OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 100 No. 132 | Wednesday, November 4, 2009 | 50¢ Plus tax

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Halloween festival photos inside

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Lake Levels

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Okeechobee News/**Katrina Elsken**

H1N1 vaccinations

Lane Collins, 8, was among the hundreds of children vaccinated for H1N1 "Swine" flu Tuesday at Osceola Middle School. The South Elementary School student said he was happy to have the mist instead of a shot. He said it did not sting. "It just felt wet," he added. "It felt like water." The vaccination clinic continues today at OMS from 4 to 8 p.m. for children ages 5 to 10. Central Elementary and North Elementary students will be vaccinated today. On Thursday, the clinic will be open for New Endeavor K-5, Osceola 5th grade, private school and home school students. Vaccinations are voluntary. Paperwork was sent home with the public school students on Friday. Drivers should use the Southwest 7th Street bus entrance and follow the signs. This round of vaccinations is only for children ages 5-10. The vaccinations are administered at no charge by the Okeechobee County Health Department. Vaccinations for older children and adults will be given at the Health Department at a later date. Local doctors have been given the vaccine for those in the very high risk groups. Future clinics will be announced in the newspaper as more of the vaccine becomes available.

Man accused of causing death of 1-year-old baby

Child's mother takes stand at murder trial

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

"I picked him up. He was limp and his eyes were rolled back in his head," testified Leann Leach of finding her son Xavian on Jan. 12, 2006. "I would call his name and he would try to respond, but he couldn't respond."

The 14-month-old baby died seven days later at St. Mary's Hospital in West Palm Beach.

Jeremy Lee Smith is accused of causing the baby's death and is currently standing trial, facing a charge of second degree murder.

While being questioned by Assistant State Attorney Donald Richardson on Tuesday, Nov. 3, Ms. Leach said she and Smith had been dating for about a month and on Jan. 11, 2006, they rented a room at the Traveler's Inn Motel, 601 N. Parrott Ave. While in the room the couple smoked marijuana laced with powder cocaine, testified Ms. Leach, now 25 years old.

At the time, she told the six-member jury, Xavian was a happy, healthy baby and was learning to walk.

"Like any 1-year-old he would stumble sometimes, but he was learning to walk," she testified.

On the afternoon of Jan. 12 Xavian, his mother, her brother Xavier Leach and Smith drove down to the lake then decided they were hungry. On the way back to the motel Ms. Leach called Zippy's Wings and ordered some chicken wings.

Mr. Leach then drove Smith back to the motel where he was to take care of Xavian while Ms. Leach and her brother went to pick up their food order.

During questioning by Mr. Richardson, Ms. Leach said she placed the now-sleeping Xavian on the bed and put two pillows around him so he wouldn't roll off the motel bed.

When they returned to the motel Smith came running out to meet them, said Ms. Leach. She said Smith "was hysterical" and told her that Xavian wasn't breathing.

She grabbed her child, got back into her brother's car and rushed to Raulerson Hospital. Ms. Leach testified that there was a "lump on his forehead" but she didn't see any additional injuries.

That was the last time she held her son. Once at the hospital, testified Ms. Leach, "they just took him from me."

During cross examination by defense attorney Shari Vrode, Ms. Leach said Smith would call her and ask: "Is he going to make it? Is he going to make it?"

Later that day Xavian was airlifted to St. Mary's Hospital. Then, on Jan. 20, his young life ended.

During his opening statement to the jury, Mr. Richardson said Xavian had two significant injuries—a fractured occipital bone and a subdural hematoma, which he defined

See **MURDER** — Page 2

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MURDER

Continued From Page 1

as a large bruise to the brain.

Shortly after his arrest, Smith told Detective Bettye Taylor, of the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), that once he was back in the room he decided to take a shower. When he finished, he found Xavian lying between the beds on the motel room floor as if he had fallen off the bed.

In that interview, Smith told the detective he picked up the child and he was stiff. Smith, 6-feet-1 and 220 pounds, said he started to perform cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) but realized that Xavian wasn't breathing.

In her report, Detective Taylor said Smith began shaking the baby but said "... he saw that lost look in the child's eyes, which he had seen before..."

As Xavian lied dying in the West Palm Beach hospital, members of local law enforcement began searching for Smith.

Detective Rosemary Farless, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), told Assistant State Attorney Ashley Albright from the witness stand that she went to the home of Dawn Lee—a friend of Smith's. While there, she had Ms. Lee call Smith.

While the two talked on the speaker phone Detective Farless, who was a corporal with the OCSO's road patrol division at the time, listened.

"He said he was lying low from the cops and that a kid had got hurt," he told Mr. Albright.

After an exhaustive effort by local law enforcement, Smith was found hiding under a porch on Jan. 15 and was placed under arrest.

Testimony will resume Wednesday morning in Courtroom A at the Okeechobee Judicial Center.

Submitted photo

All Saints Day

Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus Catholic Church in Buckhead Ridge invited children from the parsih to dress as saints on Nov. 1 for a procession in honor of All Saints Day.

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Highs in the lower 80s. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 20 percent.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 60s. North winds around 5 mph becoming northwest after midnight.

Extended Forecast

Thursday...Partly sunny and breezy. Highs in the lower 80s. North winds 10 mph becoming northeast 15 mph and gusty in the afternoon.

Thursday Night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s. North winds 5 to 10 mph.

Friday...Partly sunny. Highs in the upper 70s.

Friday Night...Mostly clear. Lows around 60.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Monday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 3-4-3; **Play 4:** 4-2-4-6; **Fantasy 5:** 9-13-14-17-32; **Mega Money:** 12-16-29-38 MB 3; **Florida Lotto**: 6-21-26-30-50-51 X 3; **Powerball:** 2-19-26-41-54 PB23 x5. Numbers drawn Tuesday, **Cash 3:** 3-1-3; **Play 4:** 7-5-2-9.

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K-9 finds coke, 2 arrested

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

With the help of an Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) K-9, two Okeechobee people were arrested on felony drug charges.

Corey N. Hardy, 28, N.W. 12th St., and Chancy L. Vines, 30, N.W. 80th Ave., were both arrested Oct. 29 on a felony charge of possession of cocaine with intent to sell. Each was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

They were both booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of $5,500 each.

According to an arrest report by a detective with the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force, a car being driven by Vines was stopped because she was not wearing her seat belt.

During an exterior sniff of the 2002 Dodge van, K-9 Rex indicated a positive alert to the passenger side door.

Inside the van detectives found a plastic bottle containing a suspicious substance, and two clear plastic baggies that contained an unknown powder.

According to the detective's report, a field test was performed on each substance and indicated a positive result for the presence of crack cocaine on the substance in the bottle, and a positive result for the presence of cocaine on the powder.

The suspected crack cocaine weighed 2 grams and the suspected powder cocaine weighed 13 grams, stated the report.

County licensing board holds short meeting

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County Construction Industry Licensing Board held a short meeting on Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 3 with only one action item.

In a matter that was carried over from the October meeting, Wilhelm Burkhardt d/b/a Burkhardt & Son was cited for violation of the building code, proceeding with a job without a building permit and inspections and working outside of the scope of his certificate of competency. After much discussion at last month's meeting it was determined that Mr. Burkhardt was in violation. However, no action was taken because the board members could not agree on whether to give a letter of reprimand or assess a fine. At Tuesday's meeting the board voted to impose a $100 fine since it was Mr. Burkhardt's first violation.

Michael P. Zanetti's request for a certificate of competency in aluminum specialties was withdrawn by interim building official Tim English. It was determined that the request could be handled at staff level.

Mr. English discussed the importance of board members maintaining regular attendance at the meetings and mentioned the individual members' attendance records. County attorney John Cassels suggested that Mr. English write a letter to the county administrator informing him that Herb Mix resigned last meeting and also informing him of the members' attendance records. Then the county administrator could have the commissioners take action to replace Mr. Mixon and take whatever action they deemed necessary concerning members' attendance.

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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Okeechobee 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).

• Adam Lee Minix, 33, S.E. 25th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 31 by Deputy Sarah Green on a charge of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. His bond was set at $25,000.

• James Franklin Sellers, 32, Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 1 by Deputy Joseph Hall on charges of grand theft and burglary of a structure. His bond was set at $10,000.

• Nathan C. Siefert, 23, Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 2 by Deputy Patricia Massung on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - escape from a juvenile facility, violation of probation - robbery, violation of probation - battery on detention staff, violation of probation - criminal mischief and violation of probation - grand theft-auto. He is being held without bond.

• Dewey Lightsey Jr., 33, N.W. Fourth St., Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 2 by Deputy Patricia Massung on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with amended violation of probation - aggravated battery. He is being held without bond.

• Craig Ward Wisenbaugh, 38, Trout St., Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 2 by Deputy Jason Hickman on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felony of fraudulent use of a credit card. He was also arrested on misdemeanor charges of petit theft (two counts) and attempted fraudulent use of a credit card. His bond was set at $6,500.

• Lee Arlis Griffin, 45, N.W. 10th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 2 by Deputy Patricia Massung on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with grand theft. His bond was set at $1,500.

• Donald Sanders, 57, was arrested Nov. 3 by Deputy Steven McKinley on charges of driving under the influence and refusal to submit for testing. His bond was set at $2,000.

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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Public Forum/Speak Out

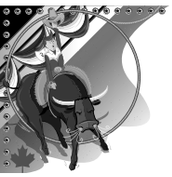
Speak Out has moved online, where it is quicker and easier to share your ideas and converse with others. Go to www.newszap.com, click on the community name and your local or state Public Forum. There, you can create new topics or comment on existing topics. What follows is a sampling of some of the discussions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

Okeechobee ghosts —share your story

• About ten years ago there was something in our house. The first time I saw something it was late about 2:30 am. It looked like a person coming thru my window. As I set my eyes on it, I noticed it was just like a big black shadow. Later on I thought my child had come into the bedroom with me and laid on my back. When I called his name and turned over, the pressure on my back was not him. At this point I know I was not crazy, but who do you tell. Over several months I continued to see this black mass. My child would not stay at my house. A friend of mine asked to stay over the weekend. At this point I had not told anyone of what was going on. I left my key out, when I returned from my trip my friend asked what in the world is in here. Thank goodness, I'm not crazy. Sometime later, I heard a laughing coming from the hall. I thought it was my friend. I was upset it was too late to be so loud. I opened my door and she was coming down the hall, said it was standing there laughing at her, she could see a woman in a white dress with dark hair. I called all over to find someone to help me, one pastor gave me several different quotes from the bible. Moved not long after that...

Rodeo arena

• I have heard some members of the association do not want to sell the old arena. So maybe they could move the rodeo back there. Something about moving the rodeo to the new arena just changed the whole atmosphere of the event. Before they moved it, I went to every rodeo. After they went to the new arena, I went once and haven't been back. It's just not the same.



• The new arena is not good for taking photographs, too HOT for comfort in the summer months. It was supposed to be an Emergency Shelter. Well as it's open at both ends it's a given that's out of the question, can't even get out of the RAIN in there. The rain blew in at graduation. People want the cows to come home to Rodeo Arena on Hwy 441 N. Why did we need the Okeechobee Aggravation Center? I must be missing something here. We have the festivals in the town park. Fishing derby's at the lake. The 4th of July was always fine at the Locks or out at the River. Rodeos up on 441N. Commencement will be much better if held at the new Cultural Center. I guess the County Fair will be there. If they had put more thought into the project they could turn the place into other venues. They could hold concerts and sporting events there. Many places that have arenas have a variety of floor coverings that can be used.

• I for one would like to see the old arena kept if for no other reason for use of the high schoolers. Would really prefer to see the rodeos there rather than where they are now.

• We have attended several Rodeo's at the new arena and we STAYED DRY! It has rained at the last two rodeos we have attended, the last one it stormed really hard, everyone around us was thankful we were not affected by lightning, wind and rain. They have nice clean bathrooms, and a great concession stand. When the rodeo was over we left and did not worry about getting stuck no matter where we parked. Traditions are wonderful, but sometimes you need to keep the old for history sake and maybe use it for smaller events and shows but move on for the sake of bigger, better and convenience. The new Agri-Civic Center is the best new center in our area and is great for those who want to attend any event there. I think the Cattlemen's decision to utilize that center was a great wise move into the future for the betterment of those attending their events and I thank them for that.

Halloween at the Agri-Civic Center

• My family had a great time - as usual. My kids like it because they get to see their friends, I like it because they get a limited amount of candy.

• My little Legos had fun! Thanks to all who had activities there.

Letter to the editor

Halloween celebration a great success

The 2010 Halloween Celebration, hosted by Okeechobee Main Street, The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office and the Board of County Commissioners was again a huge success. This alternative to door to door trick or treating was held at the Agri-Civic Center on Saturday evening, Oct. 31, and was attended by thousands of children and parents who took on the challenges of the many games made available for their enjoyment. Okeechobee Main Street would like to thank all those who provided a Booth, Candy Drop Off location, Candy and Monetary donations, and their personal time at this event. Because of you the children of our community had a safe, fun filled "Night to Remember."

A Special Thanks to Sheriff May, Cpl Keith Stripling and the volunteers of the COPs for their support and the haunted houses. The Board of County Commissioners for the use of the Agri-Civic Center, Cowboys BBQ & Steak for enabling us to serve sandwiches, Boy Scout Troop #964 for your helping hands. Seacoast National Bank for the Costume Contest, Wal-Mart for donating the Pepsi Wagon and bicycles, The Law Offices of Hoskins and Turco for sponsoring the pony rides, Raulerson Hospital for the many cases of candy and water, WOKC for the continual promotion of this event (thank you Billy Dean for your time). First Bank & Trust of Indiantown for furnishing the trick or treat bags. Thank you Lisa White, the Okeechobee Cattlewomen's Association, The Tuckahoe Motorcycle Club, National City Bank, The Flamingo Hotel, Bob Branstetter, Troy Tuten, Greg Thogersen, Rick Wilson for the large donations towards candy and the many who anonymously donated funds for this event. Thank you to the Children's Services Council for awarding us a mini grant that enabled us to purchase many needed items for this event. Thank you to Undersheriff Noel Stephen, Ted Starr, Joe Doyle, Barbara Davis and Joyce Claypool who served as Judges for the costume contest. Thank you to the Okeechobee News and The Penny Saver for promoting this event.

Please take a moment to review the list of those businesses who sponsored an activity booth below because without them this great affair could not be held. We encourage your support of all the businesses that sponsored the Halloween celebration and look forward to another great event next year. Our hats are off to Waldau Junior Golf, Florida Blood Centers, Best Western/Holiday Inn Express, The Tropics Tanning Salon, First Bank & Trust of Indiantown, Diva's Boutique, Consignment and Stork Rental, Davey Dairy, AFLAC, The Golden Corral, Dad's Pest Control, Florida Community Health Centers, First United Methodist Church, Okeechobee Masonic Lodge, Chloe's Closet, Home Depot, One Stop Party Shop, Church of God of Prophecy, The Optical Gallery, St. Lucie Battery & Tire, 4-H Bits & Spurs, Faith Academy Pre-School, Tri-Co Supply, Olivia Pina and Alicia Casas, Florida Kid Care, Early Learning Coalition, Mims Veterinary Hospital, Wagon Wheel Horse Farm, Daniels Plumbing, The Stitchin' Post, 2010 Census, Okeechobee Special Equestrian, Amedisys Home Health, Five Guys, and Mary Kay-Lori Meenan.

Again Thank You, Thank you, Thank you!

Okeechobee Main Street

Special to the Okeechobee News

The Agri-Civic Center was filled with thousands of children for the annual Halloween festival.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

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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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- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

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Letters to the Editor

Blood donors needed

The Okeechobee Blood Roundup, set for Nov. 13 and 14, has a goal of 500 blood donors. Blood donors are very special people. Only 37 percent of the total US population is eligible to donate blood, and only 5 percent of the population donate. Blood cannot be manufactured. There is no synthetic product which can do what blood does. Supplies are always short, but the need for blood continues to grow. The need for blood crosses every line—ethnic, gender, age, location, belief. Here's a letter about one such need.

Local girl needs your help

Cancer is a horrible disease, but seems worse when it hits a child. Madisen Byrd is only four years old and has ALL—Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia. Madisen is our daughter. We live in Treasure Island.

Her cancer was discovered just as she turned three. She must visit her doctor twice a month, take chemo medications and once a month have chemotherapy through a port.

Following six months of very strong chemo treatments, it was found that Madisen needed a blood transfusion. Chemo destroyed blood cells and made blood transfusions a necessary part of her life. So far she has had more than six blood transfusions and twelve platelet transfusions. Her cancer doctor is in Wellington where she goes for her transfusions.

Madisen Byrd

Florida's Blood Centers, whose buses come to Okeechobee, also services the hospital in Wellington. The blood donated here in Okeechobee—by YOU—may be the very blood which is helping heal our Madisen. She still has a year and half of further treatments to go.

Madisen's older sister and brother, Katie and Tyler Baird, ask you to please come to the Blood Roundup Nov. 13 and 14 and have a part in saving the life of Okeechobee's own, our precious, Madisen Byrd.

We give you our thanks.

Lori and Jimmy Byrd

Help appreciated

The Humane Society Pet Rescue of Okeechobee wants to extend a special "Thank You" to Dick Wellman and Ralph Hodges for bringing the Cypress Hut fundraiser for Humane Society Pet Rescue to the Eagles. Also a special thanks to all the volunteers who worked to make this happen. The following businesses contributed to the event in many different ways: Aruba Cafe, Sears of Okeechobee, Hungry Howies, Mike's Barber Shop, Wise Plumbing, Ding a Ling Deli, Office Bar & Grill, The Landing Strip, Clock Restaurant, Big Mike's Sport Grille, Home Depot, Sweet's & Blooms, Beef O'Brady's, Jersey Mike's, Bill's Shoe Repair, Mom's Kitchen, K & M Nails, Executive Hair Design, 4137 Eagles, 4509 Eagles, VFW, Tuppens Marine & Tackle, Gina's Candy Creations, Katie's Pet Parlor, Preferred Properties, Maximum Tanning, Sight & Sound, Okeechobee Feed, Stafford's, Schwan's, Auto Zone, Annie's Dog Grooming, Los Co-co's, Whitaker, Auto Detailing, The Oil Can, Trends, Quick Change, Blimpie's, Rodney's Auction, J&S Fish Camp, Mike Racine, Hendry Count Speedway, Countryside Florist, Brennan's Eye Care and Kat's Kool Beads.

Humane Society of Okeechobee

Special to the Okeechobee News

Presenting the check from Cypress Hut Eagles-Aerie 4509 is (left to right) John Watson-Worthy President, Billy Hesch-Madam President, Marilyn Compton-Madam Vice President, Sue Crowe-Madam Secretary, Jan Wooldridge-Outside Guard, Bill Compton, Karen Albert, Belinda Forlifer and Diane Thrif.

Community Calendar

Wednesday

Martha's House support groups meet each Wednesday. Spanish groups meet from 7 until 8 p.m. at the Okeechobee Christian Church, 3055 S.E. 18th Terrace. Ana Romero is the group facilitator. Another group meets in the Okeechobee County Health Department, 1798 N.W. Ninth Ave., from 5 until 6 p.m. with Irene Luck as the group facilitator. There is another meeting from 6 until 7 p.m. with Shirlean Graham as the facilitator. For information, call 863-763-2893.

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

A.A. meeting from 8 until 9 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 701 S.W. Sixth St. It will be a closed discussion.

Moose Lodge Bingo, food served at 5 p.m. and bingo starts at 6 p.m. For information call 863-763-2250. Public is welcome.

Thursday

Okeechobee Stitchin' meets every Thursday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 North Parrott Ave. Bring your sewing project and join in on the fun. All types of sewing is welcome, such as quilting, applique, embroidery, crocheting, knitting, serging. Bring your sewing machines if you like to sew. For more information call Belinda Boyle at 863-357-0166 or Corry Geissinger at 863-467-2231.

Tantie Quilters meet every Thursday from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Historical Society Museum on U.S. 98 N. For information call Margaret at: 863-467-8020, or Marie at 863-357-0868.

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. There is Census, IGI (International Genealogical Index), Social Security Death Index and military information available. For information, call The Family History Center at 863-763-6510 or Richard Smith at 863-261-5706 for special appointments.

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.

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

Prayer group meets at 10 a.m. at the Community Center, 412 N.W. Sixth St. For information, call 863-763-5996.

Christian Fellowship Prayer group meets at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall at 412 N.W. Sixth St. For information, call 863-763-5996.

Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee will meet from noon until 1 p.m. at the American Legion Post 64 501 SE Second St. All Kiwanis and the public are welcome. For information, contact Frank Irby at 863-357-1639.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly No. 47 will meet from 5 until 6:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. Please join us or ask questions. Call Phyllis at 863-467-8636 or Hazel at 863-763-4920 for information.

Cowboys for Christ will meet at Dunklin Memorial, 407 N.W. Third Ave. Everyone is invited. For information, call Mike Fletcher at 863-357-6257.

Martha's House Inc. sponsors weekly support groups for women who are, or have been, affected by domestic violence and abusive relationships. The support groups are held every Thursday at 6 p.m. For information call 863-763-2893, or call Shirlean Graham or Irene Luck at 863-763-2893 or 863-763-0202.

Free Adult Basic Education/GED and English as a second language classes will meet from 7 until 9 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 701 S.W. Sixth St.

Okeechobee Outreach Hope Narcotics Anonymous will meet from 8 until 9 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St. For information, call Hugh Lambert at 863-763-7185.

Okeechobee Citizens Recreation Association, OCRA will meet at 7:30 p.m. at Teen Town, 305 N.W. Second St. Anyone interested may attend. For information, contact Frank Coker at 863-467-1941.

Ongoing Caregiver Support Group Hospice of Okeechobee and the Area Agency on Aging sponsor a caregiver support group every Thursday at 2 p.m. Anyone who is caring for an ill family member is welcome to join. The group is facilitated by social workers and provides an opportunity for caregivers to give one another support, information and ideas. The meetings are held at Hospice at 411 S.E. Fourth St. For information, call 863-467-2321.

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

Classic car show at Beef O'Brady's, 608 S. Parrott Ave., from 6:30 until 8 p.m.

Okeechobee County Cancer Support Group welcomes all cancer patients, survivors and supporters to attend, support and encourage each other. We meet the first Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 401 SW Fourth St., Okeechobee, (entrance is the door to the W in front of church). Please contact Susie Pickering at 863-467-5831 or First Baptist Church at 863-763-2171 for more information.

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Churches plan holiday events

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Grace Brethren Church, 710 S. Parrott Ave., will have a free family movie night, Friday, **Nov. 6** at 7 p.m. The inspirational movie "The Second Chance" with Michael W. Smith and Jeff Obafemi Carr will be shown.

New Testament Baptist Church, S.R. 70 and C.R. 710, is offering courses from Faith Bible Institute that cover the entire Bible. The program is made up of six, 13 week semesters. The deadline for registration for the first semester in **Nov. 6.** The registration fee is $15 and the cost per semester is $90. Classes begin Monday, **Jan. 11** and will be held on Monday nights from 6 to 9. The topic of the first semester will be the Book of Genesis. For more information call 863-763-6682.

The Ladies Ministry of **Believers Fellowship Church,** 300 SW Sixth Ave., will be holding a yard sale on Saturday, **Nov. 7** from 8 a.m. until noon. Believers Fellowship will be hosting another fantastically fun Youth Rally on Friday evening, **Nov. 13** from 7 to 9. Games, food, music and guest speaker Tom Pasquarella will round out an exciting evening for teens and youth groups from any church. Call Linda at 863-697-1389 or Micki at 863-697-4327 for more information.

The youth of **Peace Lutheran Church,** 750 NW 23rd Court, will attend the FL-GA Middle School Gathering **Nov. 6-8** at Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, Eustis, Fla. Disaster Relief is the theme for this year's gathering. You are invited to participate for purpose, fellowship and fun. For more information, call the youth minister at 863-763-5042. Peace Lutheran Quilters invite local arts and crafters to bring their home made items to a bazaar on **Nov. 21** To reserve a table of the day of fun, fellowship and food call 863 763 5042.

Places of Worship

First Baptist Church, 401 SW Fourth St., is now signing up basketball players and cheerleaders for Upwards Basketball. This program is for students kindergarten through sixth grade. The deadline is **Nov. 6** and the cost is $65. Participants can sign up at the church office or at the ROC. For more information call 863-467-7625.

United Methodist Women of **First United Methodist Church**, 200 NW Second St., invites all to their annual bazaar on Saturday, **Nov. 7** from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. You will find a variety of crafts, quilted items, knives, nuts, baked goods, white elephant items and a silent auction. Plan on staying for lunch. Soup, sandwiches and desserts will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Proceeds will go to mission projects, local, national and abroad. Come and bring a friend!

The Okeechobee Community Choir, in its 11th year under the direction of Sandy Perry, is now rehearsing for the presentation of the Christmas Cantata, "A New Birth - A New Beginning" and other seasonal favorites. Rehearsals will be held on Sundays from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at First United Methodist church, 200 NW Second St. All interested singer, both local and our Northern friends are invited to participate. Singers should be able to match pitch and read music somewhat. Rehearsals are fast-paced and loads of fun. Music and rehearsal CDs are provided free. Rehearsal attendance is suggested, not mandatory. Last year, 65 singers representing 19 local churches participated. The cantata will be presented the weekend before Christmas, Dec. 18, 19 and 20. For more information, call Sandy at 863-634-7714.

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.

Danny Bedgood, 59

OKEECHOBEE — Danny Bedgood, age 59, of Okeechobee, died Friday, Oct. 30, 2009, in his residence.

Born Aug. 23, 1950, in Webster, he served in the United States Army. He had been a residence of Okeechobee for the past eight years and was a member of the Pentecostals of Okeechobee. He enjoyed fishing.

He is preceded in death by his father, Cecil Bedgood.

He is survived by his children, Troy (Jennifer) Bedgood of Milton, N.H., Joel (Crystal) Bedgood of Valdosta, Ga., Julie (John) Gross of Orange Park, Fl, Sarah Bedgood of Orange Park, Fl; mother, Pearline Hanley and Step-father, James Hanley of Okeechobee; grandchildren, Tyler, Colton, Payton, Lexi, Jerzey, Quinn, Christian, Taylor and Chloe; brothers, Paul (Karen) Bedgood of Lake Park, Ga., Randall (Sheri) Bedgood of Hollywood, Fl, Roger (Cindy) of Cooper City, Fl, James (Anne) Hanley of St. Cloud, Fl; Sisters, Joyce Barnhart of Okeechobee, Fl, Janice (Mitchell) of Hollywood, Fl.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, Nov. 5, 2009 from noon until service time of 1 p.m. in the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel with Brother Raymond Warren officiating. Interment will follow in Evergreen Cemetery.

All arrangements are under the direction and care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee, Fl. Online condolences may be made at www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

Hazel Opal Messer, 86

OKEECHOBEE — Hazel Opal Messer, age 86, of Okeechobee, died Sunday, Nov. 1, 2009, in Raulerson Hospital.

Born Feb. 15, 1923, in Okeechobee, she had been a lifetime resident.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bruce Messer; brother, LeRoy, Homer, J.C.; grandson, Scott Speaks; great-grandson, Brandon Melear; sisters, Lottie, Mary, Jewel, and Essie.

She is survived by her daughters, Judy Melear of Okeechobee, and Barbara Speaks of Orange Park, Fl; sister, Cleo Hill of Okeechobee; grandsons, Ryan Speaks of Oviedo, Fl, Greg Melear and Brian Melear, both of Okeechobee; granddaughter, Sharon Martin of Blackshear, Ga.; and five great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends today, Nov. 4, from 10 a.m. until service time of 11 a.m. in the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel. Internment will follow in the Evergreen Cemetery.

All arrangements are under the direction and care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee. Online condolences may be made at www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

View obituaries from the past month at http://www.legacy.com

Edward Thomas Johnson, 84

OKEECHOBEE — Edward Thomas Johnson, age 84, of Okeechobee, died Monday, Nov. 2, 2009, in the Hamrick Home.

Born July 30, 1925, in Saginaw, Mich., he graduated from Saginaw High School in 1943, Hillsdale College in 1951 and Western Michigan University in 1964. Edward proudly served in World War II Infantry as a Staff Sergeant and was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious action in the Pacific Theater of Operations. He was a member of the Michigan High School Coaches Hall of Fame in 1987, T.R.H.S. Hall of Fame in 1989, Past President of SCC, Elks BPOE 1248, American Legion # 170, Mea/NEA, past President of the Okeechobee Home Owners Association, and past member of the Michigan High School Coaches Assoc.

He was preceded in death by mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. Phil Hynes of Saginaw, Mich.; brother, Alvin E. Johnson of Tucson, Ariz.; sons, Ronald Johnson and Raymond Johnson of Three Rivers, Mich.

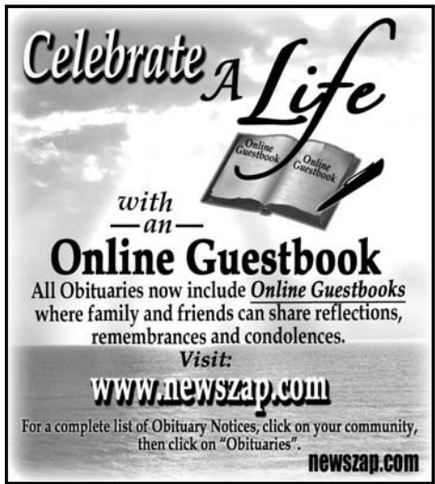
He is survived by his wife, Patricia Johnson; brothers, Robert Granzeier of Springfield, Ill.: son, Rick Johnson of Lake City; grandchildren, Kris Johnson of Jacksonville; step-children, Malinda Estep, G. Keith Anderson, Gerry Anderson; step-grandchildren, Heidi Pucket, Sarah Paradis, A.J. Anderson, Ashlee Anderson, and Garrett Anderson.

The family will receive friends from 10 to 10:30 a.m., Friday, Nov. 6, and following will be a Mass of the Resurrection in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Father Hugh Duffy officiating.

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

All arrangements are under the direction and care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee. Online condolences may be made at www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

View obituaries from the past month at http://www.legacy.com



Community Events

Elks Lodge holding reorganization meeting

The Okeechobee Elks Lodge will hold a reorganizing meeting on **Nov. 5** with current/past/new members and candidates invited. The meeting will be held at Good Spirits Lounge - in the back room, 245 S.E. Hwy 441 at 6:30 p.m. For questions or information, please call Ernie Basil at 863-261-8019 or Bob Brakke at 863-610-2431.

Sub sandwich fundraiser

The Pregnancy Center of Okeechobee is sponsoring a Sub sandwich fundraiser on Monday, **Nov. 9** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Turkey, ham and roast beef subs will be available as well as club subs which are a combination of two of the three meats available. Every sub will have a choice of either provolone or yellow American cheese. The choice of fixings includes lettuce, tomato, onion, pickles, mayonnaise and mustard. Each sub come with a bag of regular chips and a 12 ounce can of Coke, Diet Coke or bottled water. The cost is $6 per order. Order can be placed by fax at 763 467-8748 or by calling 863 634-4834. The deadline for orders is Friday, **Nov. 6** at 6 p.m.

Children's Ranch plans yard sale

Real Life Children's Ranch Yard Sale will be open on Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the month of November. There will be no sale on Thanksgiving. The Ranch is on U.S. Highway 441 S.E.

Safe Boating Assoc to host sale

The Okeechobee Safe Boating Association will hold a garage sale on Nov. **6-7**, beginning at 8 a.m. The sale will be held at 740 S.R. 78 West and proceeds from the sale will benefit safe boating programs.

Latin Club plans car wash

The OHS Latin Club will hold a car wash to help raise funds for their trip to Greece in March 2010. The **Nov. 7** car wash will be located in the parking lot of the Tractor Supply Co. store on S. 441 in the Publix Shopping Center starting at 10 a.m.

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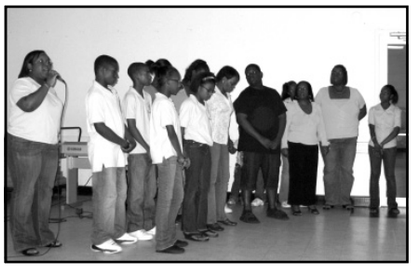
Special to the Okeechobee News

N.O.P.E. vigil

Brice Buckner, President, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Master of Ceremonies; Raybon Durrance, Secretary Students Against Destructive Decisions and CPD Officer Victoria Williams were among those leading the program at the Narcotic Overdose Prevention Education (N.O.P.E.) vigil. The First Missionary Baptist Church Youth Choir, led by Joyce Whitaker, Cynthia Kelly and Verna Alderman, performed at the N.O.P.E. vigil. Over 100 attended the first time event including guest speakers Robert Cook, Steve Condit (Breakthrough Recovery), and Marty McCormick. Students Against Destructive Decisions, Sponsor Ken Buckner, School Board Member Kay Carlton, City Council Dowling Watford and Under Sheriff Noel Stephen were there supporting the event. Event was sponsored by the Okeechobee Substance Abuse Coalition, Students Against Destructive Decisions and the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office.



Crafters and dealers needed

Craft Fair in the Woods

On Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. the annual Craft Fair in the Woods at Freedom Ranch, 11655 Hwy 441 S.E., Okeechobee will be held. There will be something for everyone. Swamp buggy ranch rides along with holiday decorations and craft items and barbecue and swamp cabbage to enjoy. To secure a spot, please contact Cheri Brant at 863-763-2085 or Pam Hales at 863-763-2678.

Lions Club to hold flea market

The Indiantown Lions Club will be holding their quarterly flea market at the Post Park (next to Library) in Indiantown on **Nov. 7**. They will set up at 7:30 a.m. The cost for dealers is $10 per space and $5 rental for tables. There is a lot of space and all dealers are welcome. For more information, call Richard Werkmeister at 772-597-4789.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Proposed Amendment to Code of Ordinances of Okeechobee County, Florida

Notice is hereby given that there will be a Public Hearing before the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners to receive public input regarding adoption of an ordinance amending the *Code of Ordinances of Okeechobee County, Florida.* The title of the proposed ordinance is:

> AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING *THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, PART II, LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, AMENDING IN ITS ENTIRETY ARTICLE V, CONSISTENCY AND CONCURRENCY DETERMINATIONS*, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The public hearing will be held on **Thursday, November 12, 2009** at **9:00 a.m.** in the Commission Meeting Room at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

Interested persons may appear and be heard. This public hearing will be the first of two public hearings. A second public hearing will be held on Thursday, December 17, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the same location.

A copy of the proposed amendments will be available for public inspection at the Planning and Development Department, 499 NW 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida each weekday, Monday through Friday, except holidays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Any person deciding to appeal any decision by the Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made and that the record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal will be based. County Clerk takes are for the sole purpose of backup from official records of the Clerk.

Clif Betts, Jr., Chairman
Sharon Robertson, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Okeechobee County, Florida

Publish: The Okeechobee News, 11/04/2009

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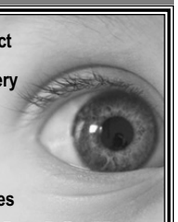

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Special to the Okeechobee News/**Teresa Chandler**

Costume contest ages 0-2

The Main Street Halloween costume contest winners in the 0-2 category were Brighton Martin/1st Place, Alicia Aguirre/2nd Place and Sophia Cornette/3rd Place. Pictured with them are Miss Okeechobee Alex Ming and WOKC's Billy Dean.

Special to the Okeechobee News/**Teresa Chandler**

Costume contest ages 3-5

The Main Street Halloween costume contest winners in the 3-5 category were Wyatt Friend (bass boat)/1st Place, Cameron Williams/2nd Place and Jace Willard (dice)/3rd Place. Pictured also are Miss OkeechobeeAlex Ming and WOKC's Billy Dean.

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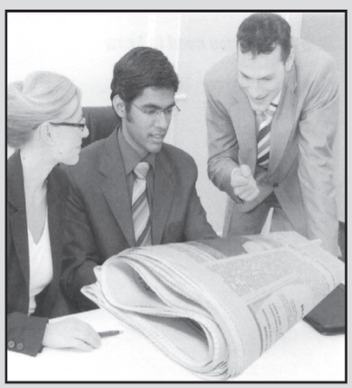

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Halloween festival fun

Special to the Okeechobee News/**Teresa Chandler**

Costume Contest winners 6-10

The Main Street Halloween costume contest winners in the 6-10 category were Ciara Kackley (half angel-half devil)/1st Place, Tracy Bronson (Sponge Bob Squarepants)/2nd Place and Lillian Arellano/3rd Place. Also pictured are Miss Okeechobee Alex Ming, Toni Doyle, Melody Hodges and WOKC's Billy Dean.

Special to the Okeechobee News/**Teresa Chandler**

Costume contest ages 11-14

The Main Street Halloween costume contest winners in the 11-14 category were Cole Verano (robot)/1st Place, Seth Yeates (Balloon boy) /2nd Place and Michael Muros (Master Sergeant from Halo video game)/3rd Place. Pictured also are Alex Ming (far left), Melody Hodges and WOKC's Billy Dean (far right).

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County airport hosts reception and open house

By Joe Papasso
AOPA ASN Volunteer for Okeechobee Airport

Okeechobee County hosted the First Okeechobee County Airport Open House on Saturday Oct. 24. The event was kicked off first thing in the morning with a Tenant Reception hosted by County Officials at the Civil Air Patrol hanger. Tenants and business of the Airport and the Airport Industrial Park were invited to the reception to meet other lease holders, exchange business ideas and discuss the Airport. County officials made a brief presentation outlining some of the more recent improvements made to the airport and discussed the future improvements planed for the Airport and the Airport Industrial Park. The reception concluded with a general discussion about existing airport operations which included input from the Tenants on what they felt are needed changes at the airport to improve safety and operations. The County was very receptive and appreciative of the input from the Airport and the Airport Industrial Park Tenants, many of whom are pilots.

Back on the ramp, aircraft were continuously arriving in the early morning for the static display. A number of vintage aircraft as well as newer production aircraft flew in to be part of the display for the Open House. The most notable vintage aircraft were a DC-3 and a Boeing PT-17 Stearman Bi-Plane, which has just recently been approved by the County to offer rides for a fee at the airport. Many of the aircraft were open for visitors to walk through and sit in the pilot seats; however, the DC-3 was clearly the hit of the show.

Current production aircraft on display included a Luxury Gulfstream Corporate Jet, a privately owned Piper Warrior and a privately owned kit built Lancair capable of cruise speeds of over 200 mph. Emergency Service Aircraft included a Cessna 172 Search and Rescue Aircraft from the Civil Air Patrol and two helicopters, one from the Forestry Service and the other from FWC (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) who also had a patrol boat on display. All of the pilots and owners of these aircraft agreed to participate and support this Open House, because they are all frequent users of the Okeechobee Airport. This incredible array of aircraft says a lot about the different ways these pilots use the County Airport as well as the positive impact on the community both economically and from a safety standpoint knowing these Emergency Service Aircraft are operating within our community and ready to respond to our needs.

The Okeechobee Model Airplane Club also participated in the planning of the event and had over 20 of their members' radio controlled model aircraft on display. All of these aircraft are miniature flying models, many of which are replicas of real aircraft. The average wingspan on these models is about 60" and they weigh on average about 6 pounds. They are built mostly of balsa wood and covered with a shrinkable plastic covering. The smaller ones are powered by miniature reciprocating engines burning a special glow fuel. The larger ones which can be as heavy as 35 pounds are similar to the one that performed in the Air Show at the end of the event are powered by small 2-cycle gasoline engines very similar to a chain saw engine running on a mixture of gasoline and oil.

As with the full size aircraft the pilots of these miniature aircraft were also available to answer questions about their aircraft and their unique type of flying which is actually considered both a sport and a hobby. Anyone who approached their display and expressed interested in learning how to fly these magnificent miniature aircraft were introduced to a training system known as a "Buddy Box" which is the students transmitter and connects to the pilots transmitter through a data cord. The pilot using a toggle switch on his transmitter controls who has command of the aircraft at any given time.

At exactly 1:30 as scheduled, the airport was closed to full size aircraft traffic and an air show was performed by the Okeechobee Model Airplane Club using an Ultimate Bi-plane. The show consisted of a number of standard aerobatic maneuvers and a few non-standard maneuvers real aircraft pilots can only dream of performing. All of these maneuvers were performed while "blowing smoke" just like its full size cousin when flying aerobatics.

The Civil Air Patrol and the Okeechobee Jet Center also supported this event by participating in the planning phase. The Civil Air Patrol directing the parking for the Tenant Reception at their hanger and at the same time directed aircraft parking in the display area along with the Okeechobee Jet Center. Throughout the day, CAP Cadets were positioned along the display flight line, to prevent anyone from inadvertently walking beyond the display area into an active taxiway or runway.

The Civil Air Patrol also coordinated their annual Open House at the same time as this event. In their hanger they had a number of different displays set up including tactical gear they use on Search and Rescue Missions, navigation tools used by their pilots, a full display of their Cadet Program and pictures of past Squadron Activities. For the more daring at heart, they also had two flight simulators set up and running, staffed by CAP Cadets for anyone who wanted to try their hand at flying a simulated version of full size aircraft, (complete with a yoke and rudder pedals) or a radio controlled model using a transmitter just like the model airplane pilots use. Their Communications Office was also open for tours.

The Landing Strip Cafe' was also open for breakfast and lunch throughout the day. They even supplied a BBQ Shack and outside dining in the display area for anyone looking for something a little quicker than a sit down meal inside the restaurant. To conclude the show as the aircraft were leaving the DC-3 took off and decided to make a turn, come back to the airport and made a very impressive high speed low pass along the runway. The Stearman, as he departed just after take off waved goodbye with a traditional wing wiggling. It was a fitting end to a beautiful day.

Special to the Okeechobee News

Display of planes at the airport during the open house.

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Okeechobee special athletes bring home awards

AVON PARK — The South Florida Community College Lady Panthers Volleyball team came out in full force at the Special STARS Track and Field District Competition on Oct. 24 at Ridge Area Arc.

The entire team and coach Kim Crawford assisted Special STARS athlete and board member Ralph Meyers in carrying in the torch for the opening ceremony as they jogged it around the track. The West Sebring Volunteer Fire Department and the Avon Park Police Department followed the entourage to the track with lights flashing and sirens running.

The torch was passed off to Rose Tilley, of Avon Park, who represented the Highlands County runners. It then went to Penny Holder, of Sebring, who represented the Highlands County cyclists. Holder gave the torch to Mary Jo Solloway, of Okeechobee, who represented Okeechobee County and then it went to Lewis Simpson, of Wauchula, who represented Hardee County.

This was a district wide competition where the Arc of Okeechobee participated with special athletes from Highlands and Hardee counties.

The Avon Park High School Air Force Junior ROTC presented the colors and the national anthem was played.

After the opening ceremony, the new bleachers were dedicated and the athletes dispersed to their competitions. They competed in two-wheel and three-wheel cycling events, softball throw, tennis ball throw, shot put, walking events and running events. Three members from Okeechobee competed in a power wheelchair obstacle course event which tested their ability to maneuver around cones and cross a finish line for time.

Power wheelchair competitors were Leonard Baines, Gaye Palmer and Kaye Palmer. Baines got first place while Gaye Palmer received second and Kaye Palmer won third. Baines also won a fourth place ribbon in the softball throw. Gaye Palmer won fourth place in the softball throw while her sister Kaye won a fifth place ribbon.

Others from Okeechobee who won ribbons were Sarah Patrick, first in softball throw; Mary Jo Solloway, first in softball throw and 50 meter run; James Kennedy first in softball throw; John Patrick, second in 50 meter run and third in softball throw; Lucy Wendt, third in 1 kilometer two-wheel cycle race; Bill Bailey, first in softball throw and 50 meter walk; and Kenny McBride, fourth in softball throw.

Special to the Okeechobee News

James Kennedy, from Okeechobee, throws the softball during competition at the Special STARS Track and Field event on Oct. 24. He received a first place ribbon for his efforts in this field event.

Swim team proud of accomplishments

Okeechobee News/**Charles Murphy**

Sara Annis, Kenny Murphy, and Jessica Wackler were three Brahman swimmers that qualified for Thursday's regional swim meet in SW Florida.

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Seven Okeechobee swimmers are looking forward to participating in the regional swim meet Thursday in Fort Myers.

Coach Brian Turner said he was really pleased that three of his girl's relay squads qualified to compete. He said it was harder this year to make the regional as the other teams were a lot faster and stronger than in past years.

"We really have changed the culture here," he said, "That's what we were looking to do. It's really good to see the kids do well. They put in a lot of hard work. We ask a lot of them."

The girls 200 medley relay team will consist of Savannah Asmussen, who swims the backstroke, Celena Letcher, who swims the breaststroke, Jaiden Barnhart who swims the butterfly, and Sarah Annis who swims the freestyle.

The 200 freestyle relay will consist of Annis, Barnhart, Ming and Asmussen. The 400 freestyle relay will consist of Annis, Letcher, Jessica Wackler, and Alex Ming.

Coach Turner said the medley relay team is close to setting the school record and they hope to break it on Thursday.

He mentioned that several swimmers have the chance to make the state swim meet next week. He mentioned Asmussen, Letcher, Wackler, and Kenny Murphy as possibilities.

Murphy has been at the regional before and his advice is to be on your toes, pay attention, and have a good positive attitude, "I'm really looking forward to it. We have all worked really hard. Were excited to see where we stand against everyone else in the region," he added.

Murphy said reaching the State swim meet is his goal. He said he wasn't expecting to make regional this year. He will compete in the 500 free and the 100 butterfly.

Murphy said he is interested in swimming at IRSC for the next few years.

Sarah Annis qualified for the regional for the first time this year. She said she improved a lot over the years as she reduced her times each season.

"I just do whatever the coach tells me," she said. "I try my best to give my all. I improved a lot this year and I support the other girls, its competition, but its fun, I try to encourage them to do better."

Her advice to younger swimmers is to not get discouraged. She said when she started, her swim times were horrible. Due to hard work and perseverance she now is a regional qualifier in three events. "Don't give up, freshman," she said. "Don't give up. You can do it."

Special to the Okeechobee News

FFA Alumni Clay Shoot

The winning team of the fourth Annual Okeechobee FFA Alumni Sporting Clay Shoot held October 10, 2009 at Quail Creek Plantation was Cowboy's Bar-B-Q & Steak Co. The members are left to right: Mike O'Connor (High Individual), Paul Platt, Randall Mims (FFA Alumni Member), Justin Mann and Tim Luke. Their team average score was 44.

Treasure Coast Championship game next up for Li'l Brahmans

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee Pop Warner team won the Treasure Coast Pop Warner North Division Championship game Sunday, 21-14, over Jupiter White, at Whispering Pines Park in Port St. Lucie.

Okeechobee never trailed in the game and was able to generate a solid running game.

Luis Leon, Lamar Williams and Brandon Shockley all had touchdown runs for Okeechobee, (9-0).

"I don't think the game was as close as the score indicated," Coach James Shockley said, "We had the ball for five offensive series and scored three times."

Okeechobee enjoyed a 14-7 lead at the half. They were able to add extra points on their touchdowns as Brandon Shockley threw two passes for points and Lamar Williams ran in the third extra point.

"We never trailed and we took an early lead. They were able to control the clock but it came back to shoot them in the foot at the end as they didn't have enough time to rally against us," Shockley noted.

Okeechobee took a 21-7 lead early in the fourth quarter and held on from there.

Next up for Okeechobee is Parkland of Fort Lauderdale, another unbeaten team. They will play in the Treasure Coast Championship game on Saturday at 1 p.m. at Whispering Pines Park.

Special to the Okeechobee News

Seacoast supports Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Seacoast National Bank supported the Big Brothers/Big Sisters fun shoot at Quail Creek held on October 24, 2009. Pictured: Todd Villars, John Macchia, Teresa Chandler and Frank Decarlo.

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Public Notice

NOTICE

There will be a meeting of the Tourist Development Council (TDC) of Okeechobee County on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the Tourist Development Council Office located at 500 N.W. 6th Street, Okeechobee, Florida.

Any person deciding to appeal any decision made by the TDC with respect to any matter considered at such meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Kathy Scott, Tourism Coordinator
Tourist Development Council
Okeechobee County
On 10/2/09
338173 ON 11/4/09

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners will hold its Regular Session on Thursday, November 12, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Health Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

Any person deciding to appeal any decision made by the Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purposes, he or she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of such proceedings is made, which record shall include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Florida Statute 286.26, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Paula Poskon, no later than two (2) working days prior to the proceeding at 863-763-4559 or 863-763-2131, ext. 2111. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call TDD 1-800-222-3448 (voice) or 1-888-447-5620 (TTY).

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

Sharon Robertson, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Okeechobee County, Florida
338006 ON 11/4/09

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

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF SALE

Rainbow Title & Lien, Inc. will sell at Public Sale at Auction the following vehicles to satisfy lien pursuant to Chapter 713.78 of the Florida Statutes on November 19, 2009 at 10 A.M.

AUCTION WILL OCCUR WHERE EACH VEHICLE IS LOCATED

Lot #: 011541 1998 Black Chevrolet Suburban, VIN#3GNK26JOWG105167
Located at: Lehman Auto Body, Inc. 265 US Highway 98 N. Okeechobee, FL 34972
Owner: Tonya Leshawn Maupin 3721 Huntington Pldr Apt 3721, Sarasota, FL 34237
Customer: Manuel Soler, 3564 NW 12 Ave., Okeechobee, FL 34972
Lienholder: Florida Best Cars and Trucks LLC, 110 E Broward Blvd., Ste 660, FT
Lien Amount: $8,357.21

a) Notice to the owner or lienor that he has a right to a hearing prior to the scheduled date of sale by filing with the Clerk of the Court.
b) Owner has the right to recover possession of vehicle by posting bond in accordance with Florida Statutes Section 559.917.
c) Proceeds from the sale of the vehicle after payment lien claimed by lienor will be deposited with the Clerk of the Court.

Any person(s) claiming any interest(s) in the above vehicles contact:
Rainbow Title & Lien, Inc., (954) 920-6020

ALL AUCTIONS ARE HELD WITH RESERVE
Some of the vehicles may have been released prior to auction
LIC # AB-0001256
337681 ON 11/4/09

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE OKEECHOBEE COUNTY REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY ROLL HAS BEEN CERTIFIED BY THE PROPERTY APPRAISER AND IS OPEN FOR COLLECTION OF 2009 TAXES, BOTH OKEECHOBEE COUNTY AND OKEECHOBEE CITY IN THE CITY IN THE OFFICE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR, ALDERMAN BUILDING, 307 N.W. 5TH AVE., SUITE B, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972.

INFORMATION ON:
FIRE, GARBAGE AND EMS
PHONE (863) 763-9312

CITY GARBAGE
PHONE (863) 763-3372 EXT. 222

DISCOUNTS WILL BE ALLOWED AS FOLLOWS:
4 PERCENT ON PAYMENTS IN NOVEMBER 2-DECEMBER 1

3 PERCENT ON PAYMENTS IN DECEMBER 2-DECEMBER 31

2 PERCENT ON PAYMENTS IN JANUARY 1-JANUARY 31

1 PERCENT ON PAYMENTS IN FEBRUARY 1-FEBRUARY 28

NET IF PAID IN MARCH

CELESTE WATFORD, C.F.C.
TAX COLLECTOR
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 8:00-4:30
PHONE (863) 763-3421
337363 ON 10/30;11/1,4/09

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO. 2009CA683

HARVEY SCHONBRUN, TRUSTEE,
Plaintiff,
VS.
DEBBIE TATE,
Defendant.

NOTICE OF ACTION - PROPERTY

TO: DEBBIE TATE, whose residence and last known mailing address is: RR1, Box 92A, Fairmont, WV 26554

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage interest in and to the following property in Okeechobee County, Florida:

Lot 6, Block 58, BASSWOOD UNIT NO. 5, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 51, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on the plaintiffs' attorney, whose name and address is: Harvey Schonbrun, Esquire, 1802 North Morgan Street, Tampa, Florida 33602-2328, on or before within 30 days of first publication, and file the original with the Clerk of this court either before service of plaintiffs' attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

Dated this 31st day of October, 2009.

SHARON ROBERTSON
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

Vicki Rogers
Deputy Clerk
337518 ON 10/28;11/4/09

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

LEGAL NOTICE

A public auction will be held at BMJ Towing, Inc. Lot at 414 South Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34974 on Friday the 20th day of November, 2009 from 10:00-11:00 A.M. Pursuant to Florida statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage. Year, Make, Model & Vin's as follows:

1998 Red Ford Explorer
1FMZU32X3WZA11713
1991 Green Toyota Tercel
JT2EL43AXM0077451

Terms of sale are cash, and no checks will be accepted. The seller reserves the right of final bid. All sales are final. No refunds will be made. Said automobiles will be sold in "AS IS" with no guarantees.
338177 ON 11/4/09

LEGAL NOTICE

Public Auction will be held at Johns Towing Service storage lot located at 704 Northeast 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34972 on NOVEMBER 20, 2009, at 9:00 A.M. Pursuant to Florida Statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage charges. Year, make, model and VIN are as follows.

2006 Toyota Tundra
VIN#5TBDT44146S551176

Terms of sale are cash, and no checks will be accepted. Seller reserves the right of final bid. ALL SALES ARE FINAL! NO REFUNDS WILL BE, MADE! Said automobiles will be sold in "As Is" condition with no guarantee's.
338170 ON 11/4/09

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION CASE NO. 47 2009 CA 000072

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.,
Plaintiff,
AARON ARMINTROUT, et al,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure dated October 06, 2009 and entered in Case No. 47 2009 CA 000072 of the Circuit Court of the NINETEENTH Judicial Circuit in and for OKEECHOBEE County, Florida wherein BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., is the Plaintiff and AARON ARMINTROUT; TENANT #1 N/KJA MELISA GRIFFIS are the Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, 2ND FLOOR, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER, 312 N.W. 3RD STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972 at 11:00AM, on the 18th day of Nov., 2009, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:

LOT 15, HI LO ACRES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGES 39 AND 40, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

A/K/A 6305 SE 30TH PKWY, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974
Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale.
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) disabled person who, because of their disabilities need special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact not later then seven (7) days prior to the proceeding Court Administration at 250 NW Country Club Dr., Port St. Lucie, FL 34989. Phone 772-807-4370, 1-800-955-8771 (hearing impaired) or 1-800-955-8770 (voice impaired).
WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of this Court on 10/7/2009.

Sharon Robertson
Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: Linda F. Young
Deputy Clerk
Florida Default Law Group, P.L.
P.O. Box 25018
Tampa, Florida 33622-5018
F09005449 NBNY-FHA-B-lcurry
336223 ON 10/28;11/4/09

NOTICE OF FILING OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA

On October 19, 2009, an application was filed by Brian M. Johnson with the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C. for the Commission's consent for a new construction permit for an FM Radio Broadcast Station on Channel 291C3 in Okeechobee, Florida. The proposed station will operate with 12.5 kilowatts effective radiated power at an antenna height of 82.9 meters above ground level at 3705 SW 28th Street, Okeechobee, FL. The main studio will be located at 210 West North Park Street, Suite 102, Okeechobee, FL. Copies of the application, amendments and related materials are available for public inspection at 210 West North Park Street, Suite 102, Okeechobee, FL.
337395 ON 10/28,30;11/1,4/09

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION CASE NO: 47 2009 CA 000067

NATIONAL CITY BANK SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO HARBOR FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK
PLAINTIFF
VS.
DONNA HOPEWELL LEE; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF DONNA HOPEWELL LEE IF ANY; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE , WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; JOHN DOE AND JANE DOE AS UNKNOWN TENANTS IN POSSESSION
DEFENDANT(S)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated , 9/24/2009 entered in Civil Case No. 47 2009 CA 000067 of the Circuit Court of the 19TH Judicial Circuit in and for OKEECHOBEE County, Okeechobee, Florida, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash on the Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida, at 11:00 a.m. on the 9th day of Dec., 2009 the following described property as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 5, BLOCK 11, BASSWOOD UNIT 1, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 22, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale. if any. other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens. must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

Dated this 28th day of Sept. 2009.

SHARON ROBERTSON
Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: Linda F. Young
Deputy Clerk

THE LAW OFFICES OF
DAVID J. STERN, P.A., ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF
900 South Pine Island Road
Suite 400, Plantation, FL 33324-3920
(954)233-8000
NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT Of 1990
In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986 or call 1-772-807-4370 within two working days of your receipt of this Summons/Notice to Appear. If you are hearing impaired call 1-800-955-8771. If you are voice impaired call 1-800-9558770, via Florida Relay Service.
334818 ON 11/4,11/09

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO.: 47-2009-CA-000305

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.,
Plaintiff
vs.
CARLENE J. MANGAROO; FINLETER A. MANGAROO; UNKNOWN TENANT (S); IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated the 24th day of Sept., 2009, and entered in Case No. 47-2009-CA-000305, of the Circuit Court of the 19TH Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein BANK OF AMERICA, NA. is the Plaintiff and CARLENE J. MANGAROO; FINLETER A. MANGAROO; are defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the OKEECHOBEE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER, 312 NW 3RD STREET, JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972 at the Okeechobee County Courthouse in Okeechobee, Florida, at 11:00 a.m. on the 2nd day of Dec., 2009, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

EXHIBIT ONE

Parcel 1
The West 1/2 of the West 1/2 of the North 1/2 of the North 1/2 of Tract 3, Section 20, Township 34 South, Range 33 East, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 4, pages 3A to 3D of the Public Records of Okeechobee, Florida. (A/K/A Lot D)

Parcel 2
The East 1 /2 of the East 1 /2 of the North 1/2 of the North 1 /2 of Tract 4, Section 20, Township 34 South, Range 33 East, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 4, Page 3A to 3D of the Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida. (A/K/A Lot A)

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) disabled person who, because of their disabilities need special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact not later than seven (7) days prior to the proceeding Court Administration at 250 NW Country Club Dr., Port St. Lucie, FL 34989. Phone 772.807.4370, 1.800.955.8771 (hearing impaired) or 1.800.955.8770 (voice impaired)
Dated this 28th day of Sept., 2009.

Sharon Robertson
Clerk Of The Circuit Court

By: Linda F. Young
Deputy Clerk

Submitted by:
Law Office of Marshall C. Watson
1800 NW 49th Street, Suite 120
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309
Telephone: (954) 453-0365
Facsimile: (954) 771-6052
Toll Free: 1-800-441-2438
334817 ON 11/4,11/09

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 2009 CA-409 DIVISION: Civil Division

LIVE OAK TRUST, INC.,
A Florida Corporation
Plaintiff
v.
EREIGNE ESTIME AND ANGELIQUE ESTIME, His Wife
Defendants

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order of Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated 10/6/2009, and entered in Case No. 2009 CA 409 of the Circuit Court in and for OKEECHOBEE County, Florida wherein LIVE OAK TRUST, INC., A Florida Corporation is the Plaintiff, and EREIGNE ESTIME AND ANGELIQUE ESTIME are the Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor of the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW Third Street, Okeechobee, Florida at 11 o'clock A.M. on the 2nd day of December, 2009 the following described property as set forth in said Order or Final Judgment, to wit:

The West 1/2 of the West 1/2 of the South 1/2 of the North 1/2 of Tract 17, Section 26, Township 34 South, Range 33 East, Okeechobee County, Florida, according to the plat thereof, recorded in Plat Book 4, Pages 3A-D, inclusive of the Okeechobee County public records.

Property #
R1-26-34-33-0A00-00017-E000

NOTICE

IF THIS PROPERTY IS SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION, THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL MONEY FROM THE SALE AFTER PAYMENT OF PERSONS WHO ARE ENTITLED TO BE PAID FROM THE SALE PROCEEDS PURSUANT TO THIS FINAL JUDGMENT.

IF YOU ARE A SUBORDINATE LEINHOLDER CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS.

IF YOU ARE THE PROPERTY OWNER, YOU MAY CLAIM THESE FUNDS YOURSELF. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO HAVE A LAWYER OR ANY OTHER REPRESENTATION AND YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ASSIGN YOUR RIGHTS TO ANYONE ELSE IN ORDER

FOR YOU TO CLAIM ANY MONEY TO WHICH YOU ARE ENTITLED. PLEASE CHECK WITH THE CLERK OF THE COURT, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER, 312 NW. THIRD STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA, WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS AFTER THE SALE TO SEE IF THERE IS ADDITIONAL MONEY FROM THE FORECLOSURE SALE THAT THE CLERK HAS IN THE REGISTRY OF THE COURT.

Dated at Okeechobee, Okeechobee County, Florida this 7th day of October 2009.

SHARON ROBERTSON
CLERK OF THE COURT

BY: Linda F. Young
Deputy Clerk

KENNETH M. JONES
Moody, Jones, Ingino
& Morehead, P.A.
1333 S. University Drive, #201
Plantation, FL 33324
(954) 473-6605
336232 ON 11/4,11/09

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION CASE NO. 47-2009-CA-000257

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FORMERLY KNOWN AS WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA,
Plaintiff,
VS.
RICKY L STANDEFER, et al,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure dated October 06, 2009 and entered in Case No. 47-2009-CA-000257 of the Circuit Court of the NINETEENTH Judicial Circuit in and for OKEECHOBEE County, Florida wherein JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FORMERLY KNOWN AS WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA, is the Plaintiff and RICKY L. STANDEFER; TAMMY J. STANDEFER; are the Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, 2ND FLOOR, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER, 312 N.W. 3RD STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972 at 11:00AM, on the 2nd day of Dec., 2009, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:

LOT 24 OF TAYLOR CREEK ISLES UNIT VI, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 20, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

A/K/A 2492 SE 27TH STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974
Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale.
WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of this Court on 10/8/2009.

Sharon Robertson
Clerk of the Circuit Court

BY: Linda F. Young
Deputy Clerk
This notice is provided pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2.065
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to provisions of certain assistance. Please contact the Court Administrator at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, Phone No. (772) 807-4370 within 2 working days of your receipt of this notice or pleading; if you are hearing impaired, call 1-800-955-8771 (TDD); if you are voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8770 (V)(Via Florida Relay Services)
Florida Default Law Group, P.L.
P.O. Box 25018
Tampa, Florida 33622-5018
F09042421 WMFIDELITY-SPECFNMA
336355 ON 10/28;11/4/09

Crossword

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS
1 Place for storage
5 Own (up)
9 PBS's "The __ Gourmet TV Show"
14 Pamplona runner
15 __Vista: search engine
16 Three-layer snacks
17 Quaff
18 Pond denizen
19 Inspector on the telly
20 Undercover cop?
23 Drama award
24 Storytelling slave
25 Introduction to "SeinLanguage"?
30 Campus climbers
31 Who, in Quebec
32 Babe in the woods
36 Wyo. neighbor
37 Vue and Aura, in the auto world
41 Gp. with Bucks and Bobcats
42 Houston shuttle letters
44 T'ai __
45 Weakened
47 Words to roust an oversleeping ecclesiastic?
51 New drivers, typically
53 Musical with the song "The Gods Love Nubia"
54 Cannery worker's credo?
59 Battery connection
60 Mope
61 '60s quartet member
63 It can pick up a plane
64 Catalina, e.g.
65 Placekicker Jason
66 Sanctify
67 Roe source
68 __ vu

DOWN
1 Elm et al.: Abbr.
2 React to a kneeslapper
3 Part of a wet quintet
4 Dad-blasted
5 A right may cause one
6 One skipping church?
7 Have the main role
8 "Smooth Operator" singer
9 Domestic class, briefly
10 Triathletes
11 Concealed
12 Models
13 Belgian river
21 Deep chasm
22 Bride follower
25 One who used to spend markkaa
26 Eye layer
27 His __: big shot
28 Outfit
29 Pelt
33 Author Quindlen
34 "Yeah, right!"
35 Diminish
38 "Don't __ surprised"
39 Holy day: Abbr.
40 Any ABBA singer
43 Meeting plans
46 Protected, as a home
48 Walks on stage
49 Spanish stewlike dish
50 Put on the line
51 Relating to pitch
52 Eat away
54 Zinger
55 Greek letters
56 Compensate for oversleeping
57 Low-lying area
58 Key with four sharps: Abbr.
62 Org. with an online DoctorFinder

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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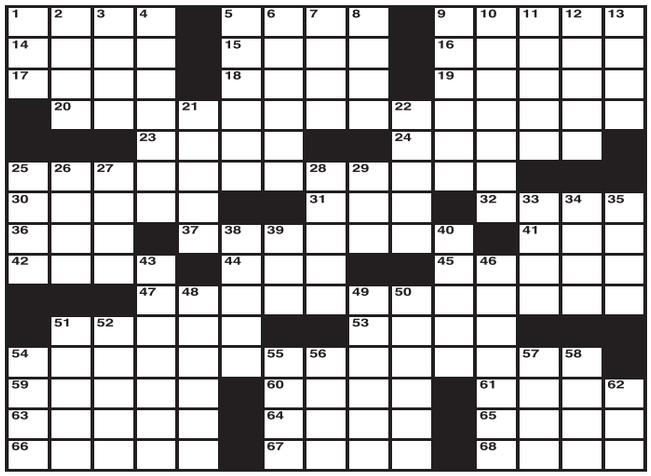
			G	R	A	D				U	A	L		
C	H	E	E	K	B	Y	J	O	W	L		L	O	L
O	I	L	S		A	L	O	N	E		E	I	R	E
D	E	M	I		L	L	A	M	A		G	N	A	T
A	S	S	N		A	S	N	E	R		O	S	L	O

xwordeditor@aol.com



By Spencer Corden
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News follows Meserve case since 1985

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The ***Okeechobee News*** has published a number of stories over the years that involved the 1985 murder of Valentine Meserve.

Richard White, who pled guilty to first degree murder in June, 1986, to his role in the homicide, came before the Florida Parole Commission in October, and will have another hearing in 2013.

While the Parole Commission did not grant White parole, there was support among the three commissioners to hear his case again, this time with his former co defendant, Troy Scott, present, in a few years. White didn't actually commit the crime, but was at the crime scene and took part in it, authorities said.

Reporter Glen Goodwin in the *Okeechobee News* Aug. 8, 1985 edition reported that City police were investigating a homicide of Mrs. Meserve, 90. Her body had been found about 150 feet from her home located at 1111 South Parrott Avenue.

At the time, Detective Gene O'Neill of the Okeechobee City Police Department said Mrs. Meserve died from blows to the head with a blunt instrument. Her residence had been broken into and ransacked.

The paper noted this was the fourth homicide in three separate incidents in Okeechobee within a period of five days.

Goodwin reported that a neighbor had come to see Mrs. Meserve after she failed to show up for a luncheon appointment and found blood on her back porch. Police were called immediately. Her neighbors commented that Mrs. Meserve had worried about possible break ins in the past.

In the Aug. 13, 1985 edition of the news, an obituary ran that told more about Mrs. Meserve. She was the widow of Robert Meserve. She was born in Connecticutt on Feb. 17, 1895. She moved to Okeechobee from St. Augustine. She was active in the Garden Club, the Okeechobee Historical Society and the Fine Arts Club. At the time, Mrs. Meserve was survived by a daughter, Julia Snelling of Columbus, Ga., and three grandchildren.

The Aug. 20, 1985 edition reported the arrest of Mrs. Meserve's killer, Troy Scott. The 17-year-old was arrested after an interview at the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office. He was charged with first degree murder and burglary. Detective O'Neill told the paper that Mrs. Meserve had been beaten to death with a rifle.

The Metro Dade diving team had found the murder weapon in Taylor Creek behind River Bend mobile home park, the paper reported.

Mr. Goodwin reported in the Aug. 22, 1985 edition that Richard White had been arrested. The 16-year-old was arrested on Aug. 19 on charges of first degree murder and burglary. Detective O'Neill told the press that Scott and White went to the home to burglarize it and upon entering it were discovered by Mrs. Meserve. Detectives said it was difficult to determine what items might have been taken in the burglary because Mrs. Meserve lived alone.

On July 2, 1986, reporter Eric Kopp reported that White pled guilty to first degree murder in late June at an appearance before Circuit Judge Dwight Geiger. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole after 25 years. Prosecutors dropped the burglary charge. Scott was later sentenced to life in prison for his role in the crime.

Boys cross country team wins again

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Four Brahman runners finished in the top 10 as Okeechobee High School won the Vero Beach Invitational Saturday, their last warm up before Saturday's district race.

Eddie Guerrero finished in second place with a time of 16:39. Adrian Leon finished in fifth place with a time of 17:03. Agustin Leon finished sixth with a time of 17:16 and Mauro Dominguez finished in seventh place with a time of 17:17.

Lionel Jones finished in 18th place with a time of 18:16. Shawn Horvath finished in 28th place with a time of 18:50. Adrian Tagle finished in 36th place with a time of 19:12.

Okeechobee earned 33 points as the top five runners on the team earn points for the position they finish in the race. Vero Beach finished second with 54 points. Nick Groome of St. Edwards won the 5000 meter race with a time of 16:33.

The girls' varsity squad earned a 10th place finish. Kayla Nelson led the way with a time of 24:52, good for 43rd place. Maria Baltazar finished in 61st place with a time of 26:07. Abril Maldonado finished 69th, Mandy Harrison 76th, Jennifer Arellano in 88th, and Jena Rath in 89th place.

Special to the Okeechobee News

The Brahman cross country team competed in the 5th Annual Vero Beach Invitational. The boys team came in first place with four of the boys placing individually in the top 10: Eddie Guerrero placing 2nd, Adrian Leon 5th, Agustin Leon 6th, Mauro Dominguez 7th. Additional information is posted on flrunners.com.

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