

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 100 No. 125

Sunday, October 18, 2009

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Convicted killer may get new trial

By Eric Kopp
 Okeechobee News

A Sept. 23 opinion by the 4th District Court of Appeals in West Palm Beach could mean a new trial for a man convicted of killing his girlfriend in 2006.

The opinion reverses a trial judge's ruling and states that Marlon Miguel Brown, 38, should receive a new trial.

Brown, a former substitute school teacher, was found guilty in Dec. 13, 2007, of killing Shanique Harris, then-25, in the parking lot of the Level 10 Facility as she was going to work. The two had dated for about five years but Ms. Harris had called off the relationship.

"I, quite frankly, don't understand it," said Assistant State Attorney Bernard Romero, who prosecuted the case, in a phone interview Friday, Oct. 16, from his Fort Pierce office. "We're having the (Florida) attorney general file for a re-hearing and seek to appeal it. We're hoping for a re-hearing and the opportunity to have the decision reviewed."



Marlon Brown

Basically, appellate judges Mark E. Polen and Gary M. Farmer opined that Mr. Romero's "... rebut-

tal not only contained references to evidence that was never admitted at trial, but went beyond its function as a reply to Brown's closing argument. That was improper."

At the heart of the opinion was a photograph presented by Mr. Romero in his closing that was mistakenly left in his Power Point presentation. That photo, while similar to another picture presented in the 34-slide presentation, had not been entered into evidence.

Circuit Court Judge Sherwood Bauer Jr., who presided over the three-day trial, ruled that showing the second photo was a harmless mistake.

Defense attorney R. Lee Dorrough objected to the second photo

being shown to the jury and asked for a new trial. But, after hearing arguments from both sides, Judge Bauer denied Mr. Dorrough's motion.

Chief Judge Robert M. Gross did not agree with the opinion of his colleagues.

"The majority has stretched case law to reverse in a situation where reversal is not justified," he wrote. "After the defense objected, the trial judge instructed the jurors to rely upon the testimony presented in court. The other two witnesses listed on the slide gave detailed accounts of the shooting. The prosecutor did not argue that the non-

See BROWN — Page 11

Who ya gonna call? Ghost hunters looking for work

By Charles M. Murphy
 Okeechobee News

The Sci-Fi TV show, "Ghost Hunters," has gotten a Florida couple really interested in the paranormal.

Cliff Braun and his wife Shirley, have the unusual hobby of ghost hunting.

"We got the idea from watching the program. They were doing an investigation at the St. Augustine light house. I told my wife that is some place where we've been already. My wife said why don't we start our own group, and we started last November," Mr. Braun said.

The pair has visited haunted and spooky spots at a bed and breakfast in Monticello where they claim to have had an extended conversation with what they say appeared to be a male and female ghost. The male ghost did most of the talking, they report.

They've also visited Roseland cemetery and the St. Augustine light house.

They purchased equipment to capture video and audio of ghosts. Digital cameras, recorders and

night vision video cameras are their tools. They also have a pendulum that they use to have ghosts answer yes and no questions.

In their visits to cemeteries they claim to have conversations with ghosts. One reportedly said, "I'm so cold," Another said, "If you want me, come find me."

Recently, they visited two different Sebring homes and a third in Arcadia that were said to be haunted houses.

The couple has received 15 calls from people wanting to become new members of Highlands Ghost Hunters since a recent article in local newspapers. They hope to get interest from Okeechobee as well.

"We might be able to start an outlet group in Okeechobee. They would have to come to Sebring for meetings," said Mr. Braun.

The Brauns also have had other experiences with ghosts. They have pictures of what appear to be white orbs in a cemetery. Mrs. Braun claims she was touched by a ghost in a cemetery. Instead of waiting around, she bolted for their vehicle.

Mr. Braun has also heard stories from Florida, Wauchula, a little cemetery in Gardner, and other stories.

"Almost every single person we've talked to has seen a spirit in their life at one time or another," he added.

The group also does cleansing

where they go into haunted homes and try to remove spirits from the home. A variety of techniques are used to remove these spirits. A new member, a Seminole Indian, pro-

See GHOSTS — Page 11



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Cliff and Shirley Braun have a rather unusual hobby. They are Ghost Hunters, and are looking for work!

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Okeechobee's Most Wanted

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



Reed Ashton Hair



Huber Ambriz Sierra



Iva Jean Maya



Chris Gornell

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 Crime 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

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 Gornell, W/M, DOB 1/24/1963, VOP - Carry Concealed Weapon. No Bond.

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).

- Anthony Tagle, 16, N.W. 35th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 15 by Deputy Sergeant Robert Staton on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with robbery. His bond was set at \$30,000.

- Ricardo Jesus Silvas, 27, N.W. First St., Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 15 by Deputy Bart Potter on charges of aggravated battery and felony criminal mischief. His bond was set at \$10,000. Silvas was later arrested by Deputy Javier Gonzalez on a warrant charging him with disorderly conduct. He was released on his own recognizance. He was also arrested by Deputy Arlene Durbin on a charge of domestic battery by strangulation. He is being held without bond on that charge.

- Monty Gene Rickard II, 27, Second St., West Palm Beach, was arrested Oct. 16 by Deputy Javier Gonzalez on an Okeechobee County warrant charging with the felony of grand theft, and the misdemeanor of petit theft. His bond was set at \$5,250.

- On April 1, William Thunder Ihle was arrested on felony charges of dealing in stolen property and possession of ammunition by a convicted felon. According to Assistant State Attorney Donald Richardson the charges against Ihle were dropped on Sept. 30.

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



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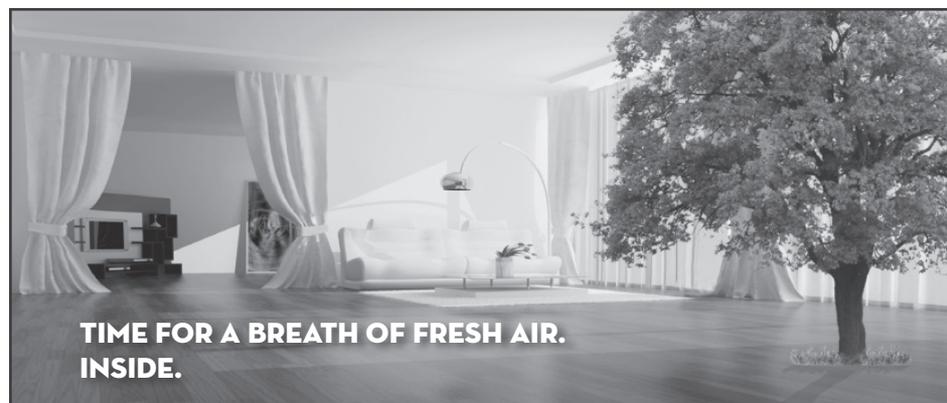
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Public Forum/Speak Out

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

Proposed tax on soft drinks

- I don't mind a tax on sugary soft drinks, but a tax on juice drinks could discourage consumption of fruit juice which could be bad for Florida.

- I knew when I heard Obama's first speech promising no tax increases and all he was promising that there was no way it could happen. Obama's first speech sounded like a fairy tale and we all know they aren't true.



- Well one good thing the people on WIC will still be able to buy juice. Florida will be hurt. We have the sugar and the oranges for juice, and we just thought unemployment was bad in Florida now. Thanks, Obama, for the change.

- Most sodas are made with corn syrup anyway, which is from the Midwest. The idea is the same as the cigarette tax and the alcohol tax. We should get rid of those too then.

- I think Florida should require a deposit on cans and bottles like some states do. It would reduce the litter problem because people would pick up the cans and bottles just to get the deposit on them. When I was a kid we would do that up north, voluntarily pick up cans and bottles because we could turn them in for the deposit.

- I think it is a good idea to discourage people from drinking so many sugary soft drinks. Kids fill up on that and then don't eat the nutritious foods their bodies need to grow. Poor nutrition contributes to many health problems. Children are now getting what used to be called adult onset diabetes.

Social Security

- Those persons who currently receive social security each month will not get a cost of living increase this year because inflation has not been high enough to warrant an increase. This does not bother me. This is the government's practice. Generally, I would prefer low inflation to a COLA anyway. What bothers me though is that the president wants to play Santa Claus and send all Social Security recipients \$250. This is a slap in the face. I don't want Obama's patronizing gimmick to try to get my vote in 2012. He's already sent me one check for \$250. We should remember that the government does not have anything that it doesn't take from its citizens. It produces nothing on its own. It simply sucks up our money and resources like some giant octopus and what doesn't get wasted in the process of collection gets wasted in the process of distribution.

- Yes, the "COLA" won't come to the seniors. However, I noticed that Congress got it's pay raise. Good to see where their priorities lie.

- That's my money you Socialists are collecting. I don't see any of you turning down this Socialist program. That's because you are getting it. It is not some thing someone else might get like health care would be, so it is ok as long as it is just you getting it. There should never be a raise in Socialist Security. How can you collect more than you put in? How does that math work? You should get what you put into Socialist Security nothing more. Take what you put in, spread it out in even payments over 20 years. If it's not enough, too bad. You should have planned better.

- Is Social Security a form of Socialism? You bet it is. Did we ask to join this program? No one that I know of had a choice. Was money withheld those many years with our permission? I don't think so. Given a choice, would most of us have preferred to have the money for our own private savings investment? I certainly would have. Would I have done better investing the money than the government did? You bet I would. Will I get more money back than was taken from me? I don't know. Maybe, if I live long enough and the government doesn't collapse the program. I would have preferred to have kept the government out of my business. Will the government run healthcare like it ran Social Security? Yes. Do I trust the United States government? No.

Letters to editor

Blood donors help save lives

The Fourth Annual Okeechobee Blood Roundup will be held Nov. 13 and 14, at 200 N.W. Second St. Seven donor buses will be on hand to take donations. All the blood used at Raulerson Hospital comes from these drives.

Right here, in Okeechobee, lives have been saved by transfusion. Blood donations helped save the life of Doug Jordan, who works at the Clock Restaurant.



Special to the Okeechobee News
Doug and Helen Jordan

Surgeries required 12 units of blood

In June 2008, my husband, Doug Jordan fell ill and needed surgery. While recovering, there was a sudden reversal requiring another surgery. This is when blood transfusions began. Over a period of a full month, he wavered between recovery and setback, eventually needing a third surgery.

Most of this period was spent in Intensive Care with Doug, tired of just holding on, wanting to give up. I stayed with him and watched him ultimately receive 12 units of blood and four units of frozen plasma.

I had donated blood for many years, but this personal experience made me realize the importance of being a blood donor.

Today he is back to work at The Clock Restaurant and will tell you how appreciative he is of the people who had taken the time to donate blood, which was on hand when needed, to save his life.

Being a donor takes less than an hour of your time, but you could save someone's life. You never know, the life you save may be your own, that of a loved one, or maybe a stranger. Please donate, you'll be glad you did.

Maybe it was your last donation, which healed my Doug.

Helen Jordan
Okeechobee

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Sunny with a high near 73. Winds will be from the north northwest between 5 and 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear with a low around 47. Winds will be from the north northwest around 5 mph.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Mostly sunny with a high near 78 and winds from the north northwest between 5 and 10 mph.

Monday night: Partly cloudy with a low around 60. Winds will be from the northeast around 5 mph.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy with a low around 65 and winds from the east northeast between 5 and 10 mph.

Tuesday night: Mostly cloudy with a high near 81 and a 20 percent chance of showers. Winds will be from the northeast between 5 and 15 mph.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Thursday: **Cash 3:** 6-1-6; **Play 4:** 3-3-0-0; **Fantasy 5:** 2-5-12-15-36; **Mega Money:** 2-6-12-33 MB 17; **Florida Lotto:** 4-8-12-17-19-28 X 2; **Powerball:** 5-15-25-30-40 PB6 x2. Numbers drawn Friday, **Cash 3:** 5-0-6; **Play 4:** 9-1-7-6.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

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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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Call 800-282-8586 to report a missed newspaper or poor delivery.

Additional copies of the newspaper are available for 50 cents Wednesday and Friday and 75 cents for Sunday at the office. Home delivery subscriptions are available at \$18.00 for three months.

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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

A.A. Grapevine open meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. every Monday at Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Ave.
A.A. meeting will be held from noon to 1 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. This will be an open meeting.

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY

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

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

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 863-357-4447.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Compulsive overeaters are invited to a weekly meeting. **Overeaters Anonymous** (OA) meets at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Avenue on Tuesdays, 6 until 7 p.m. (Use 4th Street entrance.) Overeaters Anonymous is not a diet club. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop eating compulsively. For more information call Loretta at 863-763-7165 or 863-697-0206.

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

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

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

Reflections from the Pulpit

By Elder John T. Garner
 More 2 Life Ministries

There is an old adage that goes something like this: "The first casualty in war is the truth." Having been in the ministry for over twenty years, and having endured many a church "war," I can testify to the truth of that old adage. Whenever there are two sides vying for dominance, there will always be the temptation to spread rumors to either justify your cause or to vilify those who are considered the "enemy." It's just human nature.

So in the great contest of what is right and what is wrong that grips our country at the present, who are we to believe? There are those who would have us believe that the man who now sits in the Oval Office is nothing short of the Messiah that will lead this nation to a great and glorious future. I believe this reasoning to be a truth casualty. On the other hand, there are those who decry the very workings of Mr. Obama's administration and would have us all believe that the Antichrist has finally been revealed. I believe this reasoning to also be a truth casualty. Each side is seeking to move us toward the extreme in an effort to replace truth with hyperbole in hopes that no one realizes that their arguments are vapid at best.

It seems that all have formed an opinion and are ready to share it with any who are willing to listen. And, because truth has become the casualty of this war of words and ideologies, people are hungry for news from the "front." So, in this vacuum of truth, comes a seemingly never ending legion of doomsayers or drum pounders who stand poised to proclaim the latest horrors or the latest miracles to come out of Washington and the public laps it up as gospel writ. The result of which is a country that has become blinded to the blessings that God has poured out upon it as it continues to slide ever faster down the slope of despair and delusion.

Don't get me wrong, there is a foul smell seeping out from the bowels of government these days that needs attention. But, internet rumor and inane speculations will not solve the problem. Advancing the theory that the country will either rise or fall due to the machinations of one man or of his minions is senseless. The Christian community must stop taking it

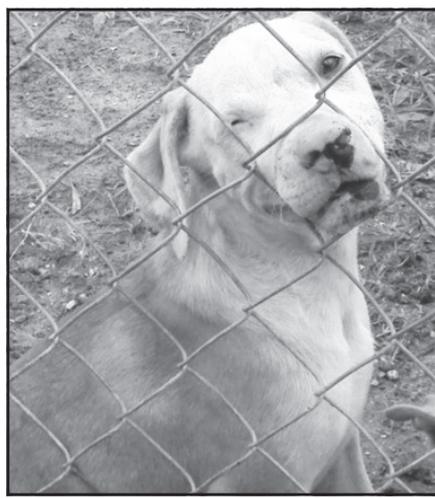
upon themselves to play the role of Chicken Little—for the sky is not falling—for God is still on His throne.

So, what is to be done? In the early 1900s Lenin wrote a pamphlet using that very question as the title and it rocked a nation. In a ten year span, due largely in part to the contents of that work and the sacrificial efforts of a cadre of determined revolutionaries, Russia embraced the decadent, godless philosophical lie of Communism. I can't help but believe that the vibrant, matchless truth of Christ is the catalyst that will change this nation. We must move away from the vilification of those in government and move to the exaltation of the One who governs all things. The Bible says this about Christ in Colossians 1:17: "He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." I'm not saying that we shouldn't speak out.

Actually, I am saying just the opposite. The church has a mandate from Christ to boldly speak out. But we must remember that the goal of the church is not to control the government but to boldly declare Christ. But to be truly effective it must be capable of declaring this truth in power. For it is only through the display of His power that people will be reached and lives will be changed. The power of Christ will not be found in high sounding words and eloquent prayers. It will only be found when the people of God are willing to sacrifice everything for the advancement of Christ. We will only be able to effectively change the world around us when the world around us can no longer effectively replace God's truth with its own in our lives. Rejoice and remember that greater is He who in us than he who is in the world.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Humane Society Pet Rescue Florida



One or three

George and Samson are still just babies and will grow to be medium to large pets. They have another brother named Buck (not pictured.) They are mixed breed assumed to be Catahoula/Mountain Curr. The three boys who came in together are all wonderful furkids—all three still available. Though they resemble pit bulls we have been assured they are not. Absolutely wonderful companion pets, not guard dogs. \$135 includes vaccines and neuter. There are lots of nice dogs and cats at the Okeechobee Humane Society, each waiting for their "forever" home. 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.

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Deputies enforce school bus safety rules

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) will be conducting a special enforcement program Oct. 19 through Oct. 23 as part of School Bus Safety Week.

OCSO deputies will be watching for motorists who pass a stopped school bus that has its lights flashing and stop arm extended. Some of the deputies will be in marked patrol units, while others will be on motor-

cycles and in unmarked vehicles.

Florida state statute 316.172 makes passing a stopped school bus a moving violation. If convicted, the violator will be assigned four points to his/her driver's license and fined at least \$173. The violator could also face a mandatory court appearance.

Last year, 29 children across the nation were killed while getting on or exiting school buses. The majority of these children were killed by motorists who were illegally passing stopped school buses.

The National Association of Pupil Transportation (NAPT) has designated the week of Oct. 19-23 as School Bus Safety Week.

School buses are required by law to have an eight-light warning system—four yellow and four red—to warn motorists that the bus is stopping. Buses also have a stop arm that extends from the driver's side of the bus when it is stopped.

The NAPT is a non-profit organization with the mission of enhancing the safety of children.

Community Events

Free kids day at Ft. Drum Crystal Mine

Families with children will have a fun, free day at the Ft. Drum Crystal Mine this coming Sunday, Oct. 18. The event comes along with a weekend, "Rock Swap and Dig" that continues through Sunday, Oct. 18, at 6 p.m. The free "Family Dig" begins at 8 a.m. on Sunday where kids and families can enter the park, dig, fish and look up information fossils. There is a great area just for the kids to fish. A fun and educational day for the whole family. We look forward to seeing everyone. For any questions please call Debbie at 863-634-4579.

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. 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.

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

Annual 4-H Barbecue date set

4-H Foundation will hold their annual Pork BBQ Dinner with all the fixings, Friday, **Oct. 23**, at the 9th Grade Center Cafeteria. Tickets are on sale now for \$7 at the Extension Office or from any 4-H member. Deliveries can be made for five or more dinners by calling in advance to 863-763-6469, or on the 23rd to 863-634-3327. You may dine in or pick-up your dinner from 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Craft program calls for artists

Calling all "Arts and Crafters" in the Okeechobee area. Peace Lutheran Church Quilters are planning a BAZAAR for **Nov. 21**, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. We know there are many talented people and groups in our community and we would like you to join us to show and sell your home made arts and craft items. To reserve a table call Marty at 863-467-4840 or Donna at 863-763-7056. +

ABWA announce guest speaker

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

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Local animals headed to purebread expo

Circle C Farms and Albers A Plus Farm, both of Okeechobee, have entries in the Dairy Cattle division of the upcoming 36th Annual North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE). The NAILE is recognized as the world's largest purebred livestock show with more than 22,000 entries and nearly \$700,000 in prizes and awards. Scheduled for Nov. 7-20, the event takes place at the Kentucky Center, Louisville, Ky.

Purebred farms from nearly every state and Canada bring livestock to compete in one of ten expo divisions: dairy cattle, dairy goats, Boer goats, beef cattle, quarter horses, mules and donkeys, sheep, swine, and llamas and alpacas.

The Albers A Plus Farm has entered three head of cattle in the Open and Jr. Ayrshire category and Circle C Farm has entered eight head of dairy cattle in the open and Jr. Guernsey and Holstein category.

More than 210,000 American and foreign visitors attend the hundreds of individual breed shows, sales and events. In addition to the recognition and prize money that comes with winning at the NAILE, the value of the champion breeding stock is significantly enhanced.

Breed association events are not the only NAILE feature. The expo is also home to nu-

merous youth events that are an important part of the livestock industry's traditions, including: Eastern National 4-H Horse Round-up; Youth, Junior College and Senior Collegiate Dairy Judging Contest; Dairy Quiz Bowl; National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest; National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest; Junior College Livestock Contest; and National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference.

Additionally, youth exhibitors enter market animals, those targeted for meat production, in the Junior Steer Show, Junior Market Swine Show or Junior Wether Show. These youth shows are sponsored by Farm Credit Services of Mid-America and are nationally recognized for both the quality of competition and prestige of winning. Champions from these shows are sold at the Sale of Champions on Nov. 19, at p.m.

The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Assoc. (PRCA) Great Lakes Circuit Rodeo Finals takes place Nov. 12-14, at 7:30 p.m. nightly. Tickets for the invitational finals rodeo are \$17 on Thursday, \$27 on Friday and \$32 for Saturday's performance. Children under 12 get in for \$10 on Friday and Saturday with paid adult. Tickets are available at TicketMaster.com or by calling 502-361-3100 or 800-487-1212.

Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

October 12 and 13, 2009			Med #1	Steers	Hfrs	
Cows			300-350		90-95	
Breaking	\$42.00	\$43.00	400-450	92-97	75-85	
Cutter	\$38.00	\$45.00	450-500	85-98	72-85	
Canner	\$35.00	\$38.00	550-600		70-76	
			600-650	75-77	68-70	
Bulls						
1000-1500	\$47.00	\$53.00				
			Med #2	Steers	Hfrs	
			150-200	90-100		
			200-250	112-115	87-100	
			250-300	100-117	93-97	
			300-350	93-115	73-92	
			350-400	83-104	70-85	
			400-450	82-92	65-75	
Calves	874	1035				
Cows	114	155				
Str	13	4				
Hfrs	27	17				
Bulls	14	11				
Yrlngs	12	45				
Mix	0	29				
Total	1054	1296				

Prices better this week, but numbers were down. Feeder steers and heifers

were \$1-2 higher on better quality calves. Slaughter cows and bulls were also higher about \$1-2. Roger Davis, Okeechobee, topped the calf market with a high of \$127.50 bought by Reynolds Cattle. H.W. Rucks, Okeechobee, topped the cow market with a high of 45.50 bought by Dairymens Marketing.

Don't forget about our bull sales: Harvey Lemmon Angus - Oct. 23; Little Creek Brangus and Jorgensen Angus - Oct. 30.

See ya next week, Jeff



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

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Special to the Okeechobee News/CCHE

Home educators tour museum

On Oct. 8, the Cornerstone Christian Home Educators (CCHÉ) toured the Tantie School House and museum.

Craft program calls for artists

Calling all "Arts and Crafters" in the Okeechobee area. Peace Lutheran Church Quilters are planning a BAZAAR for Nov. 21, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. We know there are many talented people and groups in our community and we would like you to join us to show and sell your home made arts and craft items. To reserve a table call Marty at 863-467-4840 or Donna at 863-763-7056.

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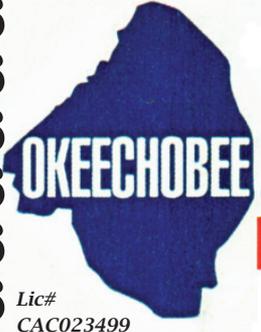
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Special to the Okeechobee News/OMS

Students of the Week

Osceola Middle School students were "caught being good" all over campus! We are very proud of all of our Students of the Week for Oct. 12-16! In the front row from left to right are: Brittany Baker, Shyane Adkins, Meagan Wilson, Abigail Wences. In the back row from left to right are: Emmanuel Gaona, Austin Shatzer, Jayme Johnson, Chayse Harrell. Not in the photo is: Brayden Rucks.

Parent Education Classes Offered by Healthy Start

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



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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Bartow pounds Okeechobee

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Bartow got off to great starts in both the first and second half and went on to a shutout win, 34-0 Friday night in the first meeting between Okeechobee and Bartow in 23 years.

Bartow scored 13 points in the first three minutes of the game, and added 14 points in the first four minutes of the second half. Tyree Brooks, 218 yards and three touchdowns, scored on a 70 yard run on the first play of the game. Still he wasn't satisfied with the team's performance, "I feel we came out real sloppy. We could have played better. We underestimated guys and stuff."

Okeechobee was able to get five first downs, but had three turnovers on the night. On the positive side, they had no penalties as a team. "I think if we get four players to go our way, and subtract their big plays, maybe it's different," Brahman's Coach Myron Jackson said, "We bent a little bit on defense but I was proud that we didn't break down."

Bartow's second score came after a blocked punt gave the Yellow Jackets a first down at the Brahman 18. Brooks scored on the next play on a wonderfully executed option play to make it 13-0.

After Bartow's early explosion, Okeechobee hung in there and only trailed 13-0 at halftime. Bartow missed a couple of field goals, but didn't get close to the Brahman endzone. Okeechobee managed one good drive, by Eric Rookard picked off freshman QB D.J. Washington deep in Yellow Jackets territory to

stop the scoring threat. "At the end of the half we started to get some momentum and had the ball in scoring position. If we got that one, momentum might have gone our way," Coach Jackson noted.

Bartow put the game with two more quick scores in the third quarter. Jarvis Wiley ended a five play 61 yard drive with a 15 yard touchdown run to make it 20-0. Bartow recovered a bad snap on the Brahman's next series at the Okeechobee 14, and QB Al Carter lofted up a pretty pass to Vince Reid for a touchdown on the next play to make it 27-0. Bartow wrapped up the scoring in the fourth quarter with an eight play, 63 yard drive, capped by an eight yard run by Brooks.

"We came out in the second half and were ready to go. We did what we had to do. The offensive line helped a lot," Brooks added.

Bartow's offensive line included Judson Attaway, who grew up in Okeechobee. His father Glen was offensive line coach for many years, and his grandfather Jim Attaway was a coach for many, many years. He said he had funny feelings as he played against his old friends and teammates, "I had big mixed emotions. You love them because you grew up with them, and it was fun to see them, but you still have a game to play."

Attaway said the team really was disappointed in their play in the first half, "We didn't perform like we should. In the second half we realized we had to step it up and came out pretty good."

Game notes

Coach Jackson said his team will have to make the weight room more important in the off season, "We know where we're going. If we make weights more important, maybe we can withstand some of these teams that want to pound the ball against us."

LaVante Spivey and Alonzo Coleman forced a fumble for Okeechobee (0-6). Fabian Simpson recovered a fumble for Bartow. Brant Harden dropped Al Carter for an 11 yard loss. Josh McCall had a huge hit on Aaron Livingston on a first half reverse.

David Carter and David Jacobs recovered fumbles for Okeechobee. Rick Holland had an interception for Bartow.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Former Brahman Assistant and Bartow Coach Shawn Killets speaks with Okeechobee's Myron Jackson before Friday's game.

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GHOSTS

Continued From Page 1

vides these services. In some cases the ghosts have bothered young children and even scratched their arms.

The group also wants to visit the historic Harder Hall in Sebring.

Mr. Braun also heard stories at one home where they can hear cattle crossing in the middle of the night when there are no cattle around. "These people could hear cattle going through their yards," he said.

Mr. Braun said anyone interested in ghosts can get a lot of information off the internet. A popular website is Shadowlands Haunted Florida.

The website claims one spot in Okeechobee is haunted, the old bank building downtown. The website said a notorious group of bank robbers known as the Ashley Gang robbed this bank and other banks in the

1920s. The story goes one gang member disappeared with an old lady. While the bank was still in operation, the main safe failed to work, so the bank owner purchased a new one. The website claims the old lady, or the missing Ashley gang member was buried in the old safe. .

Other haunted locations include the Boston House in Ft. Pierce where a woman hanged herself in the attic back in 1901. There also have been reports of a tall male figure standing in the Indian River Community College theatre in a broom closet.

People have also reported seeing the ghosts of dead cats and dogs chasing former employees at a Chinese restaurant in Fort Pierce. The restaurant was reportedly closed down for selling cats and dogs for meals, Shawdowlands.net reports.

Anyone interested in joining the Highlands Ghost Hunters group can call 863-471-0194, or 863-991-5711, or email cliff_braun@embarqmail.com.

BROWN

Continued From Page 1

testifying witness would have corroborated the state's case."

A video presented at trial by Mr. Romero showed Brown getting out of his 1999 gold Ford Expedition and approaching Ms. Harris. After the two spoke for a short period of time, he pulled a snub-nose .38 caliber revolver from the waistband of his shorts and shot Ms. Harris three times—once in the right breast,

once in the left buttock and once in the left side of her head.

Mr. Dorough told the jury that his client was going to ask Ms. Harris to marry him.

The 12-person jury found Brown guilty of first-degree murder, false imprisonment and carrying a concealed firearm. Because of the first-degree murder conviction, Brown was automatically sentenced to life in prison.

He is currently housed in the Franklin Correctional Institution in Carrabelle.

Mr. Romero said he had no idea when a possible hearing on the appeals court ruling would be held.

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Magistrate to hear code violation cases

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Special Magistrate Lois Nichols is scheduled to hear 22 cases Tuesday afternoon. Becky Lynn Williams, 2201 SW 28th St, was cited for an accumulation of household goods, plastic containers, metal and other accumulations.

According to code enforcement officer Beth Albert, David and Paul Medrano need to demolish the derelict shed and unpermitted wood framed structure on their NW 11th Drive property.

N & A Real Estate, owners of property on NW 22 Ave. and Juan and Ana Castro, owners of SE 25th Street property, were both cited for extreme overgrowth.

Earl G. and Kristal Hoover of NW 304th Street, Vernon Dean Barefoot of SE 28th Street and Gary and Morris Cook, owners of a lot on NW 304th Street and Vernon Dean Barefoot of 4602 SE 28th Street were cited for construction without a permit.

According to Mrs. Albert, Toni Gayle Moseley needs to apply for a demolition permit to complete the demolition of a structure at 4865 U.S. 441 SE.

If you go ...

What: Okeechobee County Code Special Magistrate Hearings

When: Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 20

Where: Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1798 NW Ninth Ave.

Open storage and unlicensed, inoperable vehicles are the charges against Stephanie T. and Charles Crates of 7720 U. S. 441 SE.

If Salim Laham and Loretta J. Matthieu have not either demolished or renovated a deck and boathouse at 300 U.S. 441 SE, they could be fined up to \$250 a day.

Douglas Etchison could be facing a fine if the necessary permits have not been obtained on his SE 29th Court property.

Alto Watford and Michael Willis could also be fined if their NW 36th Ave. has not been brought into compliance including removal/demolition of a condemned structure and proper removal of all remaining debris.

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

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Public Notice
Notice of Hearing
Okeechobee County Code Enforcement
Special Magistrate

The Okeechobee County Special Magistrate will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. The public meeting will be held at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, located at 1728 N.W. 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida. For more information, contact Faye Huffman at the Planning and Development Department, 499 N.W. 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, (863) 824-3015.

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

Faye Huffman, Secretary to the Code Enforcement Special Magistrate
336471 ON 10/16,18/09

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No wonder newspaper readers are more successful!

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- Catch lots of rays?
 - "Dark Angel" star Jessica
 - Positive
 - "May I say something?"
 - Le Sage novel "Gil _"
 - Basket maker's supply
 - Livestock fence feature
 - Red state?
 - Father of Ishmael
 - Drop a bit
 - Stan Sumial wore it
 - Summary
 - "A Yank in the _": 1941 war film
 - "Yippeee!"
 - Perfect
 - Site for a union meeting?
 - Ivy leader
 - Scent
 - Teen's bane
 - Somewhat soured
 - "Thérèse Raquin" author
 - Anticipatory times
 - Count (on)
 - They're tightened during hard times
 - It might be heard from one going to court
 - Salon jobs
 - Really got into
 - Check mates?
 - Electrical gap filler
 - Trash
 - Type of motor
 - Blue state?
 - Wasn't straight
 - Eighth century pope
 - Backspace, perhaps
 - Notion
 - Language suffix?
 - Many a minor
 - Tim of "Private Practice"
- DOWN**
- "_ O'Riley": song by The Who
 - Fictional skipper
 - "An Affair to Remember" costar
 - In a red state?
 - Monastic jurisdiction
 - South American carrier
 - Prohibit
 - Invites
 - Washington State athlete
 - Dangerous snake
 - Carping subjects
 - Liter lead-in
 - Desert antelope
 - Thin out
 - Get wind of
 - Red and blue states?
 - In a blue state?
 - Visibility reducers
 - Pimiento container, possibly
 - Playful swimmer
 - Inappropriately involved
 - 33 Superstars
 - "The Spiderwick Chronicles" actor
 - Rye, for one
 - Mottled
 - Like many
 - Aeschylus works
 - Iceberg alternative
 - Annoying type
 - Writer whose stories inspired "Guys and Dolls"
 - 50 Mark in español
 - Concert gear
 - Cut with a scythe
 - Hint
 - Closed
 - 1871 Cairo premiere
 - It holds the line
 - Invasion time
 - Styled after
 - Pepsi brand that's also its calorie count

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

F	E	R	R	I	C	L	S	A	T	O	L	D	
A	Q	U	I	N	O	I	T	Z	A	U	A	E	
S	U	B	S	C	R	I	B	E	T	O	T	Y	S
C	I	D	E	R	O	R	N	E	I	P	O	S	
I	N	O	R	S	C	O	T	C	H	T	A	P	
S	E	W	S	U	P	S	O	C	C	E	R		
M	S	N	N	A	N	C	E	G	H	E	N	T	
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L	B	O	B	E	B	E	D	A	N	I	E	L	S
L	I	T	E	D	E	L	A	N	N	U	L	I	
S	T	S	L	O	R	E	S	E	A	M	E	N	

xwordeditor@aol.com

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67				68				69					

By Anthony J. Salvia
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Planning board discusses sign ordinance

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The city's sign ordinance that was a year and a half in the making came under discussion again Tuesday night. At their meeting on Tuesday night, Oct. 13, the City of Okeechobee Planning Board/Board of Adjustments and Appeals spent about an hour and 40 minutes considering clarifications to the ordinance.

The discussion was the result of complaints by local business owner Jay Voorhees who was cited for violations of the ordinance because of the extended use of banners at his place of business on N. Parrott Avenue.

"I believe there were some omissions that caused problems," city planner Bill Brisson said of the sign ordinance.

"I find it aggravating we are going to modify something that prohibits a person from advertising their wares," expressed board member Terry Burroughs.

"It starts to look trashy after a while if you don't put a limit on it," was the opinion of board member Dawn Hoover.

"We don't enforce what we have today," stated Mr. Burroughs.

"We have to start somewhere," countered Mrs. Hoover.

Mr. Brisson said the original ordinance limited a business to three signs. He said the city council did not want to limit the number of signs.

He admitted that some things in the ordinance were vague. He said the biggest problem was temporary signs, such as banners. He said that a person holding a sign is questionable.

Board secretary Betty Clement said that people holding signs on S.R. 70 and U.S. 441 were considered a traffic hazard by the council.

Mr. Voorhees stated that his banners are professionally done.

"That's discrimination," he said of the sign ordinance. He said it was not feasible for him to have permanent signs.

Board member Malissa Morgan suggested mounting a banner on plywood and placing it on a post. That would constitute a legal sign under the ordinance.

"I think we are getting to a point where we are telling people what they can and can't do and it's hurting business," said Mr. Burroughs.

City attorney John Cook stated that the city council did not want every business up and down U.S. 441 to look like Mr. Voorhees's business.

After considerable discussion, the board voted to make several recommendations to the city council on amendments to the sign ordinance. They recommended the length of time signs, portable signs and non-inflatable wind signs could be displayed at the opening of a new business without a permit be limited to 30 days. The board further recommended that the total area of all signs shall not exceed one square foot per linear foot of street frontage plus one square foot for each two linear feet of property on side streets.

Another recommendation was that businesses be limited to one ground sign in the front yard limited to 20 feet in height.

The largest part of the discussion was on banners. The board voted to recommend limiting the length of time banners and other temporary signs may be displayed. The number of banners was limited to one for each street frontage. The size of feather banners was also limited to 2 feet wide and 8 feet high.

Turning to other matters, the board discussed items to be addressed in the 2010 Evaluation and Appraisal Report of the City's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Brisson mentioned that zoning is not always consistent with the future land use plan. The transition from residential to commercial was another concern he mentioned. Board chairman Devin Maxwell stated that the current comprehensive plan restricts development along Taylor Creek. He said would like to see development that is not harmful to the creek. The board also discussed pedestrian orientation and urban design.

The city planner will flesh out the details of these concerns and present them to the city council.

Next the board considered recommendations to the city council on amendments to the city's water supply plan. This is a ten year water supply plan that is required by the state. The goal is to ensure the city's growth does not outpace the water supply. The board discussed requiring new construction to hook up to public water when available. The board also discussed encouraging water hookups for medians in order to water landscaping.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Fifteen years' service

Frank Irby, left, chairman of the Okeechobee Utility Authority Board of Directors, presents a certificate to wastewater treatment plant operator Jamie Gamiotea, right, recognizing his fifteen years with the utility. The presentation took place at the Tuesday, Oct. 13 board meeting.

City to present first 'Citizens Day' event

The City of Okeechobee would like to invite city residents, business owners and employees of city businesses and local government and also those currently serving on any Citizen Board to attend the city's First Citizens Day event. This is going to be an excellent way to become better educated in local government services, practices, and regulations and also to increase communication between the city government and you, the citizen.

Statistics show that 30 percent of Floridians are natives, while 70 percent moved here from somewhere else. This can greatly affect a Floridian's understanding for City Government in the Sunshine State. There aren't always opportunities for new residents, especially adults who are out of school, to quickly learn how their governments function and about the many services cities offer. Seize the opportunity now and come visit us at City Hall, 55 SE Third

Avenue on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Anyone interested in attending the event is asked to have an application completed and returned by Oct. 21, to Okeechobee City Hall. Applications can be printed from the City Web site at: www.cityofokeechobee.com. For more information, please contact City Clerk, Lane Gamiotea at 863-763-3372 or by email at: lgamiotea@cityofokeechobee.com.

Lady Brahmans extend winning streak

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Lady Brahmans appears to be playing their best volleyball of the year at the right time.

The girls defeated Glades Day in impressive fashion Thursday night, 25-12, 25-19, and 25-14.

LeAnna Cotton continued her hot streak with 19 assists and 11 digs. Monica Koger and Janezzka Koger also played well for Okeechobee.

"I thought we did good for the team we were playing," Cotton said, "If it had been a better team I think we would have played better. We did very well tonight."

Cotton has been one of the most improved players on the squad this year. She appears capable of doing anything on the volleyball court, pass, kill, dig, and block.

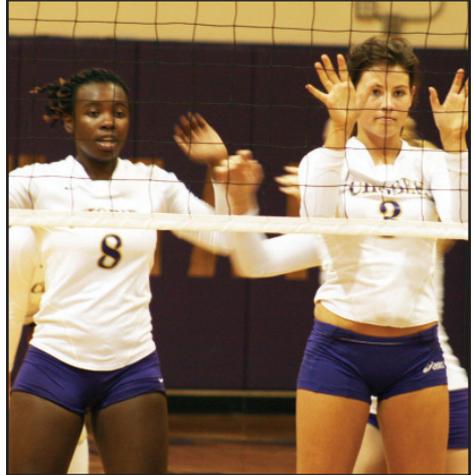
"I think each year I've improved more," she said. "My senior year I hope to be unstoppable."

Cotton also predicted the Lady Brahmans will be tough to beat in the upcoming district tournament, "I think we have a chance in districts. If we play the way we know how to play with the talent we have on our team, we can beat Jensen Beach."

Coach Tod Jones used some younger players on the back line with Megan Clements out. He mentioned that he was im-

pressed with how the younger players did. "We used some younger players in the back line and saw the future of Okeechobee volleyball," he said. "In game two we did have a little bit of a slump but the girls were able to put it back together."

Jones said his job now is to keep the team sharp as they get ready for districts in two weeks.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Janezzka Koger (left) and Darby Jones (right) get set for a Brahman serve during Thursday's match with Glades Day.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Sarah Davis gets set to pass as Paige McCrary (right) looks on during Thursday's match.

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