on the golf course after school and on weekends.

"I've been playing every day after school. Saturdays and Sundays we play in little events with the Men's association at the country club. We try to play as much as possible. You need to play everyday to be good in golf," he said.

Gray said all of the players on the team pull for each other and push each other to get better. He noted that is the key to having a winning squad, "When one person drops the ball, another picks it up. As a team we pump each other up. Our top players have been doing great. When anyone falls down, we pick them back up and they do better the next time," he said.

Gray thanked Coach Mark Ward, Jim Waldau, golf pro Terry Lanman and parents and volunteers who have helped the golf team this year.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Tim Gray shows steady and dependable performance for Okeechobee's winning golf team.

JV football falls at Westwood

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee High School Junior Varsity Football Team's struggles against Westwood football continued Monday as the Brahman JV fell 16-8 at Lawnwood Stadium.

Tommy Jackson scored on a two yard run and a two point conversion to account for Okeechobee's points. The Brahmans are (0-4) on the season.

Head Coach Rex Erwin said his team worked very hard and did a better job on the center and quarterback exchange in this game. Two costly turnovers cost Okeechobee in their loss to Treasure Coast last week.

Okeechobee did have five fumbles, but was able to recover all of them.

"We are still working on consistency. We did better. We moved the ball, but we

couldn't capitalize on our opportunities," Erwin said.

He praised several of his defensive players for solid play on Monday. Several times Okeechobee was able to force Westwood into poor plays, which included several QB sacks.

Jose Laredo had several tackles behind the line of scrimmage, and Rodney Pierre also had an impact on defense, Coach Erwin said.

The offense did get into the Westwood red zone several times. They ran out of time in the first half while close to the end zone, and had other chances.

"Westwood also had some clock problems as they ran the clock on extra points and between kickoffs. You would think St. Lucie County would have done a better job working the clock," Erwin added.

Save the date for upcoming benefit functions

Red Cross gala event

The kick off party for the "Red is for Love" Gala event to benefit the American Red Cross will be held on Thursday, Oct. 15, from 5 until 7 p.m. at the Pier II Resort, 2200 U.S. Hwy. 441 S.E., Okeechobee. For more information or to R.S.V.P. please call Maureen Budjinski, event chair at 863-467-0054.

Brunch benefits Cancer Society

A Mother-Daughter-Sister-Friend Breast Cancer Brunch will be held Saturday, Oct. 17, at the First Baptist Church ROC, 401 SW Fourth St., from 10 a.m. until noon. Proceeds benefit American Cancer Society. Sponsored by the Relay for Life team, The Posse, which is captained by Sharlene Avant and Nancy Hare. Contact Shannon Martin at 863-467-2376 or 863-634-6107.

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